

Talking Trash

- Rosemont Square will get three new trash compactors by the end of July
- Rosemont now has a "Tenant Union" which pushed for a Board of Health order, and got it
- **Come meet the Tenant Union and District Town Councilor Jesse Gordon at 5 PM - 7 PM on Wednesday, July 14 at the High Street entrance.**
- Details of Board of Health agreement:
 - Existing trash compactor doubles in size to 60 yards
 - Two new compactors, 10 yards each, at back corners
 - Adding signs, cameras, and monitoring around trash
 - Pest Management plan for rats and mice
 - All to be implemented by July 27
 - You can request rat/mice extermination in your apartment with no risk as a tenant - just ask Management or contact Councilor Gordon

Randolph Herald Journal & Sun

Article from this week's newspaper:

Randolph has formed its first tenant union, the Rosemont Square Tenant Organizing Committee, which appears about to achieve a quick victory on dumpster issues.

"Tenants at Rosemont Square complained collectively about overflowing trash compactors, and the rats and mice that accompany them," says Town Councilor Jesse Gordon, whose district includes Rosemont Square. "The Board of Health ordered changes made, which were begun last week, and we'll hold another rally next week, on July 14 at 5 PM, to keep track of progress and implementation."

Gordon set up a rally last week, on June 28 at the Rosemont Square entrance at the corner of Chestnut Street and High Street, with the participation of two groups, the South Shore Democratic Socialists of America (SSDSA) and City Life / Vida Urbana (CLVU.org). At the rally, many tenants told their personal stories about lack of trash capacity, and the resulting mice and rats they encountered outdoors and in their apartments

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SSDSA sent a letter on June 10 to the Town Council and the Randolph Board of Health (BOH), with pictures showing overflowing dumpsters. The Rosemont managers "instruct residents to keep trash in their apartment if the trash compactor is full," say DSA members in their letter to the BOH. "This policy has led to rodents and other vermin proliferating."

The SSDSA has members all over the South Shore, including Randolph. The national DSA has tenant organizing going on all over the US, including ten tenant unions in Boston. City Life supports the mission of SSDSA, and plans to further participate in housing issues in Randolph. Paul Foos of the SSDSA says "the Randolph Health Department disregarded serious complaints from Rosemont Square tenants until SSDSA publicized these complaints."

The BOH responded on June 21 with a letter citing BOH observations and noting that the law makes it Rosemont Square management's responsibility to provide adequate dumpster capacity. The BOH set a deadline of June 30 to submit a plan to increase capacity and a pest management plan for rats and mice, plus a deadline of July 9 for implementation. [This deadline was extended to July 27].



Councilor Gordon visited with Rosemont management after the June 30 deadline to check on progress. "They've submitted their plans to the Board of Health, and have ordered new equipment," says Gordon, who notes that all of the documents are posted on www.jessegordon.com in the "Rosemont Square Trash" section. "We'll provide an update on July 14 -- come to the grassy knoll at the main Rosemont entrance and we'll document other problems too."

Councilor Ken Clifton, who resided in Rosemont Square years ago, plans to attend the July 14 rally. Clifton says, "I am happy to collaborate with Councilor Gordon as the residents of Rosemont Square are entitled to a healthy and peaceful enjoyment of their homes."

The tenant union's letter cites an "atmosphere of intimidation" where tenants prefer to remain anonymous when reporting incidents. "You can report incidents to me or Councilor Clifton," says Gordon, "and we'll report them anonymously to management. But management says you can report any rats and mice sightings directly to them, and the law says they can't take any action against you for filing reports."

Other incidents discussed at the June 28 rally included two recent shootings near Rosemont, and an increased police patrol presence around Rosemont. "I told the police chief after that rally that tenants were requesting a more visible police presence," says Gordon. "We'll listen to any other tenant concerns on July 14, and take action accordingly."