



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**JOSEPH A. CURTATONE**  
**MAYOR**

**OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

June 24, 2010

Honorable Alderman Maryann Heuston  
City Hall  
93 Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02143

Re: Board Order #189120  
Rodent Complaint Statistics

Alderman Heuston:

Please be advised that OSPCD is in receipt of your Board Order #189120, dated April 8, 2010, which requested that the Director of SomerStat and Health provide the Board with statistics for the past 18 months on complaints of rats. In response, OSPCD has prepared the requested information and provided a copy to the Public Health & Public Safety Committee at the committee meeting on June 14, 2010 together with a draft of an Action Plan to address the prevalence of rodents in the city.

I am hereby forwarding the same materials to the entire Board for their information.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the Inspectional Services Division at 617-625-6600 x 5600.

Respectfully,

MONICA R. LAMBOY  
Executive Director





CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development  
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE, MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

Office of the Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Alderman White and Members of the Public Health & Public Safety Committee

**FROM:** Monica R. Lamboy, Executive Director

**DATE:** June 14, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Draft Rodent Action Plan and Response to Board Order #189120

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In the past few months, several Aldermen have submitted board orders related to rodent complaints in various parts of the city. This memo is specifically in response to Board Order #189120 (dated April 8, 2010) - *that the Director of SomerStat and the Director of Health provide this Board with statistics broken down by ward and area, from 311 calls or calls directly to the department for the last 18 month period related to complaints of rats and discussion with the Public Health & Public Safety Committee in March. Responses to other orders will be submitted to the BOA individually.*

As the Board is well aware, baiting is only one strategy to reduce the prevalence or rates and reducing their access to food, water, and shelter often times is more successful than baiting. Since the date of the Public Health/Public Safety Committee, in conjunction with local pest control exports, staff have been working on an action plan to address rodent complaints citywide. Some of the topics of discussion have included: public information, dumpsters, enforcement of the trash ordinance, trash transfer facility, restaurants, gardens-compost bins- and fruit trees and other attractive nuisances. Attached please find a draft of the Action Plan.

Attached to this memo, please find charts and maps that show available 311 data for rodent complaints from 2008, 2009 and 2010 (through mid-May). In addition, staff have also prepared maps of where rodent baiting has occurred in the past year.

Rodent Complaints - Multi-year by Ward  
29-month timeframe

Ward 1 Month	Year			Total by Month
	2008	2009	2010	
January		3	3	6
February		2	2	4
March		1	1	2
April	1	2	1	4
May	1	3	7	10
June		3	3	6
July	3	5	8	16
August		1	1	2
September	2	2	4	8
October	1	1	1	3
November		1	1	2
December	1	1	1	3
Annual Total	8	18	14	40

Ward 4 Month	Year			Total by Month
	2008	2009	2010	
January		4	4	8
February		1	1	2
March	6	1	7	14
April		3	2	5
May		2	1	3
June		1	1	2
July		1	1	2
August	2	1	3	6
September	1	1	2	4
October		1	1	2
November	1	1	1	3
December		1	1	2
Annual Total	12	8	9	29

Ward 2 Month	Year			Total by Month
	2008	2009	2010	
January	1	2	3	6
February	1	2	3	6
March	6	2	8	16
April	2	6	5	13
May	1	2	8	11
June	3	2	5	10
July	8	7	15	30
August	3	3	3	9
September		3	3	6
October	1	1	1	3
November		3	3	6
December	1	3	4	8
Annual Total	27	32	19	78

Ward 5 Month	Year			Total by Month
	2008	2009	2010	
January		1	3	4
February	1	1	2	4
March		1	2	3
April		1	1	2
May		1	1	2
June		1	1	2
July		1	1	2
September	1	1	1	3
October		1	1	2
December		1	1	2
Annual Total	2	6	6	14

Ward 3 Month	Year			Total by Month
	2008	2009	2010	
January	1	2	2	5
February	1	8	9	18
March	1	2	3	6
April	4	11	15	30
May		5	5	10
June	3	3	6	12
July	1	2	3	6
August	2	3	5	10
September	3	4	7	14
October		3	3	6
November		1	1	2
December				
Annual Total	16	18	29	63

Ward 6 Month	Year			Total by Month
	2008	2009	2010	
January		1	2	3
February		1	1	2
March		1	1	2
April		1	1	2
May		1	1	2
June	1	1	1	3
July	1	2	2	5
August	2	2	2	6
September				
October				
November				
December				
Annual Total	2	2	2	6

Ward 0 Month	Year		Total by Month
	2008	2009	
January	1	1	2
February		1	1
March		1	1
April		1	1
May		1	1
June		1	1
July		3	3
August	2		2
September		1	1
October	3	7	10
Annual Total	3	7	10

Ward 7 Month	Year		Total by Month
	2008	2009	
January	1	2	3
February			
March	1		1
April	1		1
May	1		1
June	3		3
July		1	1
August	1	1	2
September		1	1
October		1	1
November	7	4	11
Annual Total	7	4	11

# CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MA

## Map 1: Rodent Baiting Locations January 2009 - April 2010

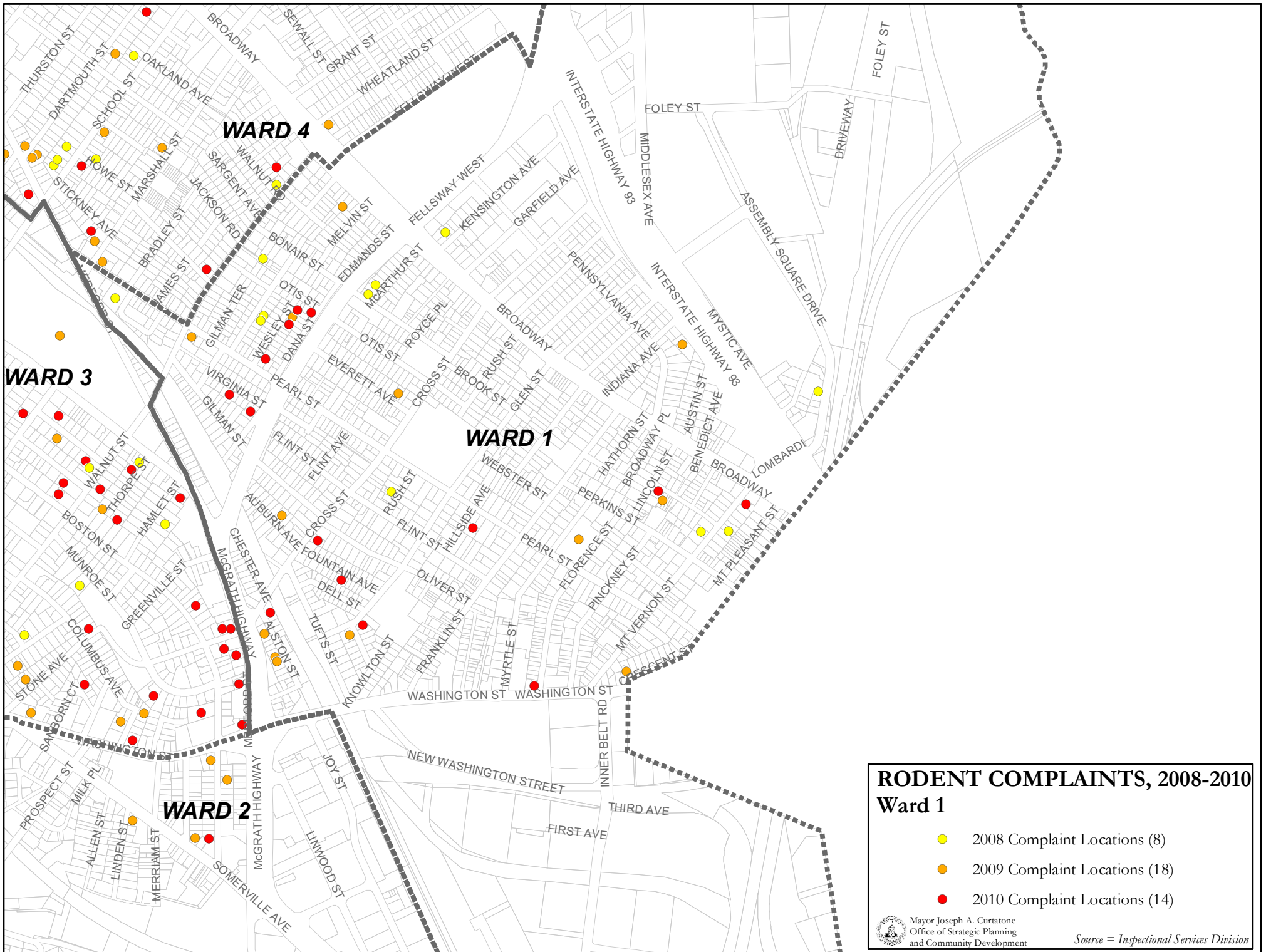
- Addresses and Intersections with Baited Sewers
- Street Segments with Baited Sewers

