

Memorandum

Date: 11 March, 2019

To: Los Angeles City Health Commission

From: Matthew Crane, CD 13 Health Commissioner

Subject: Vermin and Pest Control Issues in Civic Center Complex

On May 8th, Ms. Candy Rosales referred to Commission President Vick an item that had been brought up that day in the City Council meeting. The agenda description for this item was:

*“Department of General Services and Personnel Department to provide a progress report on efforts to address vermin and pest control issues within the Civic Center complex, City buildings and/or City-owned or operated facilities in the Downtown Los Angeles community; possible Council authorization and/or direction of actions to be taken by departments and offices, and authorizing required funding, to address same.”*

President Vick asked if I would be able to reach out regarding this item and I was referred to Mr. Tony Royster and Mr. David Paschal from the Los Angeles Department of General Services. I was able to make contact with Mr. David Paschal and he indicated interest over the phone in speaking at a further meeting of the Los Angeles City Health Commission. We will continue to coordinate over email.

I also offered to review the City Council meeting audio from March 8th to be able to provide the Commission a limited update on what was discussed, in the meantime. My notes are as follows, from my understanding of the meeting audio:

- A complaint was filed on February 6th regarding the presence of rats and fleas at the Civic Center, which prompted a response from the LA County Department of Public Health as well as the LA Department of General Services.
- Flea traps were installed and monitored by the Department of General Services, and no fleas were found. Some silverfish and “occasional invaders” were found at City Hall, but no rats.
- Recommendations have been supplied by the pest control vendor and looked over by the LADPH. They have been incorporated by the LA GSD and by LA Sanitation.
- The Official Inspection Report made available by the LADPH outlines the major recommendations. This report has been attached, as well as the vendor’s own report.
- One City Councilmember commented on the possible need to expand pest monitoring such as fleas traps to Skid Row, especially due to the recent cases of Typhus in the area.
- Keeping in mind that fleas (and rats) are major vectors of Typhus, it may be prudent for the Commission to consider this a worthwhile measure to explore options in.

As a future course of action, I recommend that we continue to communicate with GSD regarding their prevention measures, and also outreach with LA Sanitation and LADPH regarding options for possible monitoring in areas other than City Hall.



**OFFICIAL INSPECTION REPORT**  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ♦ DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
OFFICE: VECTOR ♦ CHIEF: MARIA DOLO DALUSONG  
5050 COMMERCE DR, BALDWIN PARK, CA 91706 - Phone: (626) 430-5450  
[WWW.PUBLICHEALTH.LACOUNTY.GOV/EH](http://WWW.PUBLICHEALTH.LACOUNTY.GOV/EH)



Facility Name: LA CITY HALL EAST		Inspection Date: 2/6/2019	
Owner/Permittee: LA CITY		Re-inspection Date: 2/28/2019	
Facility Address: 200 N MAIN ST	City/Zip: LOS ANGELES CA 90012		Phone #:
Email Address: NONE SPECIFIED	EHS: PEDRO GUTIERREZ		
Mailing Address: 111 E. 1ST ST., #201, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012		Time In: 09:30 AM	Time Out: 01:00 PM
EH Office Number: (626) 430-5450	Program Identifier: N/A		Service: COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION
FA: N/A	PR: N/A	SR: N/A	CO: CO0161869
PE: 8000		Result: CORRECTIVE ACTION / FOLLOW UP REQUIRED	
		Action: REINSPECTION REQUIRED	

**OVERALL INSPECTION COMMENTS**

Vector Management Program staff conducted assessment/rodent survey of all exterior areas of the LA City Hall East, 200 N. Main St., LA, CA 90012 and observed the following:

1. Active rodent burrows and runways at all tree wells (planters) on Main St.
2. Active rodent burrows and runways in overgrown vegetation on the Temple St. (North side)
3. Fruit bearing bushes growing in planters on Temple St. (North side)
4. Active rodent burrows in overgrown banana trees on the First St. (South side)
5. Trash, debris, and unused bait stations in planters which are potential rodent harborage.

**Recommendations:**

1. Trim back all overgrown vegetation in all planters.
2. Knock down/collapse all active burrows in all planters.
3. Remove all trash and dead vegetation from planters and eliminate rodent harborage conditions.
4. Remove all fruit bearing bushes from all planters and eliminate other food sources, such as food debris and trash.
5. Provide an effective rodent control program to include the following:
  - a.) Place bait station program in all active planters to control rodent activities.
  - b.) Provide map and log for the bait station program.
  - c.) Number all bait station as indicated in the bait station map.

Please refer to the attached map for specific locations of the exterior landscaping.

LA City Officials were present during the inspection.

It is improper and illegal for any County officer, employee or inspector to solicit bribes, gifts or gratuities in connection with performing their official duties. Improper solicitations include requests for anything of value such as cash, free services, paid travel or entertainment, or tangible items such as food or beverages. Any attempt by a County employee to solicit bribes, gifts or gratuities for any reason should be reported immediately to either the County manager responsible for supervising the employee or the Fraud Hotline at (800) 544-6881 or [www.lacountyfraud.org](http://www.lacountyfraud.org). **YOU MAY REMAIN ANONYMOUS.**

Failure to correct the violations by the compliance date may result in additional fees.

