


F R O M	Name & Title	Dr. Ihuoma Emenuga, Commissioner of Health	Health Department  AGENCY REPORT	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202		
	Subject/ Position	24-0219R – Informational Hearing - Citywide Rat Abatement Efforts  <b>Letter of Information</b>		

To: President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o 409 City Hall

June 28, 2024

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to review Council Resolution 24-0219R, entitled “Informational Hearing - Citywide Rat Abatement Efforts.” The bill calls for representatives from BCHD, the Department of Public Works (DPW), and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to discuss citywide rat abatement efforts, including reducing the rodent population, collaboration of City agencies on coordinated abatement measures, and the status of the Health Department’s Bureau of Vector Control.

Baltimore City’s rat eradication work is housed under DPW – specifically, in the [Rat Rubout program](#). Rat eradication has been housed under BCHD in the past, but moved to DPW circa 2003. While in BCHD, the program was independent from BCHD’s Bureau of Environmental Health, which houses the agency’s Environmental Health Inspectors. Notably, all of BCHD’s Environmental Health Inspectors must be Sanitarians (a type of public health specialization requiring certain qualifications). In contrast, employees of the independent rat eradication program were not required to be Sanitarians.

Today, DPW’s Bureau of Solid Waste provides free rat abatement services, both proactively in alleys and reactively in response to resident-generated service requests. DPW Pest Control Workers will inspect areas for active rat burrows, and if a burrow is present, the worker will apply the poisonous bait into the burrow. The crew will place yellow flags around the treated burrows and will leave a hang card to let the resident know it was treated. The crews are continuously responding to requests and moving to new locations to bait. The focus of the rat abatement service is to reach as many burrows as possible to prevent the spread of the rat populations. When it comes to dealing with deceased rats, DPW advises residents that rat carcasses can be safely picked up, bagged, and disposed of on regular trash days.

BCHD respectfully submits this letter of information on Council Bill 24-0219R.