



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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CITY ELECTEDS JOIN FORCES TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE ON RAT MITIGATION & PREVENTION

CITY HALL – Today, the Council’s Committee on Sanitation heard a legislative package to address our city’s rampant rat problem. The package – which includes bills by Council Member Margaret S. Chin, Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Chair of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo and Public Advocate Letitia James – would designate rat mitigation zones, create clear parameters for food service establishments and trash drop-offs in residential buildings, mandate rat abatement for the issuance of certain construction permits, and require the City to track progress in rat mitigation zones.

“New York City's rat problem isn't just a universal nuisance – it's a public health issue that can pose serious hazards to the health and quality of life of residents across the City,” said **Council Member Margaret S. Chin**. “That is why I introduced two bills that will deprive rats of further opportunities to freeload off of our garbage. My first bill would give us more insight on the areas that are most vulnerable to rats by requiring the Department of Sanitation to designate rat mitigation zones, and requiring buildings within the zones – which have nine units or more and hire live-in supers – to take out garbage for collection between the hours of 4am and 6am. My other bill would require businesses in the spring and summer to clean the grease and other garbage juice off of its sidewalks before they open. Everyone needs to be part of the solution, and I am proud to join my colleagues to pass these common-sense measures to adequately address our City's rat problem.”

“The growing population of rats in our city causes both significant psychological and health risks,” said **Public Advocate Letitia James**. “Any form of construction can

disturb existing rat dens, causing them to flee to nearby structures and unduly burdening residents and businesses. This bill is critical in ensuring that anyone who engages in any type of construction within a rat mitigation zone bears responsibility for abatement efforts prior to such activity, rather than leaving it for a community to address.”

"As Chair of the Sanitation and Solid Waste Committee at the City Council, I seek to highlight legislation in my committee that will assist with the public health issues caused by rats in the City of New York," said **Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Chair of the Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management**. "I am proud to sponsor legislation that will analyze the effectiveness of rat mitigation zones that will be implemented as part of this legislative package. I look forward to hearing from the public and the business community on how to best implement this legislation. I want to thank my colleagues for their leadership on this issue.”

"New York City is going green – from recycling to composting – we are reducing our carbon footprint, creating cleaner communities, and raising healthier families throughout the five boroughs," said **Majority Leader Laurie A. Cumbo**. "With an influx of new residents and small businesses, we must take proactive measures to help curb the rodent population by eliminating access to exposed food sources, improving our citywide collection, and increasing accountability through the Rat Mitigation Package. I am proud to sponsor legislation that would designate food service establishments, food manufacturers and food wholesalers in rat mitigation zones as covered establishments mandating that they source, separate, and compost organic waste."

Every day, New Yorkers are forced to share space with an estimated 2 million rats. Last year, New York City earned the unwelcome distinction as having the second-worst rat problem in the country. The bills being heard today aim to build upon existing efforts to improve the quality of life and livability of all neighborhoods. Last summer, the Mayor launched a multi-agency rat reduction program that included funding for big belly trash cans, rat-proofing NYCHA buildings and increased waste basket trash pick-ups.

The bills were heard today in advance of being formally introduced at Wednesday's Stated Meeting.

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