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June 26, 2006

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON RODENT CONTROL

The Committee on Rodent Control met in conjunction with the Rodent Control Task Force on June 26, 2006, with Chairman Maryann Heuston, presiding and Committee Members Alderman Dennis Sullivan and Rebekah Gewirtz also present and voting. Also present were Alderman William White, Noreen Burke from the Board of Health, Mike Lambert from the Mayor's Office, George Landers from ISD, Robert Hudson from Modern Pest Services, Rod Kreimeyer from Best Pest Control Services, Sean Murphy from Constituent Services, Thomas Murray and Mark Fumicello from Waste Management, Solicitor John Gannon, Vithal Deshpande from the DPW, Stephen Mackey from the Chamber of Commerce, Rebecca Balder, Rebecca Woodward, Kristen Greene from the Boston Globe and interested members of the public.

Mr. Lambert explained that the draft of the Rubbish Collection/Recycling Guidelines was a compilation of the committee's/task force's recommendations and portions of the City of Cambridge's ordinance. The committee discussed various sections of the draft, including issues dealing with the times that trash may be put out for collection, collection fees for property with 7 or more units, voluntary vs. mandatory recycling and addressing of trash receptacles.

Mr. Gannon stated that the owner of private property may be cited under the sanitation code for violations, and further stated that residents go onto a neighbor's property and if rats are seen, or if they are aware of a problem they should notify the Inspectional Services Department, who would then be allowed to enter the property.

The committee meeting was recessed in order to conduct a Public Hearing on the issue of rodent control.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Chairman Heuston gave a brief overview of the circumstances leading up to this public hearing and explained the steps that have been taken by the Committee/Task Force.

Several residents addressed the committee regarding the rodent problems in their neighborhoods, with the general consensus being that rats are being seen at all times of the day and night, in yards, abandoned buildings and on the street. Those speaking on this matter suspected that the rats were being attracted to food supplies resulting from the improper storage of trash at neighboring properties, generally owned by an absentee landlord. Mr. Gannon stated that the city would be allowed to enter a private property if permission were granted by the owner, and that failing that, the city would need to obtain a court order to enter. He further stated that, under the sanitation code, the city could file a letter of compliance for a homeowner to make his property rodent free, and if the notice was ignored, the city could take legal action to force the

owner to comply. Chairman Heuston suggested that the City Solicitor send a letter of compliance to the owner of the property at 34 Adrian Street and commence legal action, should the owner not bring the property into compliance. Chairman Heuston told those present that the city would encourage residents to call 311 to report any trash problems. There was some discussion about having the city sweep streets in conjunction with trash pick-up in an effort to reduce the amount of solid and liquid waste left behind after the collection of trash.

Chairman Heuston stated that the Committee/Task Force would like to send its final Trash Ordinance proposal to the Board of Aldermen as soon as possible for Legislative Matters Committee action and final approval by the Board by this fall.

End of Public Hearing.

The committee meeting was reconvened and the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, 2006 at 6:00 PM.

No papers were acted on.

Alderman Maryann Heuston, Chairman
Committee on Rodent Control

COMMITTEE REPORT

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June 26, 2006

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk