

LANDLORDS OF LINN COUNTY

P O Box 851
Cedar Rapids IA, 52406
7-19-07

Landlords of Linn County would like to go on record as supporting the concept of Enhance Our Neighborhoods.

We believe in the Federal/HUD goals of providing safe and sanitary living accommodations. We believe the State of Iowa code regarding landlord-tenant laws should be followed, and we believe the current City codes should be carefully observed.

We believe the best landlords are the ones who know the law and follow it carefully.

Our Landlords of Linn County organization has, as one of its goals, the education of its members in the above matters. These topics are covered at our meetings, seminars, and at our annual State Convention. We invite knowledgeable speakers from all branches of government; legislative, executive, and judicial, to come before us to enhance our members knowledge. Any landlords who are not familiar with, or not following, the above codes and laws, should be encouraged to join our group and attend the meetings.

Perhaps the city should undertake a similar educational approach to help tenants.

If the city of Cedar Rapids is really serious about enhancing the neighborhoods, the irresponsible tenant issue needs to be addressed directly to the tenants, rather than shifted to the landlords. **The proposed suggestion of holding the landlord responsible for the tenant's behavior is a problem-shifting solution not a problem-solving solution.** Landlords are in the business of providing rental shelter. Landlords are not social workers. Landlords do not have the legal authority or responsibility to control the lives and behaviors of the people they rent to.

The causes of the irresponsible tenant misbehaviors are many and complex. Effective measures need to be put into place to change their behavior and hold them accountable. This must apply to their friends and their visitors, or their misbehaviors will continue to frustrate the responsible neighbors who are trying to improve their neighborhoods.

One item of disagreement is the recommendation to implement an annual registration or inspection for rental housing. This seems to be a costly step backward from the present system.

Any Three Strikes Ordinance enacted into law needs to address the problems caused by both the "bad" landlords and "bad" tenants. The enactment of inadequate solutions will just delay facing the real problems. Time, money and effort will be ill spent on ineffective solutions while the problems remain unsolved.

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