

April 27, 2006

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON RODENT CONTROL

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The Committee on Rodent Control met on April 27, 2006, with Chairman Maryann Heuston, presiding and Committee Members Alderman Dennis Sullivan and Rebekah Gewirtz also present and voting. Also present were Noreen Burke from the Board of Health, Rod Kreimeyer from Best Pest Control Services and resident Richard Nasser.

Chairman Heuston noted that a task force has been established by the Mayor's Office and that the committee members will also be members of the task force. Chairman Heuston also presented some relevant information from the City of Cambridge and said that she expects that there will be requests made to state agencies and that an extensive educational campaign would most likely be undertaken. The rodent problem has escalated over the last year or so, spreading throughout the city.

Mr. Kreimeyer said that in some areas of the city, the rodent problem is becoming rampant. The commercial business areas are also being plagued by this problem, largely due to a lack of proper sanitation procedures, e.g., trash storage. He told the members that aggressive action needs to be taken by the city, including shutting businesses down. He also noted that the city's decorative trash barrels need to be cleaned on the inside. Mr. Kreimeyer told the members that another area that needs attention is along the train lines where people have been dumping trash. He said that the operators of the tracks should be baiting and maintaining these areas to eliminate the trash problem. He also noted that the City of Cambridge requires a permit for demolition and said that property is inspected and baited for rodents, both while the job is being demolished and constructed.

Ms. Burke said that there needs to be a uniform method of trash disposal, i.e., placing trash in covered barrels. She said the Mayor would like Alderman Heuston to chair the task force and wants to get some local business people involved. She will work on developing a distribution list for task force. The committee agreed that the task force should include George Landers of SPCD, a representative from the 311 Department, a representative of the Law Department, business people, residents, a representative from the Health Department, Michael Buckley from the DPW and a representative of the company handling pest control for the city.

No papers were acted on.

Alderman Maryann Heuston, Chairman
Committee on Rules

COMMITTEE REPORT

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April 27, 2006

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk