



Media Advisory

Second Eastside landlord to be forced from home in as many weeks by DNS

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DATE: Tuesday, February 28, 2006 3:00 PM Placard Posting

LOCATION: 3285 N. Shepard Ave.

Milwaukee, WI — Another Milwaukee landlord will have to leave their own home this week for operating an illegal rooming house. The landlord is accused of illegally renting part of their east-side duplex at 3285 N. Shepard Ave. to as many as seven area students according to past complaints. The owners, Miriam and Mordechai Porush, were cited in September of 2005 for having too many tenants in their property. The large duplex was permitted to have two roomers in the 3rd floor, which was sharing facilities in the owner's first floor home. After the Porush's repeatedly rented to more than three tenants, the Department of Neighborhood Services revoked the Occupancy Certificate of the building and everyone, including the owner's family, will have to move out. Porush had been fighting the eviction and last Thursday, February 23rd, lost an appeal before the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Earlier in 2005 complaints were received about alterations and too many occupants at the duplex. In the summer an investigation by the Department of Neighborhood Services discovered the proof of the overcrowding situation which is a violation of the State Building code and a violation of Milwaukee's zoning code. Porush's property has prior code violations dated back to 2003. While the building lacked serious fire code violations like another case this week, the over crowding is a life/safety issue in the event of having to escape during a fire.

As a result, the duplex was placarded today and all of the tenants, including the owner who lives in the lower unit, will have to move out as the Occupancy Certificate for the building has been revoked. Porush will have to re-apply to the City for the Occupancy permit and file a plan of operation. That process could take as long as 60 days.

Last week the Department of Neighborhood Services enforced a similar penalty against a landlord just a few blocks away. That owner, Sanford Parsons, had been cited and previously convicted of creating a condition of imminent peril by illegally converting attic space into two apartments. That coupled with Parsons' repetitive behavior and chronic disregard for the municipal and state codes triggered the drastic response of pulling the Occupancy Certificate by DNS. Over the past five years, the City has had to resort to this compliance tactic about three times.

The deadline for the Porush's to vacate is March 3rd 3:00 P.M. Their next step to compliance will be to submit a plan of operation and apply for a new occupancy permit. Until the plan is approved, she will be unable to live in, occupy or rent the space during that process.

Alderman Michael D'Amato, whose district includes the UWM area said, "Unscrupulous landlords need to learn a valuable lesson. They cannot continue to victimize students. A landlord's pursuit of profits while ignoring tenant safety will not be tolerated in Milwaukee. It is imperative that the City of Milwaukee does all it can to ensure the safety of the student population that is preyed upon by these tactics. We must strictly enforce these life/safety codes in order to avoid the tragedies that have occurred on so many other campuses around the country."

For further information please contact:

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