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PRESS RELEASE

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**City Catches Slumlord
Landlord Forged Occupancy Permits**

September 15, 2016, Lawrence, MA- Mayor Daniel Rivera announced an investigation into forged occupancy permits that were brought to the city's attention late this summer. After discovering at least seven forged occupancy permits, the Inspectional Services Department, City Attorney's Office and the Lawrence Police Department are investigating Edward Bonaccorsi with the intent to prosecute on four counts of forged occupancy permits in the City of Lawrence. "We will not tolerate slumlords in this community," said Mayor Daniel Rivera. "I want to make it clear that the days of illegal business arrangements and slumlords trying to take advantage of the city and its residents are over. They will pay for their actions and they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Background on the case provided by Inspectional Services Director Pat Ruiz:

On Thursday, July 28, 2016 Liz Rourke Intake Coordinator for Community Teamwork Inc. (CTI) Lowell, Ma called Health Code Inspector Raul Batistine to inquire about an occupancy permit that looked like it had been forged. As soon as Inspectional Services received the copy of the OP it was obvious that the OP was forged. Mr. Edward Bonaccorsi forged Raul's signature and the reference number was not in sequential order, it was a random number. The OP was for 429 High Street first floor.

The Inspectional Services Director met with Assistant City Attorney Brian Corrigan to report this matter and seek assistance with an investigation into forged occupancy permits that was brought to our attention. Attorney Corrigan immediately notified Liz Rourke from CTI Lowell, MA that the City of Lawrence had begun to investigate and prosecute this troubling matter. Attorney Corrigan requested that immediately and until further notice, to please not disburse any funds to Edward Bonaccorsi, Noelle Dupuis, Trustee of the Summit Family Trust (record owner of 429 High St.). Also Health Code Inspector Raul submitted a statement for the record.

As the investigation progressed it was discovered that Edward Bonaccorsi had forged occupancy permits as far back as 2008. Health Code Inspector Raymond Gilbert notified us that in 2012 Mr Bonaccorsi had forged four OP's. Health Code Inspector Gilbert sent a letter to Lawrence Housing Authority notifying them of the forged OP's. An investigation was conducted but it is not known what the outcome was. Attorney Brian Corrigan contacted the Lawrence Housing Authority to request copies of documents but their Attorney James Bowers only released a copy of a letter from Ray Gilbert and copies of the forged OP's. At the request of the City Attorney's Office Liz Rourke from CTI produced three more OP's that were definitely forged by Mr Bonaccorsi. Housing Director Ed Cameron from CTI is cooperating with the investigation and has stopped payments for all three existing units and will no longer be leasing any new units with Mr. Bonaccorsi.

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