

NeighborWorks targeting five West Side buildings

◆**Eyesores:** An aldermanic board is considering tougher penalties for problem landlords.

By **MARK HAYWARD**
Union Leader Staff

MANCHESTER — A neighborhood redevelopment organization yesterday released a list of five eyesores in the city that, according to the organization, have habitually failed to meet city standards for minimal levels of safety or sanitation.

NeighborWorks Greater Manchester pinpointed the five properties just days before a committee of city aldermen is to consider tougher penalties for problem landlords. The properties are all located on the West Side. Past or ongoing problems include broken handrails, defective smoke alarms, illegal storage of junk and unregistered vehicles and expired certificates of compliance.

"This list, it should be noted, is far from exhaustive," said Will Stewart, community services specialist with NeighborWorks, which was for-

merly Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services.

"A complete list of the on-again, off-again non-compliant properties in Manchester could fill a small book. But these five properties show just how much change is needed," he said. The five problem properties will be turned over to Manchester aldermen on Tuesday.

Stewart said the properties were selected by the organization's Community Services Committee. The group of homeowners, tenants, landlords and Neighborhood Watch participants is working to improve neighborhoods in the city.

One of the properties is at 406 Granite St., which NeighborWorks said is unoccupied, boarded up and has not had water service since April.

NeighborWorks said city officials issued 26 citations against the property from 1998 to 2001. Fines were never paid. Also, 23 violations were found in September when city officials inspected the property, the organization said.

NeighborWorks also said the owner is Melody Ann McKintrie. The New Hampshire Union Leader

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could not find a telephone listing for McKintrie.

In fact, the Union Leader was unable to contact any of the landlords. Messages left on two answering machines and with the relative of another landlord were not returned yesterday.

At 458 Granite St., the Building Department found 31 housing code violations when it visited in 2004, the group said. The four-unit building had no occupancy certificate or trash toters. Common hallways were used for storage, and smoke alarms were defective, they said.

Owner Piyara Kazi of Bedford owes the city \$479 in fees, penalties and costs, NeighborWorks said. An answering machine at his home telephone number names a company called Worldwide Enterprises and asks callers to leave a message.

Stewart said dilapidated properties are now found in iso-

lated pockets of the city. NeighborWorks wants to prevent the blight from spreading.

"If you crack down on these little things, then big neighborhood decay will be avoided," he said.

NeighborWorks has proposed increasing fines from \$100 for a first-offense fine to \$250, with similar increases for subsequent offenses. The organization wants a 60-day probation period after a fine is levied; any violations during those two months would be met with another citation with no chance for a warning. Also, the city could attach fines as liens to property if it cannot find the owner. And landlords would be required to inform their tenants of city collection procedures for rubbish.

The proposals are scheduled to go before the Aldermanic Committee on Administration and Information Systems at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.