

Rats have invaded New York City

By Dean Balsamini, May 1, 2016, New York, USA

There's one constituency that has benefited from the de Blasio administration: rats.

New Yorkers have made 8,335 rodent complaints to the city's 311 hot line so far this year, up 18 percent from the same period in 2015, when there were 7,076 complaints, and 39 percent over the same period in 2014, records show.

Brooklyn leads the rat pack with 2,542 complaints this year. Manhattan was second with 2,269, followed by The Bronx (1,917), Queens (1,291) and Staten Island (316).

A record 29,329 rat complaints were made in 2015, records show. At the current pace, that record will be eclipsed this year.

This year's top three rat hot spots are:

- 335 148th St., a multifamily dwelling in Mott Haven, Bronx (173 calls).
- 2172 Second Ave., a four-story building in East Harlem, Manhattan (127).
- 2300 Kings Highway, an apartment building in Midwood, Brooklyn (106).

Susan Stetzer, district manager for Community Board 3, acknowledged the citywide rat problem.

She said rats in her district — which covers Alphabet City, the East Village, the Lower East Side and Chinatown — feast on garbage from eateries and scraps left in Tompkins Square and Seward parks.

“There are more mountains of garbage on the street waiting to be picked up. Our increased development does not have the infrastructure to support it,” she said.

“The worst locations are city-owned properties. The Department of Health cannot issue summonses and clean up and charge back to the property owner if necessary.”

Mayor de Blasio launched a rat attack last May, spending \$3 million on an extermination plan — but it appears the vermin are winning the war.

Timothy Wong, an exterminator in Chinatown, cited the rising number of homeless digging in trash.

“There is so much food out there on the street,” said Wong, of M&M Pest Control. “The rats are getting bigger and bolder. We’re seeing them in the parks an hour before sunset. Some folks are seeing them in the afternoon.”

The data was analyzed for The Post by Witlytic of Manhattan.