

ORDINANCE

By B. Johnson

Amending Title 12, Chapter 244 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Housing: Maintenance Code.

The City Council of the City of Minneapolis do ordain as follows:

Section 1. That Section 244.965 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

244.965. Door-closing devices; fire-resistive doors. Every required exit door from dwelling units which opens into shared, communal or public spaces of multiple dwellings shall be provided with an approved door-closing device. Further, all passage doors opening from dwelling units into shared, communal or public spaces of multiple dwellings shall be in compliance with Section ~~715~~ 716 of the Minnesota State Building Code (Opening Protectives) and Sections 403.14.1 and 403.14.1.2 of the Guidelines for the Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings.

Section 2. That Section 244.1910 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

244.1910. - Licensing standards. (a) The following minimum standards and conditions shall be met in order to hold a rental dwelling license under this article. Failure to comply with any of these standards and conditions shall be adequate grounds for the denial, refusal to renew, revocation, or suspension of a rental dwelling license or provisional license, or for the imposition of reasonable conditions or restrictions upon such a license pursuant to section 259.165.

- (1) The licensee or applicant shall have paid the required license fee.
- (2) Rental dwelling units shall not exceed the maximum number of dwelling units permitted by the Zoning Code.
- (3) No rental dwelling or rental dwelling unit shall be over occupied or illegally occupied in violation of the Zoning Code or the Housing Maintenance Code.
- (4) The rental dwelling shall not have been used or converted to rooming units in violation of the Zoning Code.
- (5) The owner shall not suffer or allow weeds, vegetation, junk, debris, or rubbish to accumulate repeatedly on the exterior of the premises so as to create a nuisance condition under section 227.90 of this Code. If the city is required to abate such nuisance conditions under section 227.100 or collect, gather up or haul solid waste under section 225.690 more than three (3) times under either or both sections during a period of twenty-four (24) months or less, it shall be sufficient grounds to deny, revoke, suspend or refuse to renew a license.
- (6) The rental dwelling or any rental dwelling unit therein shall not be in substandard condition, as defined in section 244.1920.
- (7) The licensee or applicant shall have paid the required reinspection fees.

(8) The licensee or his or her agent shall allow the director of regulatory services and his or her designated representative to perform a rental license review inspection as set forth in section 244.2000(c).

(9) The licensee shall maintain a current register of all tenants and other persons with a lawful right of occupancy to a dwelling unit and the corresponding floor number, and unit number and/or letter and/or designation of such unit within the building. The register shall be kept current at all times. The licensee shall designate the person who has possession of the register and shall inform the director of the location at which the register is kept. The register shall be available for review by the director or their authorized representatives at all times.

(10) The licensee shall submit to the director of regulatory services or an authorized representative of the director, at the time of application for a rental dwelling license and for just cause as requested by the director, the following information: the number and kind of units within the dwelling (dwelling units, rooming units, or shared bath units), specifying for each unit, the floor number, and the unit number and/or letter and/or designation.

(11) a. There shall be no delinquent property taxes or assessments on the rental dwelling, nor shall any licensee be delinquent on any financial obligations owing to the city under any action instituted pursuant to Chapter 2, Administrative Enforcement and Hearing Process.

b. The licensee or applicant shall have satisfied all judgments duly entered or docketed against the licensee or applicant by any court of competent jurisdiction arising out of the operation of a rental property business. This subsection shall not be found to have been violated if the licensee or applicant demonstrates that the underlying case or action leading to the entry of judgment is being properly and timely removed to district court or otherwise appealed, or when the judgment is being paid in compliance with a payment plan accepted by either a court possessing jurisdiction over the judgment or the judgment creditor or during any period when the enforcement of the judgment has been duly stayed by such a court. This subsection shall become effective January 1, 2008.

(12) There is no active arrest warrant for a Minneapolis Housing Maintenance Code or Zoning Code violation pertaining to any property in which the licensee, applicant or property manager has a legal or equitable ownership interest or is involved in management or maintenance.

(13) a. Any person(s) who has had an interest in two (2) or more licenses revoked pursuant to this article or canceled pursuant to section 244.1925 or a combination of revocations or cancellations shall be ineligible to hold or have an interest in a rental dwelling license or provisional license for a period of five (5) years.

b. Any person(s) who has had an interest in a license revoked pursuant to this article or canceled pursuant to section 244.1925, shall be ineligible from obtaining any new rental dwelling licenses for a period of three (3) years.

