



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

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

WHEREAS: Pest control is critical to our residents' quality of life, as rats and rodents are not only a nuisance, but they also impact public health, the sanitization of our neighborhoods, and the maintenance of our properties; *and*,

WHEREAS: There is a big rise in rodent and pest activities in our neighborhoods in the past few years, especially during the years of the pandemic, with residents and businesses reporting about the increase of rats and other rodents on our streets and homes, which deeply impacted their quality of life; *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: Currently, pest control is cross-departmental effort in the City of Boston, with Inspectional Services, Public Works, Boston Water and Sewer Commission being the main points of contact on this issue, and 14 inspectors covering the city; *and*,

WHEREAS: As residents continue to deal with the increase of rats and pests, we need to ensure that our city departments are coordinated in their work on pest control, and that there is ample resources and personnel dedicated to this effort; *and*,

WHEREAS: Recently, New York City has appointed its first Director of Rodent Mitigation, also known as the "Rat Czar", a position tasked with coordinating across government agencies, the private sector, and community organizations to strategize on pest control and reduce the rat population; *and*,

WHEREAS: Having a dedicated position and office on pest control would allow us to better address the issue, allow for a more streamlined and coordinated process in reducing pests, and come up with more innovative ways in prevent pest infestations; *and*,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the possibility of creating an Office of 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.

