

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ENRIQUE J. PEPÉN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY-SAFE RODENT BIRTH CONTROL TO PROTECT BOSTON FAMILIES, COMPANION ANIMALS, AND WILDLIFE

WHEREAS, Boston and its surrounding communities are home to thousands of species of animals, including hawks, eagles, raccoons, and rodents such as squirrels and rats, forming a rich ecosystem that predated and evolved alongside humans; *and*

WHEREAS, Achieving a balance between human systems and wildlife requires modernizing garbage collection, building design, and community-safe interventions, since animals have always lived and will always live in the City of Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, Every year nearly one in ten thousand children is exposed to an anticoagulant poison intended for rodents, leading to internal bleeding, anemia, bloody urine, and even death, with marginalized children facing disproportionate exposure; *and*

WHEREAS, Residents, the Animal Rescue League, and MSPCA-Angell are raising awareness of how dozens of residents' cats and dogs are poisoned by anticoagulants every year, including a four-month old puppy, Nora, who convulsed to death; *and*

WHEREAS, Tufts Wildlife Clinic recently found that 100% of local red-tailed hawks tested positive for anticoagulant rodent poison, as a local bald eagle, MK, hemorrhaged to death and an owl, Owen, was found bleeding from his eyes at Faneuil Hall; *and*

WHEREAS, A coalition of wildlife rehabilitators have coordinated with Harvard Law School's Animal Policy Clinic to petition state authorities to enforce the Pesticide Control Act, indicating cities may be soon be required to end use of these poisons; *and*

WHEREAS, Peer-reviewed studies on the use of non-fatal rodent birth control have demonstrated success in the cities of Newton (MA), Hartford (CT), San Francisco (CA), and two neighborhood programs led by volunteers in Jamaica Plain, which have led to an 80% reduction in rat populations; *and*

WHEREAS, Scaling these non-fatal alternatives to poisons will position our city to lead as a global capital for innovation and life sciences; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee hold a hearing regarding the city-wide phase out of rodent poisons and implementation of rodent birth control to protect our residents, our companion animals, and our wildlife.

Filed on: July 10, 2024