



Boston Inspectional Services Department

CITY IMPLEMENTS REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR ALL VACANT/FORECLOSED PROPERTIES

For Immediate Release
April 11, 2008

For More Information:
(617) 961-3429

In an effort to hold property owners and mortgage lenders accountable for their abandoned and/or foreclosed properties, the City of Boston has passed an ordinance *Regulating the Maintenance of Vacant, Foreclosing Residential Properties*. In addition to ensuring these buildings are maintained, this ordinance will also help assist those who are directly impacted such as the tenants as well as the neighbors. Additionally, it will ensure that properties are maintained in accordance with the Massachusetts state sanitary code, building code and all local regulations concerning external and/or visible maintenance.

Under the new ordinance, property owners or management companies are required to inspect and maintain the property on a monthly basis or until occupied. The property must be posted with all relevant information pertaining to the person(s) in charge of the property, including: the owner's name, mailing address (no P.O. Box) and telephone number.

The ordinance also requires property owners of vacant or foreclosed property to register their property with the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) for tracking purposes. Foreclosed property or property in the process of being foreclosed on must be registered with ISD within seven days of filing the foreclosure. Vacant property where a foreclosure proceeding has not begun must be registered within 14 days of receiving a notice of violation for improper maintenance of the property.

A registration fee of \$100 will be assessed to the applicant at the time of filing for registration. Property that has not been registered will be subject to a fine of \$300 or more and may be referred to Boston Housing Court for further enforcement.

This new registration process will give City agencies the means of contacting those responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of these properties and the tools needed to ensure the property is secured and maintained.

To register or for more information regarding the newly enacted ordinance log onto <http://www.cityofboston.gov/isd/foreclosure> Additional questions or comments, please call ISD at 617 635-5300.