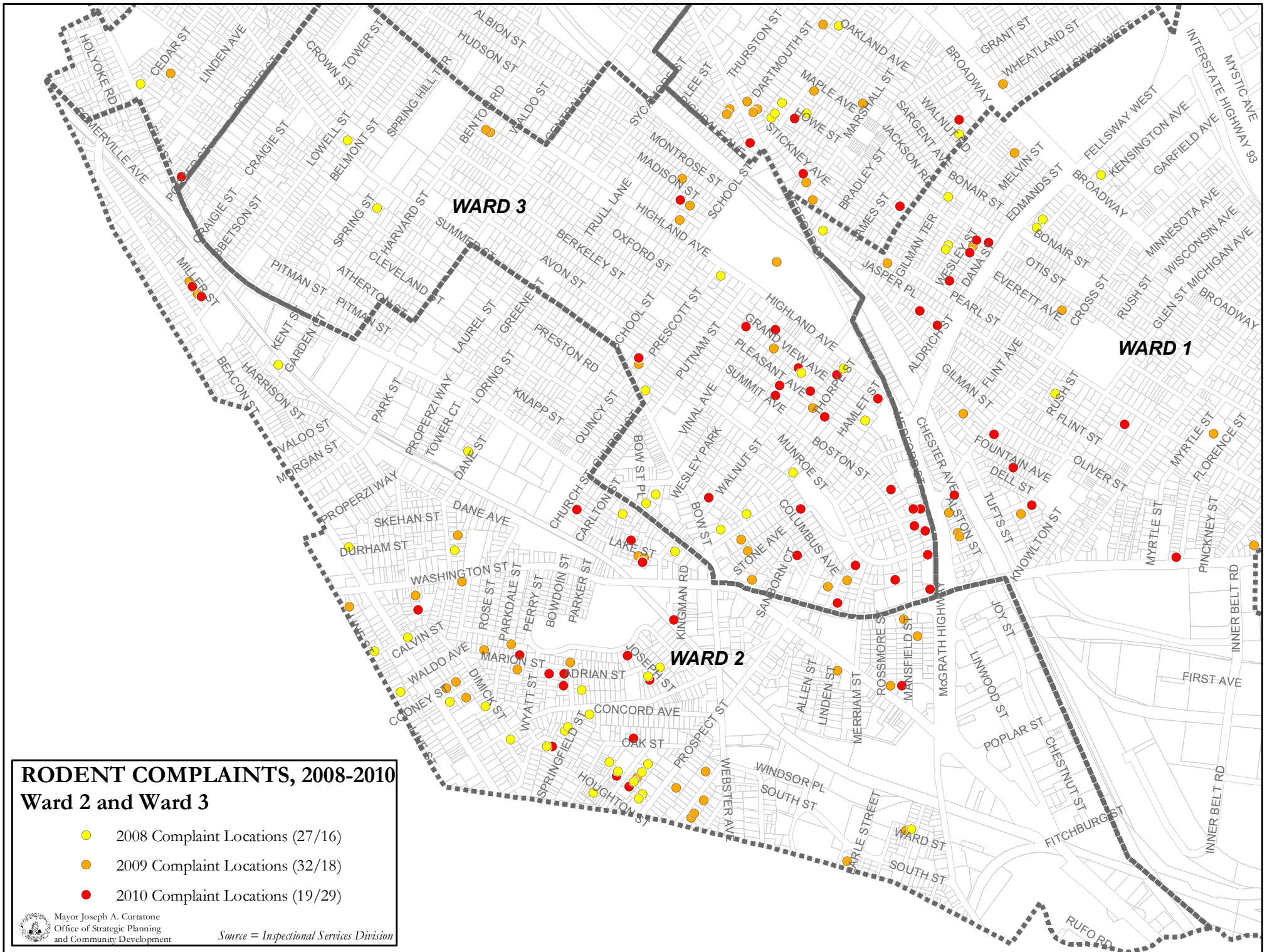


Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone  
Office of Strategic Planning  
and Community Development

