



**CONTACT:**  
Alvin Nash, Housing & Community  
Development Director  
563-589-4230, [anash@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:anash@cityofdubuque.org)

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Rental Property Licensing Deadline Approaches**

***Non-licensed rental property owners have until Aug. 1, 2015 to avoid municipal infraction***

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Dubuque property owners who are currently renting property without a valid rental license have two more weeks to register their property to avoid receiving a municipal infraction.

The City of Dubuque's Department of Housing and Community Development announced the initiative to register non-licensed rental properties on June 15. Properties that are currently operating without a license are subject to double licensing fees. Beginning Aug. 1, 2015, non-licensed properties will be subject to double license fees and a \$750 municipal infraction.

Since January, approximately 135 previously non-licensed rental properties have become registered and an additional 35 are in process. City of Dubuque Housing and Community Development Director Alvin Nash said he believes there are another 200 non-licensed rental properties within the city.

"Based on advertisements, online listings, information from licensed landlords, and utilities data, we believe there are about 200 additional non-licensed rental units currently operating in Dubuque," said Nash. "It is our hope that they will take advantage of the remaining weeks to avoid the municipal infraction and not force us to increase our enforcement efforts. This is not about generating revenue; it's about ensuring housing safety and standards."

According to the Dubuque Code of Ordinances, a "rental dwelling unit" is a dwelling unit that requires a payment, in money or services, to be made to the owner for the possession and use thereof. All Dubuque rental property owners are required to have a current, unrevoked residential rental license, which requires the rental property to be inspected to ensure the unit meets the City's safety code. The

intent of the City's rental license ordinance is to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the general public; to assure preservation of the existing housing supply; and maintain property values.

Non-licensed rental property owners interested in taking advantage of this opportunity and registering their rental property before Aug. 1, 2015, to avoid the municipal infraction should call 563-589-4231 or visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/rentalproperty](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/rentalproperty) for additional details.

Renters/tenants who would like to know if their landlord is licensed should call 563-589-4231 or email [ternster@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:ternster@cityofdubuque.org).

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