

FROM

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SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 08-0070R

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



DATE: January 23, 2009

TO

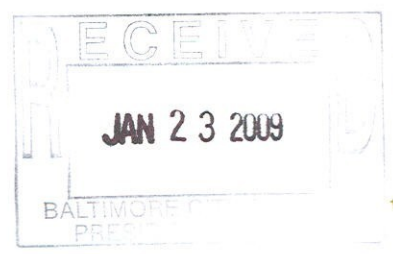
The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 - City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 08-0070R introduced by Council President Rawlings Blake and Council Members Middleton, Clarke, Young, Curran, Reisinger, Branch, Cole, Henry, Kraft, Welch, Conaway, and Holton.

The purpose of the Resolution is to request the Commissioner of the Health Department, the Director of the Bureau of Vector Control, and the members of the Interagency Sweep Team to brief the City Council on the effectiveness of Vector Control Bureau activity in controlling the rat population in City neighborhoods, the success of outreach efforts in enlisting the citizenry in rat eradication efforts, the methods used to measure the efficacy of rat control and abatement efforts, and the level of coordinated, rat-density based, interagency strategic coordination and application for long-term control of the rodent population.

The Department of Public Works supports the work of Vector Control through the coordination of alley cleaning and the cleaning and boarding of vacant and abandoned houses (as identified by the Department of Housing and Community Development). At one time, this Department did have the Sanitation Enforcement Officers under our Bureau of Solid Waste, but these special enforcement officers were transferred to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) at the same time that the cleaning and boarding responsibilities were transferred to Public Works from DHCD. While the enforcement officers were with Public Works, it was their job to investigate and cite exterior sanitation problems that provide food for rats and other vermin, including ensuring that trash is set out on the day it is to be collected, trash is placed in durable cans with tight-fitting lids, yards are kept clean of animal waste and other debris, and grass and other green areas are kept trimmed.

During the 2008 calendar year, the Bureau of Solid Waste cleaned 17,818 privately held properties and boarded 8,615 properties. Solid Waste crews cleaned 3,589 vacant lots and abated 614 illegal dumping sites. The Mayor's 2008 Fall Cleanup involved over 2,400 volunteers from 140 communities in cleaning alleys, lots, garden plots and other sites around the City. The special community Pitch-in program is booked every year with neighborhoods willing to take on cleaning tasks in their own neighborhoods, with the City removing and disposing of the debris from 189 community managed locations in 2008. The Department works hard to educate our citizens about their sanitation responsibilities by providing information about sanitation services available to them through the Public Works calendar and specialized literature shared with communities.



Comment

The Honorable President and Members
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January 23, 2009
Page 2

As good as these statistics and efforts are, the Department of Public Works believes that even more can be done under the proposed One Plus One program. This program will support the City's rat control and abatement efforts by dedicating crews to routinely clean alleys, streets, and lots; and by providing households with a large and substantial can with an attached lid for holding mixed refuse until collection day. Changing habits and behavior is one of the City's greatest challenges, but holds the greatest rewards. We remain dedicated to improving the cleanliness of our City, and will continue to coordinate our efforts with other agencies in achieving a cleaner and greener City.



David E. Scott, P.E.
Director

DES/MMC:pat

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