



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS PEST CONTROL IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS:** The issue of pest control is important to our residents' quality of life, as it impacts public health, as well as 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 few years, 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:** It is important that we maintain the cleanliness of our neighborhoods, as we need to do what we can prevent the spread of disease and germs, especially in light of the pandemic; *and*,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

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