



City of Cambridge

Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG
City Manager

November 14, 2022

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I am herby requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$586,000 from Free Cash to the General Fund Public Works Other Ordinary Maintenance account to support the continuation and expansion the City's rodent control program utilizing SMART box technology and to fully fund the residential property rodent control program.

Approximately \$300,000 of funding will be used to support contract services of both above ground SMART Boxes and SMART Pipes used in sewers. This new technology has been used for the past 6 months to control the rat population and collect meaningful data as part of the City's ongoing efforts to continue to do everything we can to mitigate the impacts of rodents on the quality of life of our residents.

The remaining \$286,000 will be used to fully fund the city's on-going residential property rodent control program. This contract was recently re-bid and pricing came in significantly higher than expected. Several years ago, the city expanded its rodent control efforts by contracting with a private pest control company to offer a residential rodent control assistance program as part of the City's broader rodent control efforts. This program:

- Is free to residents
- Provides inspection and at least 3 baiting/trapping/follow-up inspections within a 60 day period at no cost to the resident
- Is available to residential properties with 4 or fewer units
- Can be requested by the property owner and/or tenants

Both Inspectional Services staff and the pest control contractor inspect the properties and provide specific feedback on issues that should be addressed in order to help prevent rodent activity.

Very truly yours,

Yi-An Huang
City Manager

