

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday November 5, 2018

6:00 p.m.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston IL, Council Chambers

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM**
- II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF October 1, 2018**
Citizen Comments
- III. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**
- IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
(HH1) Hillard Heintze Review of Evanston Police Department Presentation
(HH2) Rodent Control Report
- V. ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION**
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Memorandum

To: Honorable Members of the Human Services Committee

From: Ike C. Ogbo, Public Health Manager
Health & Human Services Department

Subject: Rodent Control Progress Report, 2018

Date: October 31, 2018

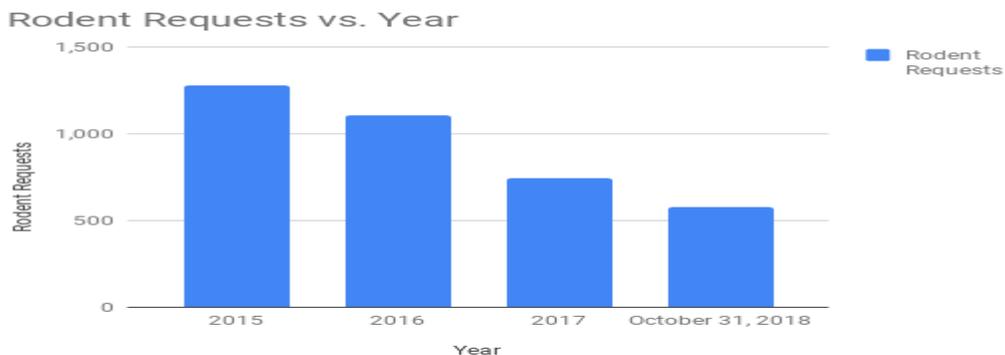
Service Requests

Requests for rodent treatment have steadily decreased over the past 3 years. In 2017, there was a 32 % decrease from the previous year for requests for rodent treatment. In 2018, Health and Human Department staff has noticed through efforts and strategies employed that there has been a continued decrease in the number of rodent treatment requests.

The table below shows a decrease in rodent treatment requests from 2015- 2018.

Year	Rodent Treatment Requests
October 31, 2018	577
2017	747
2016	1,108
2015	1,280

Graph below depicts the progress made over the years of rodent control in Evanston



Efforts and Strategies

The Department has continued to employ the same strategies used over the years to reduce the rodent population in Evanston. Education provided through newsletters, social media and the annual City-wide rodent control seminar continue to be hallmarks of the Rodent Control Program.

The City-wide fall and spring rodent walks conducted this year have proven to be effective in identifying areas with the highest rodent activity for treatment and code enforcement. Inspectors continue to use the Maintenance Code (2012) and the City's local ordinances to address violations observed that pertain to rodents activity. These rodent walks also provide the Inspectors the opportunity to educate residents who are available during these walks about proper rodent control.

Monthly meetings with staff from Rose Pest Solutions have helped tremendously in the success of the program. These monthly meetings are held to update both Health staff and Rose Pest Solutions staff on areas of concerns and feedback received from residents on treatment and services. This is also the time Rose staff relays where any additional support or tools are needed.

New Strategies

Health staff has used RENT, Evanston as a way to disseminate property-related matters and information including proper rodent control to property owners and residents. RENT, Evanston which stands for rental, empowerment, networking and training is a Health Department quarterly program established to bring property owners and residents under one roof for training about property upkeep, maintenance, engagement, familiarity with Evanston property maintenance and building Codes.

The Health Department acknowledges that this is an effective way to reach Evanston property owners and residents to provide education not only for property-related matters but for rodent control as well. This program will become a hallmark of the rodent control program and will be used in years to come.

Health staff also introduced another strategy into the program which was the use of the City's mass emailing system, GovDelivery to send quarterly newsletters to property owners and residents about relevant property-related topics including rodent control. This is another new strategy of providing rodent control measures and education to the community and will become a mainstay of the rodent control program.

Attachment

A rodent control newsletter



Neighborhood Rodent Watch

AREAS OF CONCERN

August ,2018

3200-3300 Blocks of Central and 3000-3100 Blocks of Park Place

WHAT WE'RE SEEING:

In response to complaints regarding rats in your neighborhood, the Evanston Health Department is sending newsletters to residents to help educate and to create an awareness of the rat issues in our neighborhoods and how residents can help the City control the problem.

HOW WE'RE RESPONDING:

The City of Evanston Health Department has a contract with a licensed pest control company to provide treatment for rodents in City alleys and the properties of single family homes (*Requires Release of Liability*). Prior to this agreement, residents were required to hire a company on their own. This program is free but however, it is not available to commercial properties. If a resident observes a rodent or would like to file a complaint, they can call (847) 448-4311. The following information is needed for the complaint:

Your name, phone number, or e-mail and the specific location (address) indicating where the rodent was observed.

THE CITY NEEDS YOUR HELP:

To discourage harborage, please do not allow shrubs or grasses to overgrow. This allows rats the opportunity to hide as they forage for food.

To discourage feeding, please eliminate all sources of food in your yards and in the alley. For garbage cans with holes or in disrepair, keep in mind they

provide avenues for food. Please call 311 for replacement cans if your cans are in poor condition.

Please take the time to look around your yard and in the alley and if a rat burrow is observed, please call 311 for rodent inspections/treatments.

Always remember that a licensed professional Pest Control Operator can be part of the solution. Regular treatment of private property is an effective preventive measure.

Please review the list on the other page and inspect your property to identify and eliminate any conditions that may encourage rats on your property.

Feel free to contact the Evanston Health Department if you see rats or have any questions.



Overloaded garbage

Evanston Health Department

847.448.4311

health@cityofevanston.org

Private Property Release of Liability

For any baiting/treatment of a private property, please complete and submit the "Release of Liability" form by visiting our website at <http://cityofevanston.org/health/pest-control> or call 311. To learn more about the City's Rodent Control Program and more tips on how to control rodent populations in your area, please visit our website at <http://cityofevanston.org/health/pest-control>.

Rodent Protection Checklist

Keep all garbage in closed containers.

Replace damaged garbage cans and covers.

Cover all food sources. This includes dog & cat food, birdseed and water, too!

Pick up after your pet.

Remove wood piles, weeds and other piles of debris.

Repair screen & garage doors.

Close any openings to your home or garage.

Report the presence of rats to the Health Department.



Rodent burrow



Weeds along the property line is a good place for rodents to hide on your property, so it's your responsibility to cut them.

Ordinance 27-O-05 Section 302.4.



Don't make it easy for rodents to find places to feed.



Thank you very much for your assistance in keeping Evanston neighborhoods free of rodents.