
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM39.6	ACTION			Ward:All
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Addressing Rat Related Complaints in our Communities - by Councillor Ana Bailão, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Licensing and Standards Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Ana Bailão, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Manager, the Medical Officer of Health, and the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to report to the Licensing and Standards Committee in 2019 on:
 - a. possible improvements to mitigation strategies and rat control education initiatives to assist residents and businesses; and
 - b. current work being undertaken by the City and its agencies and divisions to incorporate preventative rat mitigation strategies into capital works projects.

Summary

The last few years have seen a dramatic rise in rat control related complaints by residents and business owners residing along main streets in the west-end of Toronto. The urban landscape creates an environment for rats to thrive by finding an ample supply of food, water and shelter. Rats have the capacity to burrow and live in common spaces such as planters, pipes, sewers, garbage bins, unmaintained buildings, basements and prefer to live in generally wet and low environments.

The capacity of rats to reproduce and adapt creates challenges in finding appropriate mitigation strategies. Without proper counter measures, rats will continue to reproduce and survive as it is becoming easier for them to travel and find shelter in harsh winters.

The growth of the rat population in Toronto is also an important public health concern with their potential to carry many diseases and viruses. It is pivotal that we continue to explore rat control efforts to ensure that the vibrancy, health and safety of our residents, businesses and properties are upheld.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM39.6