



## For Immediate Release

Wednesday, November 27, 2019

### WELLAND FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES – FIRE PREVENTION SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS

**Welland, ON** — Welland Fire and Emergency Services Fire Prevention staff continue to work diligently, making our community safe across the city. Through their efforts many deficient buildings now meet the requirements identified in the Ontario Fire Code. For those unable to meet Fire Department issued order timelines, then the Fire Department is left with no choice but to prosecute. Recent court hearings have resulted in successful outcomes. The details are as follows:

#### **309 Beatrice Street :**

On January 9, 2019, the Welland Fire and Emergency Services (WFES) attended the property 309 Beatrice Street, City of Welland, to conduct a fire safety inspection. The property is a care occupancy that houses residents who require assisted living. The Ontario Fire Code was amended in 2014 that provided phased-in requirements to existing care occupancies, care and treatment occupancies, and long term care homes. A final phased-in requirement for existing care occupancies was to have an automatic sprinkler system installed in the building no later than January 1, 2019. During their inspection, Fire Prevention Officers found that an automatic sprinkler system had not been installed in the building, contrary to the Ontario Fire Code. Due to the seriousness of the situation, WFES initiated a prosecution against the building owner. **On November 26, 2019 the property owner of 309 Beatrice Street, City of Welland was convicted in Provincial Offences Court for contravening the Ontario Fire Code and fined \$35,000 plus victim fine surcharge and court costs pursuant to the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA), 1997*.** WFES is required by law to annually inspect care occupancies, care and treatment occupancies, and long-term care homes as mandated by the Ontario Fire Marshal and Regulations made under the *FPPA*. Care occupancies house some of our community's most vulnerable persons and Fire Code violations will not be tolerated.

Today in Provincial Offences Court also saw convictions registered for the following properties pursuant to the *FPPA*:

312 King Street - \$1500 for failing to comply with an inspection order

232 East Main Street - \$6000 for failing to comply with an inspection order and one count of fail to maintain a smoke alarm in operating condition

Welland Fire and Emergency Services are committed to making our community as fire-safe as possible and will use all tools available to us up to and including prosecution to do so. We remind residents and building owners that contraventions of the Ontario Fire Code will not be

tolerated. Hopefully these amounts will serve as a general deterrence to other building owners as well as compel them to bring their properties to compliance with the Fire Code. Two out of the three properties are now at compliance.

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***“SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES”***