Source: Inspectional Services Division, 2010







# RODENT COMPLAINTS, 2008-2010

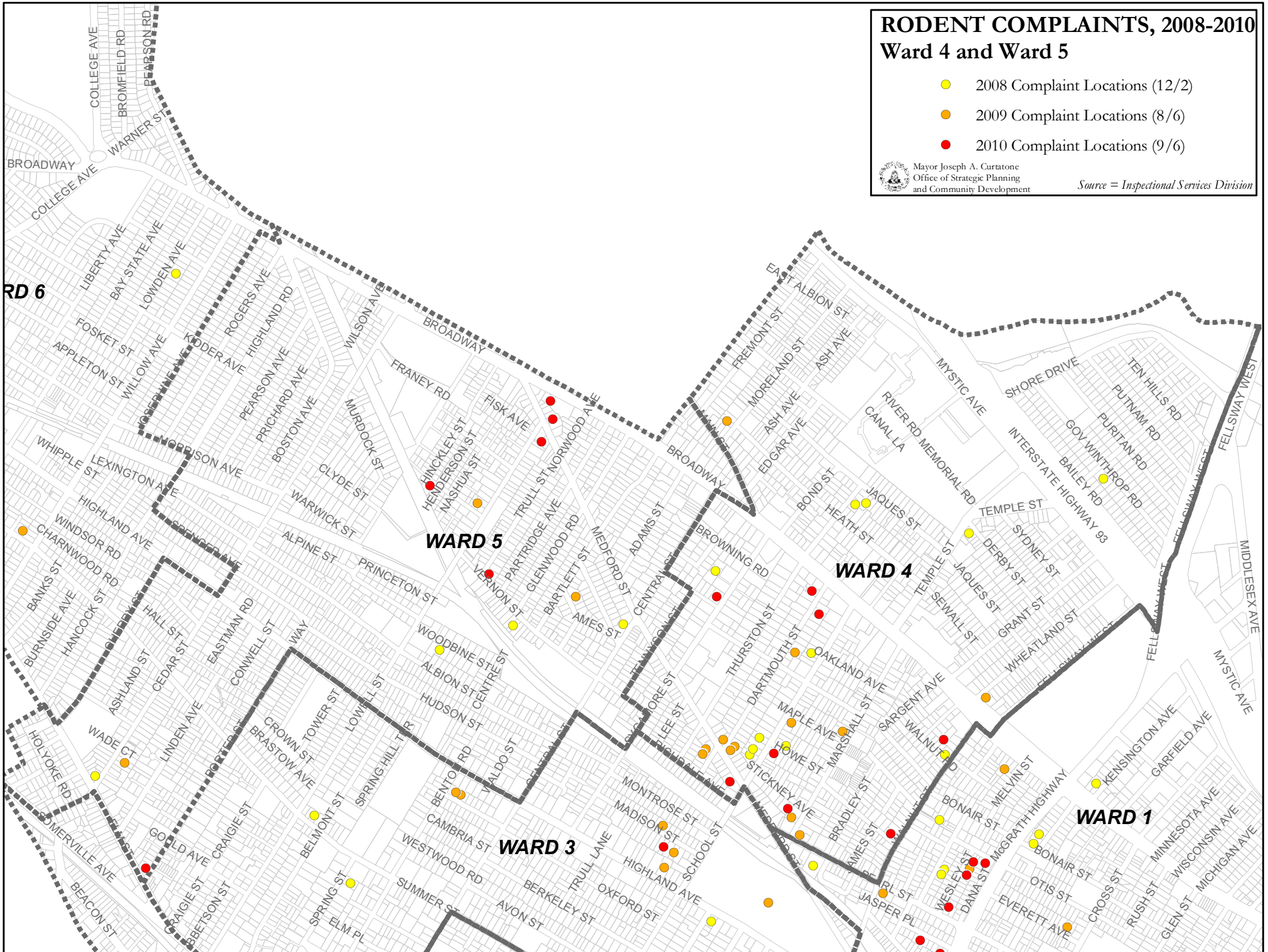
