



TOWN OF IRONDEQUOIT

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TOWN BOARD MOVES TO BETTER MONITOR RENTAL PROPERTIES IN IRONDEQUOIT

New measure creates a rental registry; better communication with landlords sought

The Town Board last night unanimously adopted a resolution that will require all owners of rental properties in Irondequoit to register with the Town. This new law reflects a recommendation made earlier in the year by the volunteer citizen Code Enforcement Advisory Committee.

When fully implemented, the measure will provide the Town with adequate information regarding who owns rental units, something that will work to enhance public safety and preserve quality of life in Irondequoit's neighborhoods.

"There are roughly one-thousand rental properties in Irondequoit, the overwhelming majority of which are well-maintained and occupied by good, upstanding residents," said Supervisor Heyman. "The purpose of this registry is to provide us with up-to-date information so that we can hold the few problem properties accountable, something that having more information makes so much easier."

Creation of the registry will be phased in through two tiers. In January, the Town will commence notifying owners of one, two and three family properties of this new requirement. Larger properties, particularly apartment complexes, will begin registering in April.

Supervisor Heyman and members of the code enforcement committee have made it clear that the intent of this legislation is not to aggressively track down and purge out problem properties in Irondequoit. Rather, this new law addresses an inadequate lack of communication with rental property owners, with the hope of ensuring the properties provide a safe living environment and encouraging good tenant conduct.

This new registry complements other code enforcement measures adopted in August, specifically new laws to help the Town crack down on nuisance properties that plague Irondequoit neighborhoods.

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“The changes the Town Board has adopted this year will give us a greater ability to respond to problems as they arise,” said Mitch Rowe, Director of Community Development. “Updating codes to better address contemporary conditions takes time and effort and I appreciate the work of the Code Enforcement Advisory Committee and the Town Board’s support of its work and recommendations.”

Another important outcome of this new rental property registry will be to ensure tenant safety. Upon registering a property, owners will sign an affidavit that all units on their premises are equipped with operating smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. The owner will also acknowledge that he/she understand their obligation to comply with portions of the Town Code relative to property maintenance, waste disposal and parking.

“Enacting this new law caps a year-long effort to protect our neighborhoods that make Irondequoit such a wonderful place in which to live and raise a family,” said Heyman. “It encourages cooperation between the Town, rental property owners and tenants. Working together, we can preserve the character of Irondequoit.”