



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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Memorandum

TO: Board of Public Works

FROM: Michael Lewis, Director of Public Works/City Engineer

DATE: January 31, 2013

RE: **Communication from Director of Public Works on behalf of Alderman Vince Vitale regarding a proposal to help deal with health issues related to rodents.**

Rats are becoming an even bigger problem in West Allis. Along with the obvious health issues, they are a hazard for our garbage and recycling drivers. The Health Department is working on a mailing pointing out the problem and asking for help in controlling it.

Part of the problem is inadequate containers. Alderman Vitale has discussed with us a policy/ordinance which would over time (say one year, maybe more) require residents to purchase our garbage carts. Even though the carts aren't 100% rodent proof, they are a lot better than some of the containers (or lack of container) that we find out there. A 64 gallon cart costs \$40 tax included and a 96 gallon cart is \$45 tax included. Approximately 65% of our pickups already have city carts.

Alderman Vitale wanted to discuss this issue first before sponsoring an ordinance.