

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The City of Youngstown begins Rental Property Registration Program

Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 12:30 p.m. Youngstown City Council and Mayor Williams will announce the commencement of the Rental Property Registration Program in 919 Lanterman Avenue on the Southside of Youngstown.

All rental property owners in the City of Youngstown will be required to register their property with the City of Youngstown. Owners will pay \$20.00 per unit for a Rental Property License, unless the property is a multi-family dwelling. Multi-family dwellings will be charged \$20.00 for the first unit and an additional \$15.00 for any additional unit in the structure. The program also requires that an inspection be completed on the property.

The City of Youngstown is responding to an increase in the number of rental properties over the years and is committed to ensuring that renters are afforded safe homes. Mayor Williams said that this is one step in many to come to address concerns in the city's neighborhoods. He said that although he is "aware that there are many responsible landlords doing business in our City", he is "glad for the opportunity to discourage those that have not been good stewards to their tenants or to the neighborhoods." Bill D'Avignon, Community Development Director for the City of Youngstown, says that he "sees great potential for the program to have a transformative effect on neighborhoods by identifying those properties in disrepair and making owners more accountable." The program will benefit responsible landlords by providing more appealing neighborhoods in which to do business. "It's a win-win situation; the City looks better which is what we ALL want." says Maureen O'Neil, the Neighborhood Liaison in charge of the program.

For more information on the Rental Property Registration Program you can call (330) 742-8833. The City will also be hosting informational meetings on issues related to rental properties, which will be open to the public.