

Resolution Authorizing a Rental Inspection Pilot Program

WHEREAS, the Department of Building Inspection and Neighborhood Services (BINS) is authorized by the City of West Allis Revised Municipal Code to perform inspections related to property maintenance of any property in the City; and

WHEREAS, BINS staff performs building-to-building inspections of designated low- to moderate-income level areas of the City each year, utilizing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds; and

WHEREAS, an increasing number of property maintenance issues and complaints stem from multi-family residential properties in the city each year, due to many of our buildings' age and deferred maintenance; and

WHEREAS, many tenants are fearful to report issues or file complaints with the City until they are nearing the end of their lease out of fear of retribution or eviction; and

WHEREAS, the City acknowledges that many landlords do keep up with interior and exterior property maintenance of their properties and should be recognized, so the pilot program would not charge a fee to tenants or landlords for this pilot program; and

WHEREAS, a pilot program will give the City a better picture of the extent of the deferred maintenance issues that are found in the multi-family residential properties in the City so BINS can create new programs or adjust current programs to fit the needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, the pilot program will follow an outline and an inspection checklist which was provided to, and acted favorably by, the Safety and Development Committee on November 20, 2018, listed as item 2018-0928 on that agenda; and

WHEREAS, the City will preserve every resident's right to privacy and the 4th Amendment, and entrance into rental units will only be done by legal means.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Mayor and Common Council of the City of West Allis that the Department of Building Inspection and Neighborhood Services is hereby authorized to perform a Rental Inspection Pilot Program in 2019 in the area designated by the CDBG funded inspection program. Additional authorizations to continue this program in the future or to expand to other areas of the City will be required before proceeding.