Your signature on this form does not constitute agreement with its contents. You may discuss this content of this report by contacting the supervisor at the phone number of the Environmental Health office indicated on front page of this report. Until such time as a decision is rendered by this department, the content of this report shall remain in effect.

**By signing below the Person in Charge/Owner understands the above noted violations and statements.**

PEDRO GUTIERREZ

PIC/Owner Signature

EHS Signature



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<b>Facility Name:</b> LA CITY HALL EAST			<b>Inspection Date:</b> 2/6/2019		
<b>Owner/Permittee:</b> LA CITY			<b>Re-inspection Date:</b> N/A		
<b>Facility Address:</b> 200 N MAIN ST		<b>City/Zip:</b> LOS ANGELES CA 90012		<b>Phone #:</b>	
<b>Email Address:</b> NONE SPECIFIED			<b>EHS:</b> PEDRO GUTIERREZ		
<b>Mailing Address:</b> 111 E. 1ST STREET, SUITE 201, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012				<b>Time In:</b> 09:30 AM	<b>Time Out:</b> 01:00 PM
<b>EH Office Number:</b> (626) 430-5450		<b>Program Identifier:</b> N/A		<b>Service:</b> COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION	
<b>FA:</b> N/A		<b>PR:</b> N/A	<b>SR:</b> N/A	<b>CO:</b> CO0160299	<b>PE:</b> 8000
				<b>Result:</b> CORRECTIVE ACTION NOT REQUIRED	<b>Action:</b> NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

**OVERALL INSPECTION COMMENTS**

Vector Management staff, conducted inspection of multiple offices, cubicle areas, lunch rooms, and common areas ( walkways, library, conference rooms, and restrooms) located on the 6th floor of LA City Hall East Building, 200 N Main St., LA., CA 90011 and found no evidence of a rat infestation and other rat issues at the time of the inspection. Recommended the following :

1. Clean and maintain all trash receptacles throughout.
2. Store all food in tin containers and/or glass container with tight fitting lids.
3. Discontinue placing live potted plants on the 6th floor.
4. Clean and maintain cubicle areas free of food debris.
5. Put out a bulletin for all employees regarding proper storage of food to prevent any vermin infestation.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
PIC/Owner Signature

PEDRO GUTIERREZ

\_\_\_\_\_  
EHS Signature



# **CatsUSA PestControl** **California**

*Formerly Chemco Pest Control, Inc.*

## **Corporate Office**

Mailing Address:

Post Office Box 151

N. Hollywood, CA 91603-0151

Street Address:

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N. Hollywood, CA 91601

(800) 924-3626 Fax (818) 506-6385

[www.catspestcontrol.com](http://www.catspestcontrol.com)

**GENERAL PEST CONTROL**

•

**TERMITE CONTROL**

•

**FOOD FACILITY PEST CONTROL**

•

**VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL**

February 18, 2019

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

200 N. Main Street

Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

## **Re: Inspection Report**

Target Pest: **Fleas**

Areas of Inspection: CITY HALL MAIN, CITY HALL EAST, CITY HALL SOUTH CHILD DAYCARE CENTER, 911 CENTER.

On February 8, 2019 Cats inspected the interior of all locations listed above for Fleas and other possible biting insects. Monitoring stations were also installed.

On February 9, 2019 Cats returned and installed additional insect monitoring stations at these locations. Approximately 1800 monitoring stations were installed.

On February 13 Cats returned inspecting monitoring stations, noting activity, and replacing stations as necessary.

On February 15 Cats returned inspecting monitoring stations and noting activity. All monitoring stations were removed at this time.

## **FINDINGS**

Few but various insects were found on our monitoring stations. Nothing out of the ordinary but mostly common insects known as occasional invaders which are common to most structures, homes and places of business.

Such insects included; crickets, silver fish, ants, centipedes, fungus gnats and Midge flies. No Fleas were found during our inspections or noted on any of our monitoring stations.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **INTERIOR:**

Continue the implementation of integrated pest management strategies such as;

- All food / snacks should never be left out in the open uncovered but should be kept in rigid airtight sealed containers. Food wrappers / containers should not

be disposed in the workspace waste basket but should be brought to the kitchen area for disposal.

- Ensure to maintain daily trash disposal throughout the facilities.
- Recyclables should be triple rinsed and stored in containers with tight fitting lids. These containers should be emptied as often as possible.
- Eliminate clutter. Disorganized storage areas provide excellent hiding / harborage areas for insects and rodents.
- Do not over water potted plants as these organic moisture conditions can contribute to fungus gnats, ants, and mosquitos.
- Continue strategic monitoring pest control inspections / treatment methods where necessary.

#### EXTERIOR:

- Be sure that all dumpsters / trash receptacles are covered and emptied on a regular basis.
- Maintain a thin and non-fruit bearing landscape around the civic center in order to prevent harborage which attract and provide a food source for burrowing rodents.
- Maintain an inhospitable pest environment by removing equipment, trash / waste receptacles, and clutter away from the structures thus eliminating the basic elements which are needed for pests to survive; food, water and shelter.
- Exclude all threshold entry points of the structures by Installing door sweeps / weather stripping where needed at the exterior entrances leading into the structures.  
A young Rat only requires a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch gap in order to squeeze into a structure and only a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch for a house mouse.
- Continue monitoring exterior Rodent Bait stations / dusting and collapsing burrows where necessary.

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