

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Warren Evicts Squatters – Issues Ticket With Fines Of Up To \$5,000/180 Days In Jail

Warren, MI – Following a directive from Mayor Jim Fouts, city police on Tuesday evicted a family that illegally occupied a city-owned home.

Police found a shelter in Monroe for the family of seven.

Fouts said the eviction authority was based on a 1930 state law (Act 328 – copy enclosed) that addresses occupancy of a residential building without consent and a 1961 state law (Act 236) that addresses illegal entry in a residence.

Fouts said the evictions “should be a message to all squatters who have been occupying vacant homes in Warren, that the city will not tolerate this and it will cost them either hefty fines and/or imprisonment.”

The father in the family was issued a citation for trespassing that could lead to not more than \$5,000 in fines and/or not more than 180 days in jail.

The home, located at 22001 Panama, was owned by the city – run and federally-funded Community Development Block Grant Program that rehabilitates homes and sells them to low and moderate income families. The home was inspected for final occupancy by city and CDBG-licensed inspectors.

Fouts said his office was contacted by neighborhood residents who witnessed the squatters moving in.

“These squatters deprived a needy family from purchasing a home, and they were not paying property taxes or water bills,” said Fouts. “They were essentially getting city services free at the expense of the taxpayers and a needy family.”