

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Ogden Seeks Info on Unidentified Rentals

JANUARY 24, 2008 – Ogden City has mailed out thousands of letters to rental property owners advising them of the law requiring that all rental dwellings be licensed. Rental properties are required by law to be licensed as a business and encouraged to follow basic guidelines to ensure they are an enhancement to our city's neighborhoods.

"We have a good start," says John Patterson, Ogden City's Chief Administrative Officer, "but we need assistance from citizens now to identify any other rentals that are not yet licensed."

The City has set up a reporting option on their website for citizens to identify possible rental properties in their neighborhoods. People are encouraged to visit [www.ogdencity.com](http://www.ogdencity.com) where they can submit the property address in question. Reports may be submitted anonymously, or citizens can request to be contacted with follow up information.

Recently, the City performed an audit of residential dwellings to determine occupancy type (i.e., owner occupied, rental, etc.). Though City records denote approximately 3,000 properties currently licensed as rentals, results of the audit indicate there may be as many as another 3,000 dwellings within the city that might be outstanding.

The information gathered for the audit came from purchased lists of people claiming residency within Ogden but not indicating ownership. A second list included property owners within Ogden. The two lists were then compared to Weber County parcel address records and current Ogden City business licenses. The result was a finite group of properties; some were in fact not rental properties, but many were rentals that had not complied with City ordinances. Future citizen involvement will be imperative in assisting the City to complete this project.

"We hope landlords will get their properties licensed, and we hope they will sign up for the Good Landlord Incentive Program," said Patterson.

The Good Landlord Incentive Program began three years ago and provides training to assist property owners in renting their units. It encourages credit checks and background checks on renters. If landlords qualify as a good landlord under the program, they will be eligible for discounts on business license fees in coming years.

Details of the Good Landlord Incentive Program can be found on Ogden City's website at [www.ogdencity.com](http://www.ogdencity.com). Everyone who owns rental property in Ogden is encouraged to inquire about the qualifications for the program and to bring their business license fees current. All 2008 business license fees are due by January 31.

For those who may have penalties pending for past due amounts or need to acquire a business license for their rental property, the City has instated a grace period until February 5, where penalties will be waived if citizens bring their business license fees up to date.

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