



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

MEMORANDUM

TO: City of West Allis License & Health Committee

FROM: Bob Leischow, MPH
Health Commissioner

DATE: June 2, 2022

SUBJECT: Communication regarding Nuisance Abatement Program – Action Plan Progress

PLAN FOCUS: GARBAGE CART STANDARDIZATION

(Strategic Plan item: 1.4.4)

Summary: Require all residential properties to have a city issued garbage cart. If they do not currently have one, they can purchase a cart at 50% off the total cost.

Progress to date:

Since 1/1/22 1,687 garbage carts have been sold, which includes carts purchased by people who were not mandated to purchase one.

To date, of those residences identified as not having a garbage cart, 737 of those mandated residences have purchased a cart and 280 residences, that were identified of not having a cart, still need to purchase a cart.

The Department of Public Works will begin enforcing the new garbage cart ordinance, effective June 1st, and will address placing new carts at those residential properties not having a city provided cart as staffing allows on their property tax bill.

PLAN FOCUS: CODE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS – CONSOLIDATED/REORGANIZATION

(Strategic Plan item: 1.4.5)

Summary: Improve quality of life through code enforcement. The City has multiple departments engaged in various aspects of code enforcement and nuisance abatement. Restructuring of how code enforcement is accomplished through increased collaboration, streamlining and efficiencies. All code enforcement processes and complaints completed through OpenGov.

Progress to date:

On May 17th, staff from health, code enforcement, DPW and Fire attended a citation training led by Police to overview the citation and violation software the city uses. The enforcement sub-committee will work to determine the parameters for when citations will be issued.

We are revamping the Rodent Nuisance record in OpenGov to incorporate an autofill table and standard letters for corrective actions. Currently working with OpenGov to complete.

BINS changed to the Code Enforcement department and a Code Enforcement Officer position was created.

PLAN FOCUS: RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP

(Strategic Plan item: 1.4.6)

Summary: Engage with neighborhood residents to increase awareness of causes for a rise in the presence of nuisance animals and organize neighborhood clean-ups to eliminate locations for nuisance animals to inhabit and eliminate access to food sources.



Progress to date:

The communications sub-committee has developed a Communications Plan Checklist for the rodent control program. The plan identifies the information to be communicated, the target audience, the methods being used, and the person responsible.

The first phase of the communication plan is a social media campaign relating to the history of the rodent problem in West Allis, why rodents are bad, rodent abatement actions taken by the city, reasons for rodent issues, what community members can do to help, and rodent myth busters. This is phase one of the communication plan and these posts will be shared on the West Allis Health Department and City of West Allis, WI Government Facebook pages over the next few months. The intent of these posts is to increase awareness of the causes of rodents as well as be upfront with residents on what the City of West Allis is doing to correct the problem.

Two neighborhood walk throughs will be conducted in the 3 hot spot areas identified in the nuisance abatement program. Direct mailings will be sent to residents in those areas so they can join the environmentalists, city department heads, alderpersons, and the mayor on the walk-throughs. During these educational walk-throughs environmentalists will identify food and harborage sources for rodents and informational rodent door hangers will be placed on resident's doors.

June 14th, 2022: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- Location: 96th street between W Manitoba Street and W Montana Ave
 - Meet at corner of [S 96th St & W Manitoba St](#)

June 23rd, 2022: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- Location 1: Orchard Street between S 61st Street and S 63rd Street
 - Meet at corner of [W Orchard St & S 60th St](#)
- Location 2: 61st street between W National Ave and W Madison Street
 - Meet at corner of [S 61st St & W National Ave](#)

PLAN FOCUS: NUISANCE ANIMAL ABATEMENT/MITIGATION PLAN + METRICS

(Strategic Plan item; 1.4.2/1.4.7)

Summary: In conjunction with the previous three initiatives and the previous and current programs focused on nuisance animal abatement, implement a plan to mitigate the issue. Provide increased funding for nuisance animal abatement and control, explore options to disrupt the reproductive cycle and possible involvement of a pest control company, and advanced trapping tools.

Progress to date:

Through CDBG funds we have contracted with Orkin to implement Integrated Pest Management. The contract is finalized for public right of way abatement, and can be used on confirmed issues, or proactively to address concerns that contribute to rodent nuisances.

The GIS rodent hotspot map was updated to include 2022 data. This map will be updated on a quarterly basis so we can continue to evaluate where rodent concerns are in our community. Additionally, we will soon have mapped data from our OpenGov follow up records. The record will track the time to nuisance follow up, the type of issues, and the resolution of complaints.

PLAN FOCUS: ORDINANCE CHANGES

(Strategic Plan: 1.4.8)

Summary: Work with the Common Council to adopt summary abatement laws to allow for immediate removal of items that cause nuisance animal harborages.

Progress to date:



This group has made progress in two primary focus areas related to ordinances. First, there is a focus on using the current ordinance scheme and empowering different departments to understand and better utilize the current code to meet the City's objectives. This includes updated trainings and comprehension of the citation process and when citations may be appropriate in relation to other potential enforcement mechanisms.

The second focus is to create an updated rat or rodent abatement code with the intent of clarifying and creating additional abatement options for departments to use. There is currently a draft ordinance created by the City Attorney that is being reviewed and amended within the City Attorney's Office. This updated draft ordinance should be available to this group and the Common Council within the next two weeks.