

City of Providence
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 285

EFFECTIVE July 18, 2016

WHEREAS, There has been a recent spike in rat-related issues in the 14th Ward of Providence, with more than a dozen complaints logged in less than a three-week period; and

WHEREAS, In June, investigations by both Channel 10 and the Valley Breeze revealed a serious rat infestation in North Providence along the Woonasquatucket River, which flows into Providence; and

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

WHEREAS, According to Channel 10, the rat infestation in North Providence has already exposed some household pets to leptospirosis, a bacterial infection that affects both humans and animals and can cause kidney damage, meningitis, liver failure, respiratory failure, and 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, As the elected representatives of the people of Providence, the City Council has a moral obligation to protect our city from 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 eliminate the cause of the recent increase in rat-related complaints in Ward 14.

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

JUL 07 2016

READ AND PASSED

PRES.

CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature



Lori L. Hagen
City Clerk