

Ben Wallace
Fire Prevention
City of Portland Fire Department
380 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101

March 10, 2008

Dear Officer Wallace:

RE: 46 Waterville Street

This letter is intended to serve as our "plan for action" to address the fire safety concerns documented by Lt. Brooks in his inspections of our building, 46 Waterville Street. Some of the items identified by Lt. Brooks were removed during his onsite visit on February 12, 2008; some have been already taken care of; one item we need a determination from you about an alternate treatment.

REMOVED FROM THE VIOLATIONS LIST when Lt. Brooks toured the building.
(Note: the number at the beginning is the reference number on the list from Lt. Brooks)

#4 enclose verticle opening basement to first floor/laundry room first floor. There is a door installed.

#6 air for combustion from outside - basement. He could not determine what this meant.

#7 means of egress, 2nd floor stairwell/storage - there are no obstacles or barriers.

COMPLETED ITEMS:

#2 patch hole in wall by electric switch at basement stairs. Done on 2/21/08

#9 (added on 2/12/08) - install protective sleeves over oil lines into furnaces. Done on 2/20/08

WORK SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED BY APRIL 30:

#5 boiler protection required in basement. Lt. Brooks explained that we need to install sprinkler heads over each of the three furnaces. We have received quotes for this work and it will be done within the next 4-5 weeks.

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK AND APPROVAL:

This leaves items #1, #3 and #8. This is where we need feedback from the Fire Department. Items #1 and #3 call for installing fire doors at all entrances to common areas, for a total of 13 doors. #8 calls for installing one smoke detector in the basement. As an alternative, we would prefer to contract with Cunningham Security to install a central station monitored system. Specifically, their proposal calls for a central station monitored fire alarm system for the common areas of the building to include the following:

One Silent knight 5208 fire alarm control panel with 2 back-up batteries,

transmitter and daily test signals Alarm control panel to be located in the basement and tied into two phone lines for central station monitoring.

One Red fire alarm keypad annunciator with LCD display to be located at the front door

Seven fire alarm manual pull stations (1 near each first floor exit door front and rear, 1 on the second and third floor landings both front and rear, and 1 near the basement exit door)

Seven horn/strobe fire alarm notification devices (1 in each first floor common area both front and rear, 1 on the second and third floor landings both front and rear, and 1 in the basement)

Nine smoke detectors (1 in each first floor common area both front and rear, 1 on the second and third floor landings both front and rear, and 3 in the basement)

We are proposing this alternative for several reasons:

It improves the monitoring conditions and provides an immediate means of contacting fire security, including when the building is vacant (we and our tenants all work full-time and are usually away during the day). We feel that this is a more comprehensive approach for providing fire safety for the building's occupants.

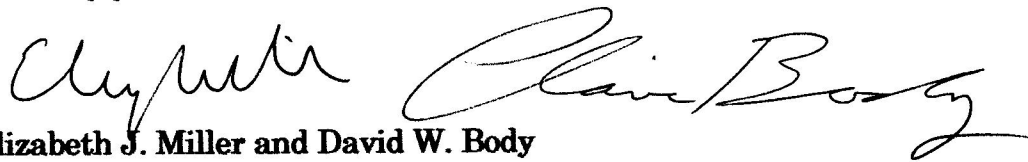
The cost is not as prohibitive as installing the 13 doors, hence we can get the entire project done within the next 3-4 months, rather than having to spread it out over 2-3 years. This improves fire security for the tenants and our building sooner rather than gradually.

Installation is not as disruptive as construction/renovation and helps us preserve the historical character of our building.

We understand that this type of system has been approved by the Fire Department and installed in other 3-flat apartment buildings like ours on Munjoy Hill.

We very much appreciate learning of the Department's fire safety concerns about our property and its guidance in providing a safe environment for our tenants and us. We look forward to hearing from you about the fire security system installation versus fire doors.

Sincerely yours,



Elizabeth J. Miller and David W. Body

46 Waterville Street, #3

Portland, ME 04101

h: 878-8604

e-mail: elizabethmiller1953@hotmail.com OR davidwbody1937@hotmail.com