New York City Council

Memorandum in Support of Legislation

This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.

Introduction Number:

Int. No.

Prime Sponsors:

Council Member Harvey Epstein, Council Member Amanda Farías

Bill Title:

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to prohibiting the sale of glue traps

Submitted by:

Council Member Harvey Epstein

Justification:

The Centers for Disease Control recommend against the use of glue traps, since rodents that are caught in them are likely to urinate, defecate, or bleed, which may contain germs that expose humans to diseases. Ending the sale of glue traps will lower New Yorkers' risk of contracting zoonotic diseases transmitted by rodents like hantavirus and leptospirosis, which can be fatal in humans.

Dozens of businesses and government agencies have already stopped using glue traps because they are unsanitary and dangerous to humans. For example: New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, the NYPD, State University of New York at New Paltz, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York University at Albany, State University of New York, GAP, Old Navy, Home Depot, and Family Dollar.

Glue traps have been proven to be less effective than other methods of rodent capture, like snap trapping. A study conducted by the University of Nebraska found that snap traps captured a total of 54 mice per 96 traps for a total capture rate of 56.2%, while glue traps captured four mice for a total capture rate of 8.3%. Glue traps are also often exposed to dust, humidity, and temperature changes, rendering the adhesive ineffective.

Glue traps are an outdated, less effective, and potentially harmful form of pest control for humans and other animals that are not the intended target of traps. There are better alternatives that are more effective and as or more economical.