



PEDRO E. SEGARRA
MAYOR

MAYOR LEADS INCLUSIVE DISCUSSION TO DEVELOP MATTRESS DISPOSAL LEGISLATION

NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE

(November 4, 2011)--- The City of Hartford is taking issue with old mattresses and it's not because of a bad night's sleep. Each year, Connecticut's Capital City collects a staggering 18,000 mattresses a year.

In April of this year, Hartford hosted a national session to discuss the impact of mattresses as a waste stream and its cost to municipalities. Today, Mayor Pedro E. Segarra addressed a similar session that focused on Connecticut's challenges. The meeting was held at the CRRA Trash Museum in the South Meadows neighborhood. The Mayor commented on how this is more than an environmental issue, it is an economic one as well.

"Most Connecticut cities and towns are footing the bill for mattress disposal through taxes or by additional resident fees. This is not sustainable. I also believe it is not appropriate for our towns to incur disposal costs that manufacturers should absorb as part of the life cycle costs of this product," said Mayor Segarra.

This past summer, Hartford's Department of Public Works conducted a case study associated with the collection and disposal of mattresses in our City. DPW has made changes that have reduced disposal costs by approximately 60% from a high of almost \$400,000.

"This cost cannot continue when our City has such a pressing need for these resources for other issues. I have always utilized an inclusive approach to finding solutions and this is no different. Therefore, I believe a producer responsibility approach makes sense. This session can be a vehicle for collaboration amongst towns, manufacturers, waste and recycling vendors to prepare mattress disposal legislation that meets the goals of all parties involved," said the Mayor.

The Mayor also congratulated Hartford DPW for taking the lead on this matter.

"This is our way of striving for a safer, cleaner, greener city that is environmentally responsible and fiscally responsible as well," stated Mayor Segarra.