



Village of Skokie

For Immediate Release
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Village Hall

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Council-Manager Government

Mayor	George Van Dusen
Clerk	Marlene Williams
Trustees	Michele L. Bromberg
	Michael M. Lorge
	Donald P. Perille
	Randall E. Roberts
	Pramod C. Shah
	Edie Sue Sutker
Manager	Albert J. Rigoni
Counsel	J. Patrick Hanley

Awards and Distinctions

All America City Finalist
American Public Works Association
(APWA) Accreditation
Commission on Accreditation for
Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)
Commission on Fire Accreditation
International (CFAI)
Fitch IBCA AAA Financial
Bond Rating
Gold Level Clean Air Counts
Community
Governor's Hometown Award
Government Finance Officers
Association Budget Award
Government Finance Officers
Association Certificate of
Achievement for Excellence in
Financial Reporting
Insurance Services Office (ISO)
Class One Fire Department
State of Illinois Certified Health
Department
Tree City U.S.A. Distinction

Village of Skokie Continues Response to Foster Street Home

Today, the Village of Skokie was granted a court order to enter and inspect property in the 5400 block of Foster Street where the property was discovered to be filled with debris earlier this week. The Village is initiating the necessary action to remediate the condition at this property and has posted a notice of uninhabitability on the door. Action will be taken as quickly as the court system will allow, and the Village will secure the property both during and after all remedial actions conclude. Communication has been issued to neighbors about the property status, and the Village is attempting to locate family members of the property owner who was discovered to be deceased inside the home.

The Village was not aware of the condition within this home. Since the late 1990's, the Village received and responded to four neighbor complaints regarding accumulation of debris on the exterior of the property. In 2003, neighbors and a local Boy Scout troop joined together to clean up the property exterior, with Village crews disposing of the debris. In February 2009, after obtaining a court order, Village crews removed debris from the property exterior. There have been no complaints filed with the Village since May 2009.

None of the debris that emergency crews discovered inside the home earlier this week was visible from the public right-of-way. "The Village has never received complaints citing concern about debris inside the home," said Skokie Health Director Dr. Catherine Counard. "On several occasions, after complaints about exterior debris on the property, assistance was offered to the homeowner by Village Human Services Division staff, but the offers were declined."

Commented Assistant Village Manager John Lockerby, "This is a tragic situation. Obviously, the Village respects an individual's property and Constitutional rights and can only act upon the information known at the time."

"Anyone who is concerned about a friend, relative or neighbor who might have a problem hoarding large amounts of material should contact their municipality," added Dr. Counard. "In Skokie, we encourage people to contact the Health Department at 847/933-8252. Once contact is made, we will conduct an assessment and bring in staff from other departments, such as the Human Services Division, as necessary to respond."

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For Further Information:
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