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NEWS RELEASE

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Dubuque Housing Department Sees Increase in Licensed Rental Units

DUBUQUE, Iowa – In June 2015, the City of Dubuque Housing and Community Development Department initiated an active outreach and enforcement campaign to ensure non-licensed rental properties within the city became licensed and inspected. Since the campaign began, the department has received 337 new rental license applications and has seen an approximate 10 percent increase in the number of licensed rental properties.

The City of Dubuque requires all residential rental properties operating within city limits to have a valid rental license. Campaign communication efforts encouraged all rental property owners to license their properties, as required by City Code, or face penalties including a municipal infraction citation with a cost of \$750 plus court costs. As of August 10, 2016, there were 3,453 licensed rental properties in Dubuque containing approximately 10,000 rental units.

Rental properties operating without a license are more likely to have housing code violations and potentially unsafe conditions for residents because only licensed rental units are inspected. Active enforcement of rental licensing requirements and the implementation of the recently adopted 2015 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) standard is expected to benefit rental property operations for many landlords in the community. These combined efforts will raise expectations for those operating subpar rental units. Additionally, these efforts are expected to increase the overall quality of the rental housing stock, quality of neighborhoods, and allow for the attraction and retention of quality tenants.

Information about rental property licensing requirements and the recently adopted International Property Maintenance Code are available on the City of Dubuque website at www.cityofdubuque.org/rlis. If you are unsure if your rental unit is licensed, or for more information, please contact Rental Licensing and Inspections Supervisor Ben Pothoff at 563-690-6075 or bpothoff@cityofdubuque.org.

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