

MOTION

In October of 2018, LA County Department of Public Health announced a flea-borne typhus outbreak in downtown L.A. following the discovery of a cluster of nine cases in a three-month period. Typhus is a bacterial infection spread by infected fleas from rats and other small mammals.

As part of a comprehensive rat abatement strategy, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends thick plastic or metal garbage cans with a tight lid. Other cities have begun to look at rat-proof trash bins to address their ongoing rat problem. As part of its effort to reduce their rat population by 70 percent, New York City installed metal, fully enclosed, solar-powered rat-proof trash bins (similar to a mailbox) with automatic compactors, throughout neighborhoods with high rat populations.

Unfortunately, trash bins are scarce on the streets of Skid Row and similar areas with encampment clusters, and the few that exist are made of metal wire with plastic liners and no lids.

A July 8, 2019 letter from the Los Angeles City Health Commission recommends:

"the City consider further increasing the number of trash bins present on Skid Row, the quantity of which should be determined based on preventing any overflow of trash onto the street, and, where practicable, replace metal wire bins with fully rat proof metal containers."

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, be DIRECTED to report on the feasibility and cost of increasing the number of rat-proof trash cans and replacing metal wire trash receptacles and automated litter bins in Skid Row, and other neighborhoods with large populations of unsheltered homeless individuals, with fully-enclosed rat-proof trash bins.

PRESENTED BY:



JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

AUG 24 2019

