

**8. Motion - Rat Complaints Inquiry**

**Motion - Renseignements sur les plaintes relatives aux infestations de rats**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That Council approve:**

- 1. that staff be directed to implement cost neutral rat control methods, including specific rat prevention practices in regular parks maintenance; incorporating inspections for rats into the twice annual inspections of abandoned buildings and issue orders to the owners to remedy any infestations if evidence is found; and,**
- 2. that staff in Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development be directed to assess the options, including Legal Services, under their mandate to implement a program for proactive rat baiting prior to construction and issuing demolition permits and development applications and if such a program is possible, report back to the appropriate committee with recommendations including how such a program could be administered, detail any financial impacts and what monitoring could be put in place to assess its effectiveness.**

**RECOMMANDATIONS DU COMITÉ**

**Que le Conseil approuve :**

- 1. que l'on demande au personnel de mettre en place des méthodes financièrement neutres de dératisation, y compris des pratiques de prévention précises contre les rats dans le cadre de l'entretien régulier des parcs; en incorporant des inspections liées aux rats dans les inspections bisannuelles d'immeubles à l'abandon et de délivrer des ordonnances aux propriétaires pour remédier à toute infestation si la preuve en est faite; et**

2. **que l'on demande au personnel de la Direction générale de la planification, de l'infrastructure et du développement économique d'évaluer les options, tout en obtenant l'avis des Services juridiques, en vertu de leur mandat de mettre en place un programme d'appâtage proactif des rats avant toute délivrance de permis de construire et de démolir, et toute demande d'aménagement. S'il est possible de mettre en œuvre un tel programme, les membres du personnel devront alors déposer auprès du comité concerné un rapport dans lequel ils formuleront des recommandations (notamment sur la manière dont un tel programme pourrait être implanté), donneront des détails sur les répercussions financières et présenteront quelques mesures de surveillance qui pourraient être adoptées pour en évaluer l'efficacité.**

For the Information of Council

That Legal Services provide an opinion on the feasibility of the motion prior to its consideration at Council.

Pour la gouverne du Conseil

Que les Services juridiques avisent si ce que la motion propose est faisable avant qu'elle ne soit examinée par le Conseil.

DOCUMENTATION/DOCUMENTATION

1. Coordinator's report dated 17 October 2019 (ACS2019-OCC-CPS-0001).  
Rapport du coordonnatrice, daté le 17 octobre 2019 (ACS2019-OCC-CPS-0001)
2. Extract of draft Minutes, Community and Protective Services Committee, 17 October 2019.  
Extrait de l'ébauche du procès-verbal, Comité des services communautaires et de protection, le 17 octobre 2019.

**Community and Protective  
Services Committee  
Report 7  
23 October 2019**

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**Comité des services  
communautaires et de protection  
rapport 7  
le 23 octobre 2019**

**Report to  
Rapport au:**

**Community and Protective Services Committee  
Comité des services communautaires et de protection  
17 October 2019 / 17 octobre 2019**

**and Council  
et au Conseil  
23 October 2019 / 23 octobre 2019**

**Submitted on October 17, 2019  
Soumis le 17 octobre 2019**

**Submitted by  
Soumis par:  
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**Ward: CITY WIDE / À L'ÉCHELLE DE LA VILLE      File Number: ACS2019-OCC-CPS-0001**

**SUBJECT: Rat Complaints Inquiry - Motion**

**OBJET: Renseignements sur les plaintes relatives aux infestations de rats -  
Motion**

#### **REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Community and Protective Services Committee recommend Council  
approve:**

1. that staff be directed to implement cost neutral rat control methods, including specific rat prevention practices in regular parks maintenance; incorporating inspections for rats into the twice annual inspections of abandoned buildings and issue orders to the owners to remedy any infestations if evidence is found; and,
2. that staff in Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development be directed to assess the options, including Legal Services, under their mandate to implement a program for proactive rat baiting prior to construction and issuing demolition permits and development applications and if such a program is possible, report back to the appropriate committee with recommendations including how such a program could be administered, detail any financial impacts and what monitoring could be put in place to assess its effectiveness.

