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June 5, 2006

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON RODENT CONTROL

The Committee on Rodent Control met in conjunction with the Rodent Control Task Force on June 5, 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, Mike Lambert from the Mayor's Office, Robert Hudson from Modern Pest Services, Rod Kreimeyer from Best Pest Control Services, Brian McCarthy 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 and Rebecca Woodward.

The members were given copies of the trash ordinances for Somerville and Cambridge and asked to review them and submit comments to Ms. Burke before the next meeting.

Ms. Burke distributed 2 sample information pieces that could be put on the city's website, in the local newspapers and on the local access wheel. Additionally, the committee was in agreement that pertinent information should be available through the 311 office as well as being included in the water and tax bills. Sending information to homes through the schools was also seen as a possibility. Mr. McCarthy told the members that the Office of Constituent Services (311) is working on a packet of information to be distributed to new residents and that this information could be included. It was also recommended that the Multicultural Commission be involved in order to get the information to the city's non-English speaking residents.

Mr. Kreimeyer advised the members not to dwell on a requirement that trash receptacles be covered on collection days, as covers would in all probability be strewn along the sidewalks and streets and end up being lost. He stressed that it was much more important to focus on the storage of trash during the other 6 days and that on those days the receptacles needed to be covered.

Mr. Hudson suggested that the members come up with a slogan or tag line to keep the matter in the public eye and said that it might be a good idea to have signs on the trash collection trucks, as well. He also suggested that the Board of Health maintain a color-coded map that would show the intensity of the problem throughout the city. Chairman Heuston expressed a desire to have some form of a rapid response team for the hardest hit areas. Although it was noted that ISD inspectors cannot arbitrarily enter private property, Mr. Gannon pointed out that there are several court actions available to the city in pursuing habitual offenders.

Chairman Heuston directed that information be disseminated to the public, under the direction of Ms. Burke, before the next meeting and also said that she will be attending a meeting with officials from the MBTA on June 20th and that she would discuss the problems with trash along the tracks at that time.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday June 26th at 5:30 PM and with a Public Hearing to follow at 6:00 PM.

No papers were acted on.

Alderman Maryann Heuston, Chairman
Committee on Rules

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Rodent Control,
June 5, 2006

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk