

# Fire Prevention Fire Code enforcement nets \$11,500 in fines

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 13, 2021**

**Welland, ON** – The Fire Prevention Division of the Welland Fire and Emergency Services (WFES) continues to inspect properties across the City to ensure compliance with the Ontario Fire Code, and on several occasions, egregious violations were discovered, prompting the prosecution of several property owners and landlords.

On June 17, 2019, WFES attended the property 260 King Street, City of Welland, to respond to a fire safety complaint. Fire Prevention Officers (FPOs) discovered that the former bar/tavern was vacant and that the rooming house was occupied above the bar area. The FPOs identified significant Ontario Fire Code deficiencies and issued an inspection order to the property owner to correct these deficiencies. Following the compliance date on the inspection order, FPOs attended the property on January 7, 2020, to conduct a re-inspection. FPOs discovered that the property owner had not corrected any of the previously identified Ontario Fire Code deficiencies during this inspection. Due to these observations, the Fire Prevention Division initiated a prosecution against the property owner for failing to comply with an inspection order.

On December 9, 2021, the former corporate ownership was convicted in Provincial Offences Court with a fine of \$6500 plus court costs, pursuant to the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA)*. In addition, this property was subject to an “immediate threat to life” action taken by WFES in June 2021, which vacated the property of all occupants and disconnected the utilities due to further egregious fire safety issues discovered on the site.

On June 9, 2021, WFES attended the property of 168 West Main Street to respond to a fire safety complaint. FPOs discovered that the two-unit residential dwelling was occupied and found no working smoke or carbon monoxide alarms installed in either unit. FPOs installed the required alarms in both units out of an abundance of caution. Due to the seriousness of these violations, a prosecution was initiated against the property owner.

On December 9, 2021, the property owner was convicted in Provincial Offences Court for failing to install a smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm and was fined \$5000 plus court costs pursuant to the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA)*.

WFES will continue to enforce the Ontario Fire Code across the City. It is incumbent on property owners to ensure their properties remain in compliance with the Fire Code at all times to ensure the safety of occupants and emergency personnel who may need to respond there.

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