



Office of Maria Quiñones Sánchez  
Councilwoman, 7<sup>th</sup> District  
City Hall, Room 592  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
215-268-2288  
Contact: Justin DiBerardinis  
Email: Justin.DiBerardinis@phila.gov

**For Immediate Release  
March 23, 2009**

## **Council members, community groups call for action against CVS for selling expired goods**

**WHEN: March 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM**  
**WHERE: City Hall, Room 401**

PHILADELPHIA, March 25, 2009--City Council members and civil rights and community leaders called on the municipal government to take enforcement action against the drugstore chain CVS for repeatedly – and recently – selling expired products. The leaders showed reporters a pile of dozens of expired products purchased recently at CVS, including over-the-counter medicines, infant formula, and dairy products at a City Hall press conference today.

The 36 items, bought at 15 CVS drugstores around Philadelphia from late January to early March, included:

- Infant's gas relief medicine that had expired in March 2007 and was close to two years outdated.
- Allergy tablets that had expired in December 2007, over a year before purchase.
- Children's Pepto that was over 10 months past its February 2008 expiration date.

"CVS has been repeatedly caught selling expired products in our City and around the country," said City Councilwoman Maria D. Quinones Sanchez. "The City needs to take action to stop this abuse." Councilman Bill Greenlee agreed: "I call on the City Solicitor to let CVS know in no uncertain terms that there will be consequences for continuing to sell expired goods in Philadelphia." Councilwoman Reynolds-Brown added, "Children and families in the 21st Century should not and can not be exposed to outdated goods when it is preventable. We believe that CVS, and all retailers for that matter, need to be responsible corporate citizens and ensure that what they are selling are not expired and potentially dangerous items."

Community and civil rights leaders are also calling for enforcement action against CVS. "CVS has spent millions of dollars on ads to create the image that CVS supports women as caregivers, but women don't want to expose their children or themselves to the dangers of expired infant formula, expired medicines and expired milk," said Kathy Black, President, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Philadelphia Chapter/Vice President, Philadelphia Chapter, National Organization for Women.

Expired goods are an ongoing problem for CVS customers: A [report](#) released in December documented expired infant formula, milk or eggs found on CVS shelves in 666 stores across the country – representing more than 42 percent of the stores surveyed. A Fox 29 investigation found expired goods at Philadelphia CVS stores in January. In addition, the New York State Attorney General has sued CVS to stop the company from selling expired goods. And the California Attorney General found expired products at 26 Southern California stores last year and demanded that CVS stop selling expired products.

For more information visit [www.CureCVSNow.org](http://www.CureCVSNow.org)

\*\*\*