Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County to Continue Treatment to Catch Basins as Part of County-wide Mosquito Control Program

New City, NY (June 2, 2010) – The Rockland County Legislature and the County Executive have agreed to continue to fund the costs to treat catch basins throughout the county with Altosid, an insect growth regulator, as part of the county's annual effort to prevent mosquito-borne diseases. By unanimous agreement, the Legislature voted to transfer $100,000 from the County's contingency fund to purchase the required amount of briquette-shaped pellets that will be deposited into catch basins by County Health Department employees.

County Legislators had been under the impression the 2010 budget included funding for the treatment of catch basins and were caught by surprise by the County Executive's decision to place the responsibility with the town and village governments.

"I am pleased that we have been able to work together to continue the treatment of the catch basins," said Legislator Cornell, "We have a short window of opportunity to prevent mosquitoes from breeding and it is appropriate, in matters that have bearing on public health, for us to step up and get the job done."

In 1999 Rockland County began an aggressive mosquito control program in relation to the discovery locally, of the West Nile virus, a mosquito-borne disease. The program also includes the treatment of swampy areas, availability of mosquito dunks for residents, and distribution of public educational information.

"Our Health Department has done a great job to foster a mosquito prevention program," said Cornell, "I believe we have achieved what is in the best interests of the county, the towns and villages and of course, the residents."

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