## Ward 4 and Ward 5

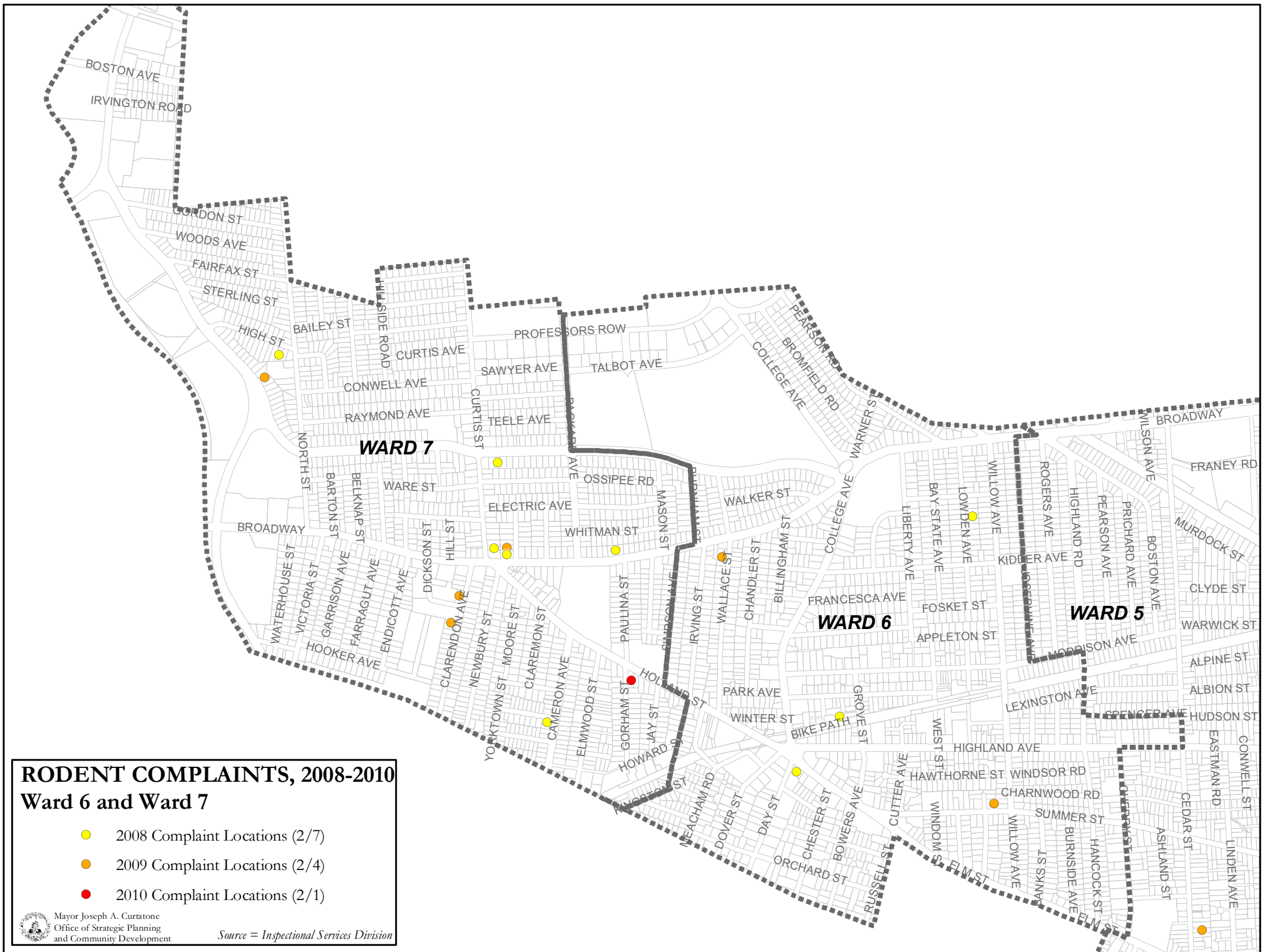
- 2008 Complaint Locations (12/2)
- 2009 Complaint Locations (8/6)
- 2010 Complaint Locations (9/6)



