

Extract of Draft Minutes 7
Community and Protective
Services Committee
17 October 2019

Extrait de l'ébauche
du procès-verbal 7
comité des services
communautaires et de protection
le 17 octobre 2019

Motion – Rat Complaints Inquiry

ACS2019-OCC-CPS-0001

City Wide

Motion No.7/1

Moved by Councillor M. Fleury

BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to Subsection 89(3) of the Procedure By-law, Community and Protective Services Committee approve that the Response to Inquiry (OCC 13-19 Rat Complaints Inquiry) be added to the agenda for consideration at today's meeting.

CARRIED

Kevin Wylie, General Manager, Public Works and Environmental Services, Richard Ashe, Manager, Permit Approvals, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development (PIED), Andrew McCreight, Planner, PIED and Geneviève Langlais, Legal Services were present and responded to questions.

Motion No.7/2

Moved by Councillor M. Fleury

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, 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.

CARRIED

Community and Protective Services Committee CARRIED the report as amended by Motion 7/2 with the following direction to staff:

Direction to Staff:

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