

October 18, 2004

Dear Property Owner:

City records indicate that you own residential rental property in the proximity of downtown Madison. As you may know Halloween is approaching. This event is expected to bring large crowds of young adults to Madison from Friday, October 29, through Sunday, October 31. Our experience is that many out-of-town visitors will be staying and partying in residential rental property.

The concern of the Madison Police Department is that many parties grow to become large gatherings of very intoxicated people. These parties nearly always generate a great deal of trash in the area as well as property damage not only to the address where the parties take place but also to neighboring properties. Other neighborhood problems include noise and large groups of people leaving parties carrying alcoholic beverages. Occasionally, an even greater concern arises from person crimes such as sexual assaults, robberies, and batteries.

We ask that you contact your tenants regarding their conduct on your property. Most leases contain language prohibiting some or all of the activities related to large parties. We ask that you contact your tenants and identify clauses in their lease which prohibit large parties. Preventing large parties at your property will not only help us make this neighborhood safer, but should also save damage to your property and your reputation.

It is important for everyone to understand that our purpose is to address public safety issues. If you have concerns you would like to discuss with the Madison Police Department, please contact me at 267-1194.

Sincerely,

Mary Schauf, Lieutenant of Police
Central District