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CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

January 23, 2013

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno & City Council

On February 11th, 2013 Chapter 140 of the City's Ordinances related to Building Permits was amended to the State Sanitary Code. The ordinance update also authorized the City to list unpaid violations on property tax bills. This was recommended in order to give the City a means to enforce the collection of unpaid code enforcement violations where one did not previously exist.

The City formed an implementation team with representatives from Code Enforcement, the Office of Housing, Office of Management & Budget, ITD, Legal and Collector/Treasurer's Office.

A list of all unpaid violations was compiled by the Treasurer's Office (with the assistance of ITD). This list contained approximately 140 violations and an outstanding value of \$177,414 from Fiscal Year 2012. The charges on the list include code enforcement violations, demolition costs with related filing fees, and blighted property cleanup costs.


Letters were sent to property owners with outstanding code violations on October 22, 2013 notifying them of the upcoming liens. The letters provided the ticket details, the department contact information that issued the ticket, and the opportunity to pay the ticket by November 22, 2013.

The code enforcement tickets from FY2012 will be liened to the City's 3rd quarter property tax bills dated January 1, 2014. The lien has been recorded at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds. The recording fee, and eventual discharge fee, will be paid for by the property owner. To date, \$95,860.26 of the \$177,414 has been paid to the City.

The City will compile the data for the FY2013 unpaid code enforcement tickets and begin the process to enforce future collections in alignment with this procedure.

I want to thank Lisa DeSousa, Tina Quagliato, Steve Desilets, Steve Lonergan, Gerry McCafferty, Pedge Lynch, Jennifer Winkler, Chris Kulig, Ryan Lavner and Michael Marcinkewich for their efforts in implementing this ordinance.

Sincerely,


Timothy J. Plante

Chief Administrative & Financial Officer