(14) No new rental dwelling license shall be issued for the property during the pendency of adverse license action initiated pursuant to section 244.1940.

(15) The licensee or applicant must have a current, complete, and accurate rental dwelling application on file with the director of regulatory services in accord with the provisions of section 244.1840.

(16) a. Before taking a rental application fee, a rental property owner must disclose to the applicant, in writing, the criteria on which the application will be judged.

b. Application forms must allow the applicant to choose a method for return of the application fee as either 1) mailing it to an applicant's chosen address as stated on the application form, 2) destroying it 3) holding for retrieval by the tenant upon one (1) business-day's notice.

c. If the applicant was charged an application fee and the rental property owner rejects the applicant, then the owner must, within fourteen (14) days, notify the tenant in writing of the reasons for rejection, including any criteria that the applicant failed to meet, and the name, address, and phone number of any tenant screening agency or other credit reporting agency used in considering the application.

d. The landlord must refund the application fee if a tenant is rejected for any reason not listed in the written criteria.

e. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a rental property owner from collecting and holding an application fee so long as the rental property owner provides a written receipt for the fee and the fee is not cashed, deposited, or negotiated in any way until all prior rental applicants either have been screened and rejected for the unit, or have been offered the unit and have declined to take it. If a prior rental applicant is offered the unit and accepts it, the rental property owner shall return all application fees in the manner selected by the applicant, pursuant to section (b).

f. Violation of this subsection, 244.1910(16), may result in an administrative citation, or may contribute to the denial or revocation of a rental license.

g. This subdivision shall become effective December 1, 2004.

(17) An owner shall not have any violations of Minnesota Rule Chapter 1300.0120 subpart 1, related to required permits, at any rental dwelling which they own or have an ownership interest. A violation of Minnesota Rule Chapter 1300.0120 subpart 1 shall result in a director's determination of noncompliance notice being sent, pursuant to 244.1930 to the owner regarding the rental dwelling where the violation occurred. A second violation, at any rental dwelling in which the owner has an ownership interest, of Minnesota Rule Chapter 1300.0120 subpart 1, related to required permits, shall result in the issuance of a director's notice of denial, non-renewal, or suspension of the license or provisional license, pursuant to 244.1940 of the Code, for the rental dwelling where the second violation occurred.

(18) The owner, where the owner pays the water bill for a rental dwelling, shall not allow the water to be shut off for non-payment. If water to a rental dwelling has been turned off, for lack of payment by the owner it shall be sufficient grounds to deny, revoke, suspend or refuse to renew a license or provisional license.

(19) The provisions of this section are not exclusive. Adverse license action inclusive of, but not limited to, revocation, may be based upon good cause ~~as authorized by Chapter 4, Section 16 of the Charter at any time upon proper notice and hearing~~. This section shall not preclude the enforcement of any other provisions of this Code or state and federal laws and regulations.

(20) A licensee or owner/landlord shall not be in violation of section 244.265 of this Code, which requires owner/landlords to notify tenants and prospective tenants of pending mortgage foreclosure or cancellation of contract for deed involving the licensed property.

(21) Any person(s), having an ownership or management interest in any property, upon a second violation of section 244.1810 by allowing to be occupied, letting or offering to let to another for occupancy, any dwelling unit without having first obtained a license or provisional license, shall be ineligible to hold or have an interest in a rental dwelling license or provisional license for a period of two (2) years.

(22) The owner or licensee shall not be in violation of section 225.780, which requires every owner of a building containing two (2) or more dwelling units to provide for recycling services.

(23) The licensee or applicant shall not have any unpaid fines or fees owing to the City of Minneapolis related to their rental property.

(24) An owner shall not have any violations of chapter 240 of this Code, adopting Minnesota State Statutes Chapter 144 and amendments thereto and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4761 and amendments thereto, at any rental dwelling which they own or have an ownership interest. A violation of chapter 240 of this Code, of Minnesota State Statutes Chapter 144 and amendments thereto or of Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4761 and amendments thereto shall result in a director's determination of noncompliance notice being sent, pursuant to [section] 244.1930 to the owner regarding the rental dwelling where the violation occurred. A second violation, at any rental dwelling in which the owner has an ownership interest, of chapter 240 of this Code, of Minnesota State Statutes Chapter 144 and amendments thereto or of Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4761 and amendments thereto shall result in the issuance of a director's notice of denial, non-renewal, or suspension of the license or provisional license, pursuant to [section] 244.1940 of the Code, for the rental dwelling where the second violation occurred.