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Bed Bugs Eliminated at Moon Towers

Galesburg, IL, May 6, 2015 –Knox County Housing Authority reported late Tuesday that there are no remaining cases of bed bugs at Moon Towers. After nearly seventeen months of battling the problem that affected a total of 41 units, the residential high rise was declared clear of all bed bugs. The conclusion was made after routine checks of monitors and follow-up inspections on Tuesday.

According to Derek Antoine, KCHA Executive Director, the agency takes very seriously the mission of providing decent, safe, and sanitary housing. While there is a possibility for future cases, Antoine explained that the agency has taken measures to prevent them to the greatest extent possible. "The agency has not only put a new protocol in place for assessing the risk associated with future bed bug outbreaks, but has also put procedures into effect to prevent the introduction of new cases to KCHA buildings," stated Antoine.

The agency expended a total of \$24, 821.36 on detection, equipment, and treatment, since the first case was reported on January 8, 2014. In October 2014, the complex had 16 effected units, the highest number of cases at one time. Housing Authority staff worked closely with American Pest Control from the onset to gain control of the problem. The agency also held town hall meetings for tenants where they were updated on progress and had their questions answered.

Moon Towers Property Manager, Brandi Watkins, stated, "Being bed bug free is a result of KCHA staff, pest control professionals, and tenants cooperating and following protocol." As part of protocol, tenants are required to have Moon Towers staff inspect all furniture items prior to bringing the items into their apartments. Watkins added that individual tenants play an important role in keeping their homes bed bug free. "Tenants need to be cautious about buying or taking used items and keeping their living spaces clutter free," she explained.

The Knox County Housing Authority is a dynamic force in our community, providing high-quality affordable housing opportunities for individuals and families, while promoting self-sufficiency, empowerment, and a sense of community development.

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