

Dupont East Civic Action Association

www.KeepDupontGreen.org

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DC Department of Public Works (dpw@dc.gov)

**Re: Department of Public Works Incompetence Leading to Explosion in
Rat Population.**

Dear Recipients:

The DC Department of Public Works (“DPW”) is directly responsible for the explosion in the rat population in DC. In a demonstration of astounding incompetence, DPW has provided throughout Washington, D.C. tens (if not hundreds) of thousands of trash containers that rats easily and routinely chew through. The rats therefore have a ready source of food. Indeed, members of Dupont East Civic Action Association (“DECAA”) have reported that even when they have gone to the trouble and expense of hiring extermination companies who deploy bait traps, the rats will not frequent those traps because they have a ready source of food from chewing through the trash containers supplied by DPW.

Below are a few examples of trash containers through which rats have chewed, with more examples in the attached appendix:



DECAA is confident there are literally tens of thousands of such examples throughout the Washington, D.C. area.

In addition to the urgency in correcting this problem by procuring and distributing trash containers that rats cannot chew through, DECAA requests an investigation as to why this wholly unacceptable state of affairs arose in the first place:

- As part of the procurement process, did DPW include a requirement that the trash containers be rodent proof?
- If not, why not?
- Did DPW do any due diligence before entering into the contract to purchase these containers as to whether they were resistant to rat incursion?
- If not, why not?

- If DPW did do such due diligence, why did it acquire containers that are so susceptible to rat incursion?

An equally perplexing problem is why has DPW allowed this situation to continue for years. DPW must have gotten thousands of requests to replace trash containers that have been chewed through by rats. Thus, it must have been aware for years as to the scope of this problem, yet it has done nothing to correct it.

The current situation is intolerable. The ever increasing rat population poses a health and safety risk to all the DC citizens. Therefore, DECAA requests the following:

- An investigation by the DC Auditor to determine if proper procurement policies were followed.
- An investigation by the DC Inspector General to determine if there was any misconduct in the astoundingly misguided purchase of the existing trash containers.
- An immediate hearing before the City Council to determine how this problem arose and how it can be remedied expeditiously. Possible immediate remedial steps include the following:
 - Restaurants pose a significant problem as a ready source of food for rats. Thus, DPW should immediately conduct a survey of all restaurants using plastic trash containers and, if chewed through, a requirement should be imposed that they use metal containers.
 - Require DPW to immediately conduct a survey to determine the residential and business areas where the rat population has most severely compromised the trash containers by chewing through them. (One DECAA member reported that in several alleys adjacent to the member's residence **almost all** the trash containers for the entire block were chewed through by rats. This situation undoubtedly exists in numerous areas.)
 - Require DPW to conduct a solicitation for rat proof containers.
 - Require DPW to immediately provide rat proof containers to those areas most heavily affected by rats, and begin the process of substituting the rat proof containers in all areas for the clearly inadequate ones they now distribute.

To prevent the rat explosion from compromising the health and safety of District of Columbia citizens. DPW must provide better service.

Yours truly

/s/ Nick DelleDonne

Nick DelleDonne

President, DECAA

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APPENDIX

**EXAMPLES OF RAT INCURSIONS
INTO DC TRASH CONTAINERS**



































