



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, September 2, 2016
(347) 396-4177

STATEMENT FROM ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER MARIO MERLINO ALERTING NEW YORKERS ABOUT A “VERMIN CONTROL OF NEW YORK” LETTER SCAM

September 2, 2016 — New York City Health Department Assistant Commissioner for Pest Control and Veterinary Services Mario Merlino today alerted New York City residents about a scam involving fake pest control violation notices issued by “Vermin Control of New York.” These fraudulent notices look like they are issued by the Health Department and are signed by a former Department of Buildings Commissioner. The notice demands payment for alleged “assessment and eradication of vermin” in the amount of \$120. The Health Department is investigating these notices and has referred the matter to the City’s Department of Investigation. Any New Yorker receiving a notice should immediately contact 311.

“Unscrupulous people are mailing fraudulent violation notices acting as the Health Department’s Division of Pest Control,” said **Assistant Commissioner for Pest Control Services Mario Merlino**. “New Yorkers should know that the Health Department never issues a notice of violation demanding immediate payment. Our notices of violation allow New York City residents to address any violations and they can be contested at an official hearing. We ask New Yorkers to immediately contact 311 or the Health Department if they have received a letter from “Vermin Control of New York;” with their help we can stop these tactics.”

In this particular scam, a letter from the “Vermin Control of New York” is sent via U.S. mail to an unsuspecting property owner. The notice is printed on a fake NYC Health Department letterhead and claims to originate from “Rodent Control Program Assessment.” The letter requests immediate payment for specified amounts ranging from \$120 through \$280 to be mailed to “Vermin Control of New York” at 1255 150th Street, Whitestone, NY 11357. The notice also says “This violation cannot be contested or challenged.”

A notice of violation cannot result in a fine or penalty without there being an opportunity to contest it in a hearing. Further, the Health Department never requests that it, or its programs, be paid directly for violations it issues. A copy of a fraudulent notice of violation can be found below.

We ask the public to be alert to this scam.

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MEDIA CONTACT: (347) 396-4177

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CONTROL NO. 272465

Vermin Control of New York

Rodent Control Program Assessment:
New York Health and Hygiene
(518)-313-6573

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

This violation cannot be contested or challenged as of December 2015 the City of New York's Housing Maintenance Code (HMC)

Please fill out the following form with your property information and return with a check or money order in the enclosed envelope.

* Block no.	Lot no.	* Property Address		
* Property Owner Name		* Phone no.	Email (optional)	

* - Indicates a Required Field

****Failure to remit Payment will result in the following: Additional Fees, Surcharges and Lien on property****

Payments are to be made by mail with this original notice filled out by the property owner, manager or representing agent. Please mail your violation with the correct amount of \$120 to the Vermin Control Board of New York payment processing center within 15 days of postmark.

Vermin Control of New York
Mail To: **1255 150th Street**
Whitestone, NY 11357

Table of Late Charges	
1 to 15 Days	- \$120
16 to 30 Days	- \$280
31 to 45 Days	- Court hearing of lien to be placed on property

This notice has no bearing with the current properties pest control provider.
This violation cannot be contested or challenged.

Effective December 2015, All NYC properties are subject for assessment and eradication of vermin. Any current or prior pest control service or extermination provided by the properties owner, tenants, or representing agents have no right of way or legal bearing within the guidelines of this notice.

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COMMISSIONER OF BUILDINGS

OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW.

If an inspection of your property results in an order from the Health Department to correct a code violation, you must do so immediately.

Failure to comply will result in a property lien, in Addition owner will incur a New York City Department of Buildings Fine with interest and an appearance to appear before a judge on an ordered court date.



Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

Department of Housing Preservation & Development

Department of Buildings

Department of Sanitation

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/data/health-tools/rats-information-portal.page>
www.vermincontrolofnewyork.com | www.vcbnyc.com

