

Thursday, May 6, 2021
MEDIA RELEASE



SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION OF 309 BEATRICE STREET

Welland, ON – During the summer and fall of 2019, the Welland Fire and Emergency Services (WFES) attended the property at 309 Beatrice Street, Welland, to conduct fire safety inspections. The property is a two (2) storey building that offers supportive living assistance to its residents. WFES has had past dealings with this property to ensure fire safety for the residents and staff.

During Fire Safety Inspections, numerous Ontario Fire Code violations were observed in the building by the Fire Prevention Division of WFES. Some of the violations observed were inoperable smoke alarms, smoke alarms that were expired, and means of egress not kept in good repair. Direction was provided to the property owner to forthwith correct these deficiencies.

Due to the conditions found at the building during these inspections and the risk(s) posed to residents, a prosecution was initiated against the property owner and the corporate Director. On February 11, 2021 the corporate ownership and corporate Director were convicted in Provincial Offences Court on several counts of contravening the Ontario Fire Code and were fined in total \$23,000 plus victim fine surcharge (25% of fine) and court costs pursuant to the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA), 1997.

WFES will continue to inspect buildings in the City that may house vulnerable persons to ensure property owners adhere to the provisions of the Ontario Fire Code. Fire Code compliance is mandatory and exists to ensure the minimum standard of fire safety for citizens across our province.

- 30 -

Contact:

Adam Eckhart
Fire Chief/CEMC
905-735-1700 ext. 2400
adam.eckhart@welland.ca