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Source = Inspectional Services Division





**RODENT COMPLAINTS, 2008-2010**

**Ward 6 and Ward 7**

- 2008 Complaint Locations (2/7)
- 2009 Complaint Locations (2/4)
- 2010 Complaint Locations (2/1)



**RODENT ABATEMENT ACTION PLAN**  
**June 2010**

Mission: To reduce the prevalence of rodents in the city of Somerville.

<b>Goal 1: Ensure that Somerville residents and property owners have access to information about rodent control.</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contacts/Notes</b>
1. Identify existing materials from other communities and adapt to Somerville.	Paulette Renault-Caragianes	Obtained brochure from NYC (per Modern Pest Services) Boston's Rodent Management Brochure: <a href="http://www.cityofboston.gov/isd/pdfs/pmb.pdf">http://www.cityofboston.gov/isd/pdfs/pmb.pdf</a>	
2. Review existing trash brochure with 311 to see if there are updates that can be made to raise awareness about the connection between trash storage and pests.	Angela Allen	Initial review shows that existing brochure does not have information about pest control.	
3. Develop new public information materials, incl. e.g. brochure, PSA, media campaign, etc.	Russell Koty (with Health, Communications)	Draft brochure underway (using ideas from #1 above).	
4. Translate materials into Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole.	311		
5. Distribute brochures routinely while conducting field inspections and responding to complaints.	All ISD Health Inspectors		
6. Work with schools to identify and utilize opportunities for raising awareness about environmental health issues including rodent control.	Paulette Renault-Caragianes		
7. Work with other community organizations to identify and act upon ways to distribute informational materials to hot spot areas.	Paulette Renault-Caragianes	Reached out to GroundWorks. Meeting with Communications about other opportunities to engage community groups.	

