

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

William D'Avignon  
Community Development Agency-Director, City of Youngstown

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**The City of Youngstown's message to Landlords of unregistered properties, TIME'S UP!**

The City of Youngstown has a message for all of the landlords who have not registered their rental properties-TIME'S UP and you will be fined \$100.00 a week until the property is registered. The City already has a list of landlords that will be receiving the fines effective Thursday, October 7, 2010. The due date for registering properties was August 15<sup>th</sup>.

"We recognize that this is a new program and we have been giving landlords time to comply with the registration requirement. We knew that getting every rental property registered was going to be a process. With less than 1,500 rental properties licensed, many landlords will face fines", says William D'Avignon, Youngstown CDA Director.

Properties that have registered are listed on the Regional Property Information System (RPIS) <http://cfweb.cc.yzu.edu.psi.rpis.html>. All residents are encouraged to check for properties in their area and report suspected unregistered addresses to our office. Information can be e-mailed to [rpr@cityofyoungstownoh.com](mailto:rpr@cityofyoungstownoh.com) or mailed to the Rental Property Registration Office at 9 West Front St., Suite 315, Youngstown, Ohio, 44503."

The Mayor of the City of Youngstown, Jay Williams, says about the program, "This program came about as a direct response to concerns our citizens expressed over many years. There is a collective and unwavering determination to achieve success. We're getting calls daily from people who want to confirm the status of their neighboring rental property. Their cooperation has been critical to us, and we want to encourage everyone to keep it up! It is tremendous to see our residents so engaged in our efforts to improve our neighborhoods. We welcome the cooperation and participation of those responsible landlords who are complying with the law and we will work with them appropriately. However, for those landlords who choose to violate the law, well then consequences await. The bottom line is that at a minimum, every resident in Youngstown deserves decent, safe, and sanitary housing. Any landlord who disagrees with that philosophy should not be doing business in our city."

Maureen O'Neil, The Rental Property Registration Administrator says that "The best way to help is to e-mail or mail the Rental Office a list of properties that you know or suspect may be rental properties. You do not have to include your name, but if you feel comfortable doing so, also include your contact information. The people we would most like to encourage to phone us are tenants. We will not notify your landlord that you have contacted us. If you have web access, check to see if your unit is registered, if it is not, call us. If you do not have web access, you can call us." E-mail address for the RPR Office is [rpr@cityofyoungstownoh.com](mailto:rpr@cityofyoungstownoh.com). Phone is (330) 742-8833. Address for mailing is 9 West Front Street, Suite 315, City of Youngstown, OH 44503.

"One of the greatest challenges that we knew we would face is that many of these properties are not in compliance with the requirements of the Rental Program", says Councilperson Janet Tarpley. "Fear of fines for non-compliance has certainly kept some landlords from registering their properties. However, the City would like to alleviate some of these fears by letting landlords know that we are dealing with these properties on a case by case basis. When a landlord shows an honest attempt to be responsible, he or she will be met with a cooperative Rental Property Registration Office that will manage timelines for improvements. If, however, you do not register your property or if you do not cooperate by making repairs, we will strictly enforce this ordinance and you will face fines."