



## **Rodent infestation hits Tent City**

**Charlotte | February 16, 2021**

Mecklenburg County Public Health has issued an Abatement of Imminent Hazard Order to the owners of the property housing the North End Encampment and affecting individuals who reside at the Encampment, Tent City, at the following locations:

- 106 Tryon-Church Connector St Charlotte
- 921 N Tryon St Charlotte
- N College St Charlotte
- 900 N College St Charlotte
- 928 N College St Charlotte
- Embankment between I-277 and East and West 12th St Charlotte
- 945 N College St Charlotte

Mecklenburg County said the Order was issued to help address immediate health risks to encampment residents due to rodent infestation on the property. The Order is effective at 5 p.m. Feb. 16. "This is not a situation anyone should be living in," Gibbie Harris, the health director for Mecklenburg County, said as she briefed county commissioners on the move Tuesday night. The Order states that within 72 hours residents are required to vacate the property and property owners are required to clean the property so that rodent eradication can begin.

An Abatement of Imminent Hazard Order is a tool available to Public Health to require immediate action to protect the public's health.

"We have taken this action out of an abundance of caution to protect the health of encampment residents," said Public Health Director Gibbie Harris. "This type of order is rare but sometimes necessary. In this instance, it will help us better work with encampment residents to find alternative accommodations, many of whom have been reluctant to seek help because of concerns with COVID-19."

Harris spoke about the order at Tuesday night's Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners meeting after coming under scrutiny for only giving 72 hours to move and giving no warning to those living at Tent City.

"To be perfectly honest, if I had my way, we would make a change in 24 hours. It is just not safe for people to be living in this environment," Harris said.