



## **John Meaney** Assistant Commissioner Inspectional Services Department

John Meaney's work as Assistant Commissioner for the Inspectional Services Department, (ISD) is critical for infectious disease prevention and control. He oversees the day-to-day operation of the Health Division and responds effectively with quick thinking and problem solving skills in emergency situations. On any given day, he can deal with a crisis at a restaurant, prepare his staff for summer camp openings, deal with a major rat infestation at a construction site or assist in saving an abandoned or mistreated animal. He is also responsible for developing programs, plans and policies pertaining to the State Sanitary Code and Public Health Commission regulations.

John is frequently called upon to collaborate with numerous departments for public health and pest management. These situations frequently require his remarkable negotiation skills demonstrated through his willingness to listen before making decisions, then weighing alternatives and providing solutions in agreement with those involved.

John's ability to pull people together for the benefit of all may be his greatest attribute. Instead of trying to enforce sometimes unenforceable sanitary regulations, John frequently convenes neighborhood meetings to educate residents on the value of following sanitary procedures.

Rather than issuing citations for someone's mismanagement of trash disposal, John prefers to help that person see why putting trash in tight barrels rather than plastic bags that may break and spew its

contents is a more efficient and kinder way to dispose of one's refuse.

Another example of John's ability to bring people together throughout his 29 years with ISD is the collaboration he won with Newbury Street business owners. By encouraging business owners to reschedule their deliveries and trash pickups at night rather than compete with day time traffic, the flow of daily traffic in the area has improved remarkably.

John's commitment to excellence may not have proved as useful, however, if not for his technical skills. As a leading authority on insect and animal control, he responds to complaints from individuals who are struggling with issues from bedbugs to rats or from illegal dog fights or feral cats. One admirer commented that, thanks to John's expertise in insect control, Boston happily avoided competing with New York City in becoming the "City that Never Sleeps" during recent threats of a bedbug infestation.

Despite the many requirements of his day, John takes time to mentor and counsel those struggling with addiction and various forms of substance abuse. In the process, he has become the Department's unofficial "Employee Assistant Counselor".

Congratulations John Meaney on your selection as a 2016 Shattuck Award recipient. We thank you John for all you do to maintain the quality of life for Boston citizens.

