



SHEILA DIXON  
Mayor  
PAUL T. GRAZIANO  
Executive Director, HABC  
Commissioner, HCD

## MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council  
c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary

From: Paul T. Graziano, Commissioner

Date: January 12, 2008

Re: **City Council Bill 08-0070R Informational Hearing - Vector Control**

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The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 08-0070R, which was introduced for the purpose of requesting 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.

DHCD's Housing Code Enforcement (HCE) works collaboratively with the Departments of Health and Public Works (DPW) to combat rodent and pest infestation. By vigorously enforcing critical provisions of the Building and Property Maintenance Codes regarding rodent infestation, HCE works to deny these critters access to food and shelter. These efforts include requiring property owners to rehabilitate vacant property in a timely fashion using rodent resistant materials. When not under active rehab, owners are required to secure and seal effectively all windows and doors to deny animals access. Since Vector Control can only successfully treat and bait a property once it has been cleaned, HCE personnel remain vigilant about keeping properties free of trash, debris, high grass and weeds. Citations are issued promptly to violators and properties are required to be cleaned within ten days of issuance.

DHCD also enforces strict regulations regarding rodent and pest control during demolition or construction work. Before any structure may be demolished, moved to another site, or substantially rehabilitated, the applicant for a permit must provide certification from a pesticide applicator licensed by the State of Maryland that all areas of the structure and its lot are free from rodent infestation. A certification of treatment and abatement of all infestation also must accompany the permit application.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the adoption of City Council Bill 08-0070R.

PTG:pmd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson  
Ms. Diane Hutchins  
Mr. Andrew Frank

