

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

Re: **Quotation 10-26**
Pest, Rodent & Wildlife Control

Draft Recommendation

That the Civic Administration be requested to adopt practices for pest, rodent and wildlife control that are consistent with City Council's June 26, 2012 Resolution "to support and implement a progressive and humane response program related to human-wildlife conflicts in the municipality".

Background

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) for the City of London recently reviewed Quotation 10-26, pertaining to the City's contracts with providers of services to control pests, rodents and wildlife.

This Quotation, which is issued to those bidding for wildlife control contracts with the City of London, lists numerous means for pest, rodent and wildlife control that we deem to be inconsistent with City Council's June 26, 2012 Resolution to seek humane solutions to urban wildlife conflicts. Under Successful Bidder Responsibilities, Section 5-14 (a), the Quotation requires that the successful bidder undertake the following:

"Inspect and treat various facilities owned/operated by the City once each month, unless otherwise directed, for the control of earwigs, meal moth, honey bees, wasps, rats, mice, cockroaches, spiders, silverfish, cereal product pest, non-wood and wood boring ants and various other indoor/outdoor pests."

The following are examples of where we have concerns:

- Honeybees – with the recent and drastic decline in honeybees, and pollinators in general, and the ensuing economic losses to farmers, it seems inappropriate that the City would permit extermination of such a valuable insect species. While we agree that a cluster of honeybees in a particular location may pose some threats to people, we support non lethal ways to dealing with this situation.
- Groundhog gassing – while groundhogs do tend to burrow and dig deep holes which can be hazardous to livestock, there are established non-lethal methods for dealing with groundhog issues within a city environment.
- Spraying building exteriors for spiders – spiders are beneficial insects and keep other insect populations in control.
- Treating non-wood and wood boring ants – we consider this unnecessary for exterior ants. In particular, wood boring ants (carpenter ants), while destructive indoors, are an extremely beneficial insect outdoors as they turn decaying wood into fine sawdust that eventually provides compost for new growth. They have a substantial role to play in balancing the eco-system.

Given the above considerations, we would ask Council to review the entire Quotation and consider the Quotation's inconsistencies with the June 26, 2012 Resolution.

The AWAC Committee is willing to work with the City and its contractors to identify more humane solutions to resolving pest, rodent and wildlife concerns in London.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
City of London
March 7, 2013