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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

7 vacant Allston-Brighton buildings identified as problem properties

Posted September 20, 2010 06:43 PM

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(Matt Rocheleau for Boston.com)

An abandoned building at 181 Brighton Ave. is among four in Allston and three in Brighton that the city has identified as problem properties.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Four vacant buildings in Allston and three in Brighton are among the nearly 150 that city officials have identified as [problem properties](#).

A team from fire, inspection services, and other departments [started in East Boston Monday](#) and are working throughout the city, reaching all of the empty or abandoned properties that the Fire Department says are dangerous. The goal is to put pressure on owners to restore the properties to a safe and sanitary condition. Failure to do so will result in legal action by the city, according to Mayor Thomas Menino who established a task force following an Aug. 21 Roxbury warehouse fire, one of the biggest in Boston's history.

At 457 Cambridge St. in Allston, the rear wall of a vacant row house was exposed to weather, decayed and partially collapsed, while portions of the roof had rotted through upon its last inspection a year ago. The fire walls were intact and in "good condition," according to the description provided by city officials, but the interior remains unprotected and the stairs are missing banisters.

At 181 Brighton Ave. in Allston, the building's structural steel support system was warped by fire, which has caused the roof to become "unstable and won't sustain any further loads." The building has been designated as "exterior

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

firefighting only.”

At 1501 Commonwealth Ave. in Allston, there was extensive horizontal cracking on the masonry – most prevalent on two sides of the building – in line with the top floor window lintels, which support the weight of the wall above the windows.

At 16 Holton St. in Allston, the exterior of a boarded up building was littered with abandoned vehicles and “water craft” and containers filled with unknown substances. Two of the building’s rear decks were not adequately supported and the interior is “gutted to the studs.”

At 541-543 and 549 Washington St. in Brighton, the buildings had missing floors and holes in the floors upon last inspection. The buildings were in the process of being torn down.

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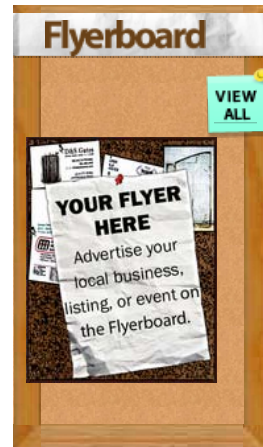
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