



City of Bristol

## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bristol, CT, September 1, 2006** – In prepared comments, William T. Stortz addressed local concerns relating to the West Nile Virus.

“Based on discussions with the State and the local Health District, it was determined that spraying will not be implemented at this time. Spraying is being done in a very few areas state wide, and even then, not aerially, or by truck, street wide, but just via individuals using back pack devices. It is being restricted to areas where a number of cases of West Nile Virus infections have been reported.

Spraying for mosquitoes only kills adult mosquitoes and has no long-term effect on those that may be hatching. Larvicide treatments are briquettes placed in storm drains or areas of standing water that kill the mosquito larvae before they hatch. This treatment is effective for about one month. The City will be using a larvicide treatment, applying it in all 8,000 storm drain areas in Bristol.

The Mayor continued, “August and September are the peak months for transmission of West Nile Virus to people. The strongest message from the State Health officials is that the most effective efforts are those undertaken by individuals. By not going out in the early morning or early evening hours, by wearing proper clothing, by the proper use of repellents and by eliminating areas of standing water, individuals can and will reduce the likelihood of problems with mosquitoes and the West Nile Virus. Individual actions are the best defense. Mosquito larvicide (Dunks) are available from local hardware stores for home use.

The City and the health district will continue to work with and communicate with the State to keep everyone informed as to what is being done, and to constantly remind everyone of the proper precautions that should be taken.”

Stortz concluded, “The greatest incidence of cases of West Nile Virus, as monitored by the State, has been in New Haven and Fairfield counties. We will continue to monitor and be vigilant in Bristol until the seasonal threat is over.”