## **RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT**

Que le Conseil approuve :

1. demande au personnel de mettre en place des méthodes financièrement neutres de dératisation, y compris des pratiques de prévention précises contre les rats dans le cadre de l'entretien régulier des parcs; en incorporant des inspections liées aux rats dans les inspections bisannuelles d'immeubles à l'abandon et de délivrer des ordonnances aux propriétaires pour remédier à toute infestation si la preuve en est faite;
2. demande au personnel de la Direction générale de la planification, de l'infrastructure et du développement économique d'évaluer les options, tout en obtenant l'avis des Services juridiques, en vertu de leur mandat de mettre en place un programme d'appâtage proactif des rats avant toute délivrance de permis de construire et de démolir, et toute demande d'aménagement. S'il est possible de mettre en œuvre un tel programme, les membres du personnel devront alors déposer auprès du comité concerné un rapport dans lequel ils formuleront des recommandations (notamment sur la manière dont un tel programme pourrait être implanté), donneront des détails sur les répercussions financières et présenteront quelques

**mesures de surveillance qui pourraient être adoptées pour en évaluer l'efficacité.**

## **BACKGROUND**

The Community and Protective Services Committee at its meeting of 17 October 2019, approved the following motion, which was added to the agenda pursuant to subsection 89(3) of the Procedure By-law (By-law 2019-8) in order to consider and discuss the response to inquiry "OCC 13-19 Rat Complaints Inquiry":

*WHEREAS rats are carriers and transmitters of diseases that can negatively impact public health and create a negative perception of our City, particularly in destination areas with high concentrations of local attractions; and*

*WHEREAS best practices in controlling rats includes eliminating food and water sources, eliminating living spaces, and protecting buildings to prevent infestations; and*

*WHEREAS in 2017, Council directed staff to establish a monitoring and baiting in sewers pilot program to address rats and to develop a long-term strategy for determining baseline rodent population; and*

*WHEREAS a working group including Ottawa Public Health, Bylaw Services, Public Works and Environmental Services, and 311 was created to coordinate efforts in addressing rat complaints and implement proactive measures, including increased education and outreach, adopting a specific service request classification for rats and rodents, proactive baiting in sewers, and enforcing property standards; and*

*WHEREAS the results of a 2-year pilot program to conduct proactive baiting in sanitary sewers through CCTV cameras have shown the rat population in sewers is low, with 8 sightings in 2018 and 23 in 2019. However, rat complaints in Ottawa have increased by nearly 40% compared to 2015 with Rideau-Vanier ward representing 34% of complaints in 2018, which highlights the need for the working group to continue to develop solutions to address the ongoing rat issues in Rideau-Vanier and across the City.*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff be directed to implement cost neutral rat control methods, including specific rat prevention practices in regular parks maintenance; incorporating inspections for rats into the twice annual inspections of abandoned buildings and issue orders to the owners to remedy any infestations if evidence is found; and,*

*THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff in Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development be directed to assess the options under their mandate to implement a program for proactive rat baiting prior to construction and if such a program is possible, report back to the appropriate committee with recommendations including how such a program could be administered, detail any financial impacts and what monitoring could be put in place to assess its effectiveness.*

## **DISCUSSION**

The Committee unanimously supported the aforementioned motion and agreed that it would be presented to Council on 23 October 2019.

## **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no rural implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

## **CONSULTATION**

No consultation was undertaken as this item was added at the meeting.

## **COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)**

Not applicable. This is a City-wide issue.

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) COMMENTS**

This report was not circulated for comment as it was added at the meeting.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Legal staff will be present at the Council meeting and can provide comment if requested.

**Community and Protective  
Services Committee  
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**Comité des services  
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rapport 7  
le 23 octobre 2019**

## **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS**

There are no impacts to accessibility associated with this report.

## **TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

Does not directly relate to the 2014-2018 Term of Council Priorities.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

Document 1 – OCC 13-19 – Rat Complaints Inquiry

## **DISPOSITION**

Following Council approval, Staff will undertake action to respond to the recommendations in the report.