

City of Providence
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 406

EFFECTIVE October 6, 2017

WHEREAS, On July 7th, 2016, in response to a spike in rat-related issues in the 14th Ward of Providence and news articles about rat infestations along the Woonasquatucket River, the City Council of the City of Providence passed Resolution No. 285, which called on the Department of Public Works to investigate and eliminate the cause of the rat issues; and

WHEREAS, Despite this, more than a year later, rat-related problems continue to be a major concern in the 14th Ward of Providence; and

WHEREAS, Rats are a major carrier of dangerous diseases, such as salmonellosis, murine typhus, rat bite fever, plague, and others; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, since these rat issues began last year, rats have exposed a number of household pets to leptospirosis, a bacterial infection that affects both humans and animals and can cause kidney damage, meningitis, liver failure, respiratory failure, and even death; and

WHEREAS, In addition to carrying disease, rats cause a great many other problems in our community, such as digging burrows that cause stability issues for homes and buildings, chewing through wood and wires, blocking sewer lines, and spoiling yards and gardens; and

WHEREAS, Identifying the source and immediate cause of the rat issues is key to the success of any effort to address and eliminate the rat problems in our community; and

WHEREAS, As the elected representatives of the people of Providence, the City Council has an obligation to protect our city from health hazards such as rat infestations.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council does hereby request that the Department of Public Works investigate and identify the cause of the rat-related issues in Ward 14 and report back to the City Council within sixty (60) days with a plan to eliminate that cause.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, a copy of this letter be sent to the Director of the Department of Public Works.

IN CITY COUNCIL

SEP 26 2017

READ AND PASSED


ACTING PRES.


CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature


Lori L. Hagen
City Clerk