

MANCHESTER DAILY EXPRESS

Today's news in 20 minutes.

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BUSINESS

Landlord protests 'negligent' label

City woman upset at agency's list

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In an effort to fight negligent landlords, members of a community service committee have proposed raising the fines for code violations and have listed five properties as among the city's worst violators.

Melody McKintrie, a disabled woman and the owner of 406 Granite St., was shocked to find herself on that short list in yesterday's edition of the Express.

"They never called me or wrote me a letter," McKintrie said. "I know my property has problems, but I can't afford to fix them by myself."

The committee is associated with NeighborWorks Greater Manchester, a non-profit housing organization, and is trying to make a case for more than doubling the fines for housing code violations.

McKintrie said that she has health issues with her legs and a mental illness that prevents her from addressing the reported 23 violations that the two-family house had on Sept. 28, 2006.

"They have all this information about my property, but why didn't they offer to help me?" McKintrie asked. "My mother is ill and I have to take care of her."

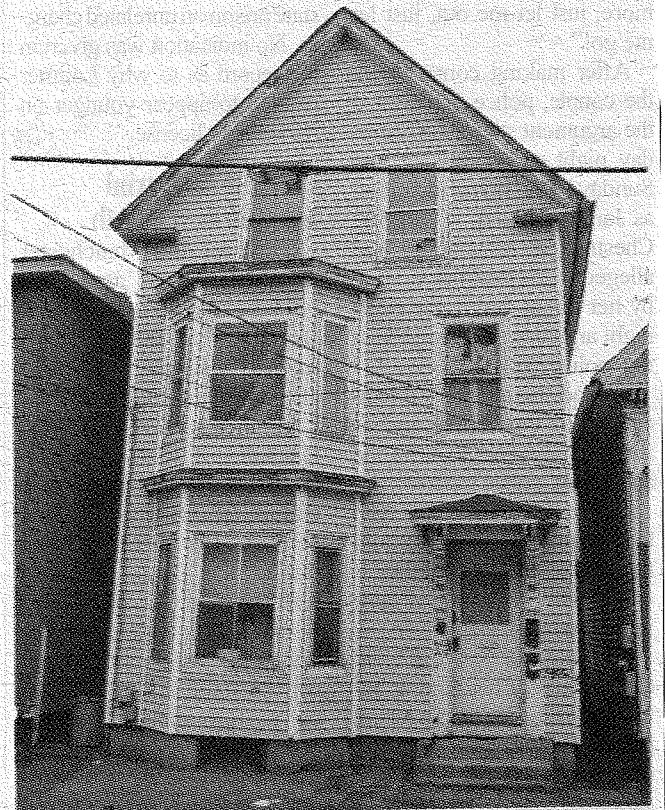
McKintrie said that trash gets left in her yard by other members of the neighborhood, and that other people broke the property's windows.

"I know my property has problems, but I can't afford to fix them by myself."

"They just assume I'm a negligent landlord," McKintrie said. "I'm a single owner without any money."

Will Stewart, a community service specialist for NeighborWorks Greater Manchester, said that he did speak with McKintrie in person.

"We went out there to examine the property and she came out the front door," Stewart said. "We told her it was making the neighborhood look bad and suggested that she try to sell it. She



A house at 406 Granite St. was one of five singled out by NeighborWorks Greater-Manchester as having excessive code violations. (Courtesy Photo)

said that she didn't have time to talk about it."

Several members of the community service committee live in the same neighborhood as McKintrie, Stewart

said.

"We're looking to improve the entire neighborhood," Stewart said. "We would certainly be interested in helping her in any way we can."