

tion on publicly owned property; to provide penalties, upon conviction, for violations of this Act; and to authorize the County Executive to adopt and enforce necessary rules and regulations.

Be It Enacted by the County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, that—

SEC. 1. A new Chapter 11A, title, "Rat Control," is hereby added to the Montgomery County Code 1965, as amended to follow immediately after Chapter 11 thereof to read as follows:

Chapter 11A

RAT CONTROL

11A—1. *Definitions*

For the purpose of this Article, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this Section:

a. *Commercial Exterminators.* Shall mean a private operator engaged in the business of rodent control and extermination.

b. *Extermination.* Shall mean the elimination of all rats from a given area, generally accomplished by using poisons, gas or traps, as permitted by existing laws or regulations.

c. *Harborage.* Shall mean any condition which provides shelter or protection for rats, thus favoring their multiplication and continued existence on any premises. Harborage can be structural, incidental or temporary.

d. *Health Officer.* Shall mean the County Health Officer or his duly authorized representatives.

e. *Infestation.* Shall mean the presence of one or more rats that have established residence in any given area. Observation of live rats, active rat burrows, rat droppings, or rat runways or tracks shall be considered prima facie evidence of rat infestation.

f. *Premises.* Shall mean all buildings, land area, foliage, fences or other appurtenances found on any given piece of property.

g. *Owner.* Shall mean any owner, occupant, lessee, agent, operator, partnership, corporation or any other person or persons in custody of the premises as defined herein.

h. *Rat.* Any of the "domestic rodents" order Rodentia, family Muridae, genus Rattus, species Norwegicus or Rattus, sub-species Rattus, Alexandrinus, or Frugivorus.

i. *Rat Feeding.* Shall mean any condition which provides food for rats, including but not limited to, stored food, garbage, pet food, wild bird feed, vegetable gardens and fruit trees.