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SB27-07/08: Supporting a Voluntary Residential Inspection Program

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Resolution Supporting a Voluntary Residential Inspection Program

Whereas, in the 2007 Fall semester 10,424 University of Montana students lived off campus, and the student population constitutes about 20% of Missoula's 57,000 residents;

Whereas, the Missoula City Council is debating the creation of a voluntary residential inspection program, ~~eliminating the current program, which is drastically underutilized,~~ and demonstrating the City's commitment to making Missoula a safe community;

Whereas, ~~students, as well as the renting community as a whole, deserve to live in a safe environment, and responsible landlords and property managers deserve to be recognized as well;~~

Whereas, a residential inspection program would promote *the* health, safety, and welfare of Missoula residents and would be open to any individual requesting inspection of their residential dwelling unit. *And, all tenants deserve to live in a safe environment;*

Whereas, if a home or unit is approved as having passed the Housing Inspection Checklist, a Certificate of Inspection will be issued ~~to the landlord and tenant for the premises~~ and will be valid for three years or until a change of ownership of the property. *And, responsible landlords deserve to be recognized for their efforts to provide safe rental housing;*

~~Whereas, currently 10,424 University of Montana students live off campus, making up about 20% of Missoula's 57,000 residents;~~

Whereas, the Voluntary Inspection Program would enable the ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center to create a ~~database of available and certified units in Missoula which can be provided to University students looking to move off campus~~ *systematic method for the referral of student renters to responsible landlords that provide safe and certified rental housing* – greatly expanding the efficiency, use, and ~~responsibility~~ *credibility* of that office;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that ASUM supports the Missoula City Council's proposal of creating a Voluntary Residential Inspection Program for all Missoula city renters.

Let It Further Be Resolved that ASUM strongly encourages Council members Jason Wiener, Dave Strohmaier, Stacy Rye, Bob Jaffe, Lyn Hellegaard, and Jon Wilkins of Wards 1, 3, and 4 to support ~~this program~~ *the proposed ordinance*.

Let It Further Be Resolved that upon passing, a copy of this resolution be sent to all Missoula City Council members before their ~~February 27, 2008 meeting~~ *the committee hearing on February 27, 2008*.

Authored By: Trevor Hunter, ASUM Senator
Denver Henderson, Off-Campus Renter Center Director

*Passed with unanimous consent
2-6-08*