



City of Peterborough

Media Release

For Immediate Release
May 9, 2018
Peterborough, ON --

Peterborough Landlord sentenced due to violation of Ontario Fire Code

A landlord of a property on King Street has been sentenced to seven days in jail and two years probation after a house was repeatedly found to be in violation of Ontario Fire Code regulations, despite numerous attempts by Peterborough Fire Services to work with the property owner to resolve the matter.

Sean Paul Cowling pleaded guilty to “failing to ensure that each floor area shall be served by at least two exits”, before Justice of the Peace Karen Walker in the Ontario Court of Justice on May 3, 2018. Other Fire Code offences have been withdrawn as the property is no longer occupied.

Peterborough Fire Services conducted a fire safety inspection at the property on King Street in September 2016 that led to a \$10,000 conviction in September 2017 for failing to comply with an Inspection Order. Later in September 2017, a fire safety complaint was received regarding the same house on King Street that was being occupied by students. A subsequent fire safety inspection found that none of the previously identified Fire Code issues had been addressed by the owner. At the time of the inspection, 15 students were living in the five-bedroom house.

“Peterborough Fire Services works with property owners when seeking compliance with the Ontario Fire Code,” stated Cathy Robertson, Chief Fire Prevention Officer. “Most property owners comply with Inspection Orders; however, sometimes we need to seek compliance through the court system. We want to ensure all residents of our city are safe from fire. A jail sentence by the Court in relation to Fire Code violations is unusual and reflects the repeated failure to comply with the safety regulations.”

Residents are reminded to ensure they have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and to practice home escape planning. Contact Peterborough Fire Services at 705-745-3284 for Code compliance inquiries and fire safety complaints.

This information is also on our City of Peterborough website at www.peterborough.ca

For further information, members of the media are invited to contact the undersigned:

Cathy Robertson
Chief Fire Prevention Officer
City of Peterborough
500 George Street North
Peterborough, ON K9H 3R9
705-742-7777, ext. 6221
Toll-Free: 1-855-738-3755 ext. 6221
carobertson@peterborough.ca