



OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN, LYDIA EDWARDS, AND LIZ BREADON
Flaherty, Baker, Arroyo, Bok, Campbell, Essaibi-George, Mejia, O'Malley and Wu
CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS PEST CONTROL AND
ILLEGAL DUMPING IN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

- WHEREAS:** Issues of pest control and illegal dumping are important quality of life concerns, as they impact the cleanliness and sanitization of our streets and neighborhoods; *and*,
- WHEREAS:** There is a rise in rodent and pest activities in our neighborhoods in the past year, with residents and businesses reporting to 311 about the increase of rats and other rodents on our streets and homes; *and*,
- WHEREAS:** The increase in rodent activities may be exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as rats and other pests lost their food sources as restaurants and other facilities shut down during the pandemic. The CDC had also warned that environmental health and rodent control agencies should expect “reports of unusual or aggressive rodent behavior”; *and*,
- WHEREAS:** It is important that the city has measures in place to adequately deal with the increase in rodent activities, including increase in inspections, public awareness campaigns and public outreach; *and*,
- WHEREAS:** We also need to address illegal dumping as we look to address pest control and sanitation issues, as trash that are not properly disposed of can attract rodents and cause other public health issues; *and*,
- WHEREAS:** There are frequent reports of illegal dumping in commercial and residential districts that negatively impact the quality of life for residents, as there may not be sufficient level of enforcement, or that some residents and businesses may lack the awareness about how to properly store and dispose of trash; *and*,
- WHEREAS:** It is important that we maintain the cleanliness of our neighborhoods, especially as we continue to face this pandemic and need to do what we can prevent the spread of disease and germs; *and*,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss measures for pest control and prevention of illegal dumping in the City of Boston. Representatives from the Inspectional Services Department, Code Enforcement Police, as well as other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed in City Council: July 21, 2021