



March 25, 2013

Dear Owner,

Records provided to the Boston Fire Department by the City of Boston Licensing Board indicate that your property is licensed as a lodging or boarding house with the City of Boston. This letter is to provide you notice that the Boston City Council accepted and adopted the provisions of MGL Chapter 148, section 26H, which is legislation relative to the installation of fire suppression sprinklers in lodging and boarding houses.

MGL Chapter 148, section 26H requires that every lodging or boarding house shall be protected throughout with an adequate system of automatic sprinklers in accordance with the provisions of the State Building Code within 5 years of the acceptance of this section by the City Council. The Head of the Fire Department shall enforce the provisions of this section. The effective date of this Council Order is December 5, 2012. All property owners are required to comply with this Order **no later than December 5, 2017**.

For the purposes of this section "lodging house" or "boarding house" shall mean a house where lodgings are let to six or more persons not within the second degree of kindred to the person conducting it, but shall not include fraternity houses or dormitories, rest homes or group residences licensed or regulated by agencies of the commonwealth.

Whoever is aggrieved by the head of the fire department's interpretation, order, requirement or direction under the provisions of this section, may within forty-five days after the service of notice thereof, appeal from such interpretation, order or requirement to the board of appeals of the fire safety commission as provided in section two hundred and one of chapter six.

<http://www.malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXX/Chapter148/Section26H>

To assist us in identifying affected properties, **please contact the Boston Fire Department by email or US mail before May 15th, 2013**. Once contacted an inspection will be scheduled by a Fire Prevention Inspector to verify whether your property is in compliance with the requirements of MGL 148 section 26H. If it is determined that your property will be required to install sprinklers, a compliance order shall be written at that time. Those owners contesting the order shall have the right to appeal to the board of appeals of the Fire Safety Commission with 45 days as described in MGL Chapter 148 Sec 26H.

Contact: Mailing Address:

OR

Email Address

BFD-Fire Prevention Division
1010 Mass Ave. 4th floor,
Boston Ma. 02118
Attention: Legal Unit /26H Compliance

26Hcompliance.bfd@cityofboston.gov

Sincerely,

Bart J. Shea

Deputy Chief /Fire Marshal

Thomas M. Menino, Mayor / FIRE DEPARTMENT / 115 Southamton Street / Boston, MA 02118