<b>Goal 2: Ensure that dumpsters do not provide rodents with easy access to food.</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contacts/Notes</b>
1. Get list of dumpsters on residential and commercial property.	Michelle Bowler	Have lists. Working to identify any dumpsters that might not be registered/licensed.	
2. Perform semi-annual inspection of sites with dumpsters.	Frank Keohane (assign staff)		
3. Review existing dumpster requirements – consider whether should be required to have self-closing lids; are dumpsters required to be sanitized every time they are emptied; should liquids be required to be captured or sent directly into sanitary sewer system.	Angela Allen	Researching experience in other communities, incl. enforcement.	
4. Work with Board of Health to establish minimum trash storage capacity standards for larger apartment buildings and commercial businesses.	Angela Allen		

<b>Goal 3: Ensure that the Somerville Trash Ordinance is effective and fully implemented and enforced.</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contacts/Notes</b>
1. Determine how to address discarded furniture and other items abandoned on property.	Russell Koty		
2. Work with Law Office to determine how best to get onto property to see if trash or debris is in rear or side yards.	Russell Koty	Scheduling meeting with Law.	
3. Review requirements for apartment owners. Make sure that 4+ units are required to have sturdy garbage cans with lids that are attached.	Russell Koty	Ibid.	
4. Field tour with pest control contractor and pest control contractor to identify rodent food-source issues related to trash storage.	Russell Koty	Scheduling field tour.	Bob Hudson, Modern Pest Services

<b>Goal 4: Ensure that the Somerville Waste Transfer Station operates in a manner that does not support rodents either on site or in the vicinity.</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contacts/Notes</b>
1. Research best practices of modern trash transfer facilities.	Guy Selfridge	Internet research underway.	Leo Boucher, Boston ISD (617) 961-3327 John Meaney, Boston ISD (617) 961-3340
2. Analyze existing operating standards – i.e., how often is facility emptied and sanitized; how long does garbage stay in facility; are bay doors closed at night; are there other points of ingress?	Frank Keohane	Approaching contacts to schedule meeting with Mr. Conley and Waltham Pest Control (WM’s contractor).	Ed Conley, Waste Management (617) 201-9130
3. Analyze existing rodent abatement practices – i.e., how often is baited; are there other means such as electrical current to keep rodents away	Frank Keohane	Ibid.	

<b>Goal 5: Facilitate pest control – including rodent abatement – in Somerville’s food establishments.</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contacts/Notes</b>
1. Identify and document food establishments that are located in areas with numerous rodent complaints and/or known pest issues.	Maureen Lee	Ongoing.	
2. Increase frequency of inspections of establishments in “hot spot” areas to ensure follow-through on their Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans.	Frank Keohane	Working on inspection schedule, protocol for rodent-related re-inspections.	
3. Provide new food establishments with informational materials about pest management.	Maureen Lee	Underway.	

<b>Goal 6: Ensure that owners of gardens, fruit trees and compost bins have the information to act responsibly to control pests.</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contacts/Notes</b>
1. Provide information about rodent control related to gardening and composting to residents purchasing compost bins from the City.	OSE, DPW, Health Dept.		
2. Research best practices from compost vendors/haulers regarding pest control.	Angela Allen	Internet research underway. Coordinating with OSE regarding communication with	
3. Work with Law and community partners to be more proactive about identifying rodent issues on private property.	Angela Allen (with Michelle Bowler)		

<b>Goal 7: Require all building permit holders to bait premises where construction/demolition activity could activate rodents.</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contacts/Notes</b>
1. Research experience in other communities.	Angela Allen	Underway.	Karen Rose, Medford
2. Review current experience of City's requirement that contractors bait areas during demolition, park renovation, construction, etc.	Angela Allen	Underway.	
3. Ensure that roadway construction projects have pest control required in their scopes of work, and that there are monitoring plans in place to enforce such requirement.	Angela Allen (with Purchasing, DPW, OSPCD, etc.)		

<b>Goal 8: Ensure that rail lines and areas in Somerville are routinely baited and cleaned.</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contacts/Notes</b>
1. Continue reporting rodent/pest issues to Department of Transportation, MBTA, etc.	ISD and DPW	Seeking best contacts.	
2. Advocate more aggressively for rodent control along rail lines, and show data of complaints, violations, and activity in such areas.	ISD, OSPCD, DPW		