

Crime Free Multi-Housing program celebrates milestone

November 1, 2016

The 300th multi-family property has been certified in the Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH) program that helps keep illegal activity out and residents safe.

The milestone comes 15 years after the program launched in Edmonton, which became the first city in Alberta to participate in the accredited North American safety program. The CFMH program is coordinated in partnership by the City of Edmonton Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board (LTAB) and the Edmonton Police Service (EPS).



"The Crime Free Multi-Housing program has been of great benefit to all involved, and has helped foster positive relationships between property managers, residents and police," says Judy Downey, General Supervisor of the Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board at the City of Edmonton. "It meets our goals of having safe, appropriate and affordable housing in Edmonton. But, even more importantly, it helps build strong communities by empowering individuals to take action in their community, create safer environments, and reduce the number of crimes reported."

When criminals or other destructive residents operate out of a rental property, landlords and tenants can pay a high price, and neighbourhoods can suffer as well. Typically, there is an increase in property and violent crimes, along with increased fear and frustration.

The goal of the Crime Free Multi-Housing program is to introduce crime prevention techniques to multi-housing properties to reduce the likelihood of criminal activity. This is achieved by training building managers to create crime-free buildings, conducting a security audit of the building, and offering residents a safety social event so they can learn ways to look out for one another and create a sense of community within their multi-family property.

"The program's longevity and success are due in large part to the cooperation and support of the property managers and residents," says EPS Acting Sgt. Amanda Trenchard. "At one time, it was police going it alone and trying to control crime at problem properties, now it's the reverse where landlords and tenants are taking ownership and not tolerating criminal behaviour. Quite literally, we're now able to get in on the ground floor and that's making all the difference."

The EPS did a comparison of the calls for service to two neighbouring rental properties in the area of 118 Avenue and 89 Street, where one property has participated in the CFMH program since 2010, and the other property has never participated. Between September 2010 and June 2016, police were dispatched 60 times to the non-participating property, while police were only dispatched 10 times to the CFMH property. More significantly, there were no reports of violence at the CFMH property.

The program also helps to identify civil processes under the Residential Tenancies Act that can be used to reduce crime or other nuisance activity. These processes include applicant pre-screening, residential tenancy addendum agreements, mediation services, and offering training and educational resources.

The next Crime Free Multi-Housing course will be held November 16 and 17, 2016. Individuals who require re-certification can attend the half day course on November 18, 2016.

For more information on the program or to register for the course, please visit edmonton.ca/ltab.

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