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Office of the Mayor and City Council  
Jill C. Duson, Mayor

October 20, 2005

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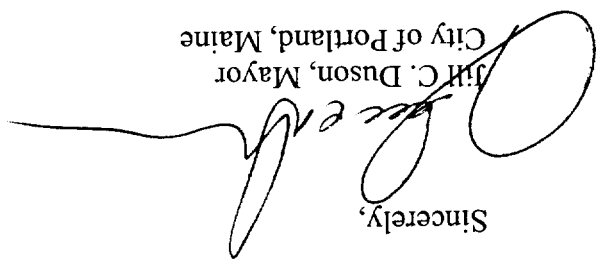
Mr. Donald Myers  
7034 Lone Oak Blvd  
Naples, FL 34102

Dear Mr. Mr. Myers:

I received your recent letter outlining your disappointing experience with an apartment rental in Portland last summer. I appreciate you bringing these concerns to my attention. Please be advised that I have taken the liberty of forwarding your correspondence to Mr. Mike Nugent, Director of the City's Inspections Division, for his review.

Again, thank you for contacting me with this issue. I do hope that your next visit to Portland is a much more enjoyable experience.

Sincerely,

  
Jill C. Duson, Mayor  
City of Portland, Maine

*Handwritten note:*  
MAY 17 2005

cc: Mr. Mike Nugent, Inspections Division

10/11/05

Dear Jill Duson,

I need your help.

We rented an apartment for two months this summer from Anthony Holt 35 Deering street Portland Me 04101, Telephones is 1-207-761-8000, Mobile phone 1-207-761-5603.) We rented over the internet. When we arrived we found the apartment wasn't as advertised and wasn't habitable.

I believe the conditions of the apartment falls under your jurisdiction. The apartment has a health problem due to mold and a safety issue related to a sunken tub-shower. Beyond these two problems the apartment was dirty, and the landlord dishonest. Accommodations like these are bad for your cities reputation.

We agreed to pay \$2000 a month for two months. We paid a two thousand dollar deposit. On July 1, the day of arrival, the landlord Tony Holt, said we would sign a lease on July 6 and left town. He gave us a number where we could reach him if needed. When we attempted to call to tell him we wouldn't be staying he didn't answer. We left the morning of July 4 after spending three uncomfortable nights. It's a shame we couldn't experience the city.

When I attempted to talk with Holt afterwards he refused and said he would only respond to communications in writing. He's a lawyer. Below is one of the letters I sent to try to settle the matter.

Dear Tony,

Roz and I enjoyed meeting you and your wife. We looked forward to a two month association. We tried to make the rental work. We were disappointed it didn't.

The rental didn't work because we couldn't live with the air quality. However, the level of cleanliness contributed to our dissatisfaction.

We tried to stay by airing out the unit. That didn't work. The air purifier you offered as a solution didn't work. We assume the odor comes from mold. The mold, or what ever the cause, not only smelled bad, but affected us physically.

The note I left indicated our willingness to pay for a weeks rent. I called to help you understand our problem, and to try to reach a solution that would please both parties. Ignoring my calls isn't going to settle the problem.

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Jill I would like your help in obtaining a refund. However, I think it's equally important to take steps to make sure the apartment is safe for other future renters.

Best Regards

Donald Myers

7034 Lone Oak Blvd.

Naples, Florida 3410239 254 1415

E-mail dmyers@naples.net

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