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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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Greenwich Village ♦ Little Italy ♦ SoHo ♦ NoHo ♦ Hudson Square ♦ Chinatown ♦ Gansevoort Market

June 10, 2025

Michelle Morse, MD, MPH
Acting Health Commissioner
and Chief Medical Officer
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
125 Worth St.
New York, NY 10013

Kathleen Corradi
Citywide Director of Rodent Mitigation
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
125 Worth St.
New York, NY 10013

Tricia Shimamura
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
Arsenal West
24 West 61st Street, 5th Fl.
New York, NY 10023

Dear Commissioner Morse and Shimamura and Director Corradi:

At its Full Board meeting on May 22, 2025, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

Resolution Supporting Rodent Abatement

WHEREAS:

- 1) CB2 suffers from a high concentration of rodents, and two of its areas are deemed “rat reservoirs” by DOHMH; and
- 2) Rats feed, in part, off the garbage produced by restaurants, of which a high concentration – both indoor and outdoor– are located in CB2, and where pest control is the responsibility of the restaurant owner; and

- 3) Rats also feed at trash bins, for which new regulations have been enacted to discourage rodent activity, and where compliance of such rules is enforced by the Department of Sanitation; and
- 4) Evidence of rodent activity can be an indication of practices that feed and house rats, but because rats are mobile, rodent activity can also be observed in areas that are well-maintained and where garbage is responsibly contained; and
- 5) Rats tend to burrow in tree pits, where rat abatement is the responsibility of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, and where DOHMH assists with staffing shortfalls; and
- 6) According to NYC Parks, there are 4,368 trees in the West Village and 2,716 in Soho/Tribeca/Little Italy (though not all of these are in tree pits). <https://tree-map.nycgovparks.org>
- 7) The City's DOHMH has a staff of 77 inspectors and just 25 exterminators citywide.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT CB2 MANHATTAN

- 1) Welcomes the city's focus on rat abatement and is grateful for its particular attention to neighborhoods in CB2 where high rates of tourism and indoor and outdoor restaurants encourage rodent activity; and
- 2) Calls for the budget of the city's rat abatement program in CB2 to prioritize treatment of tree pits, at city expense, rather than penalizing residential owners with fines in cases where they comply with trash containerization rules and general sanitary regulations.

Vote: Passed, 42 Board Members in favor, 1 against (K. Berger).

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Valerie De La Rosa, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Susanna Aaron, Chair
Human Services Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

cc: Hon. Dan Goldman, Congressman
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NYS Senator
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, NYS Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Grace Lee NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council Member
Hon. Christopher Marte, NYC Council Member
Hon. Carlina Rivera, NYC Council Member