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Vacant building code enforcement to be proactively enforced this year
Vacant building owners are asked to register their properties

OSHKOSH, Wis., January 11, 2021 – There are currently several hundred vacant buildings in Oshkosh and many more may become vacant in the next year. The owners of the vacant buildings are reminded they need to register their vacant building at no cost, and existing property maintenance regulations are in place to govern these properties. These regulations will be proactively enforced through the city’s Inspections Services division beginning this year to ensure property maintenance and upkeep. With the exception of historic buildings and landmarks, any building that is completely vacant is subject to vacant property maintenance code.

Vacant properties, both residential and commercial, should be registered with the city online at the city’s website, <https://www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/EvolvePublic/>. Users will need to create an account to log in, and there is no cost for registering. The vacant building owner must register the property and file with the city of Oshkosh a written statement with the names, phone numbers, and addresses for all persons who are in control of the property and building. There are no fees collected for this program. Oshkosh Police Chief Dean Smith noted the value of registering vacant properties, saying “It is important for law enforcement to have accurate contact information when we encounter situations at these locations.”

There are also requirements for owners based on the amount of time the building remains vacant. Other requirements of owners include that they submit condition reports to the city and that they ensure property maintenance and upkeep. Occupancy of any portion of the building(s) and/or the exterior grounds for a period of less than 90 consecutive days will not be considered for removal of the vacancy status of the building.

For more information about vacant buildings and code enforcement, please contact John Zarate, Chief Building Official, at (920) 236-5119.

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