



Office of Communications

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City continues housing inspections near Marshall University campus

HUNTINGTON -- The City of Huntington continues to inspect housing near Marshall University's campus in an effort to assure students that they will have safe, quality places to live when they return for classes in the fall.

The initiative involves the city Fire Marshal's Office, the Huntington Police Department's Code Enforcement Unit and building inspectors in the Department of Public Works. The inspection area covers 12th to 22nd streets between 3rd and 7th avenues.

Since last week, city officials have inspected 61 structures consisting of 204 units. The inspections have covered fire protection systems, building, plumbing, electrical and exterior upkeep.

Inspectors have found 32 violations ranging from improper wiring to leaking faucets to high grass. In addition, the Fire Marshal's Office has put 18 properties on notice to update fire protection systems. All of the violations have a time limit for corrective action. If the violations are not corrected in the time allowed, "Do Not Occupy" orders and citations will be issued.

One "Do Not Occupy" order already has been issued for property located at 1417 5th Ave. The structure was unoccupied.

The inspections are the result of monthly meetings that Mayor Steve Williams has had with students and student groups on Marshall's campus. During those meetings, safety of student housing was a recurring issue.

"Most landlords in Huntington take care of their properties, but we also know that some neglect their responsibilities as property owners," Williams said. "This effort puts those landlords on



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notice that they must bring their rental properties up to the standards that the city and Marshall University expect. Students and their parents can take comfort in knowing that safety is our highest priority.”

City officials waited until the end of the spring semester to begin the inspections so that landlords would have ample time to correct violations before fall classes resume in August.

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