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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Bergmann Hotel deemed unsafe for human occupancy**

*CBJ coordinating with Salvation Army to temporarily shelter displaced tenants*

The Bergmann Hotel was shut down and condemned Friday afternoon after the building owner failed to address outstanding fire and building code violations, putting tenants in imminent danger. The City and Borough of Juneau has classified the Bergmann Hotel as Unsafe for Human Occupancy.

“There is so much damage and neglect. It’s a huge risk for the tenants in terms of fire and life safety issues; not just for them but for anyone who goes inside,” Sven Pearson, Capital City Fire/Rescue Deputy Fire Marshal, said. “People shouldn’t have to live this way. It’s unsanitary. It’s dangerous. People deserve to live better.”

Health and safety hazards within the public areas and basement include an inoperable sprinkler system, a gaping hole in the roof, lack of heat and hot water, inadequate restrooms, exposed wiring, broken windows and unsuitable emergency exit doors. During Friday’s inspection, it was additionally determined that carbon monoxide levels were above acceptable safety limits.

The Bergmann Hotel has had several health and safety inspections since last fall. In October 2016, the CBJ and CCFR issued letters to Bergmann Hotel owner Kathleen Barrett and building staff citing multiple code violations and details on how to make corrections. Building management originally had until Nov. 18, 2016 to become compliant. At Barrett’s request, the deadline was extended to the end of February 2017. In the interim, CBJ and CCFR officials did repeated walk-throughs and communicated with Ms. Barrett and building staff on multiple occasions. Inspections in March revealed few corrections and several new violations.

CBJ’s Building Codes Official Charlie Ford then issued a “notice and order of dangerous building” to Ms. Barrett and building manager Charles Cotten Thursday at 4 p.m. They were given 24 hours to vacate the building. The city was forced to close the Bergmann Hotel out of safety concern for the tenants.

“We’ve been generous with giving an extension and keeping an eye on the place. This was not an overnight decision; we’ve been trying to work with them for a long time,” Ford said.

Under Title 19, CBJ’s building and fire code, the city requires property owners to abate public health and safety hazards. “When the hazards on the property are so extreme that it represents an imminent danger to health and safety, we have the authority under Title 19 to require the building be evacuated,” City Attorney Amy Mead said.

The order instructs Ms. Barrett and Mr. Cotten to correct the violations before the building can be deemed safe for human occupancy. The order can be appealed within 20 days of when it was issued.

CBJ is coordinating with partner social service agencies to connect displaced tenants with housing and resources. AWARE, Glory Hole, and St. Vincent DePaul are available for anyone in need of temporary shelter and to help coordinate long-term plans for individuals or families. Starting tonight through Tuesday morning, The Salvation

Army is piloting a low-barrier warming center. The pilot program will serve displaced Bergmann tenants in need, and the general public as space allows.

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