

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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“Budget Inn To Be Demolished”

It started out as an inexpensive place to stay while visiting Norfolk. For only \$42 a night a person could get a room at the Budget Inn at 721 East Norfolk Avenue. As the years went by, more people headed to the Inn for longer stays. A fire destroyed one of the buildings at the Inn in October 2012. Norfolk citizens complained that the hotel had turned into more of an apartment complex with inhabitants giving out the hotel address as their permanent mailing address. They also said blowing trash and calls for police had become a recurrent problem.



City of Norfolk Prevention Bureau Manager Trenton Howard informed officials at Mota AmBaji, Inc. of Omaha in March 2013 that city and zoning codes were being violated at the Inn, fines would be assessed and the building would need to be vacated in May if the problems weren't addressed. At the time, not only were the buildings not zoned to be used as an apartment complex, there were numerous code violations that made the building unsafe to use even as a short stay motel.

The company appealed the request stating that they needed to wait for insurance claims from the fire damage to first be completed. No action was taken to demolish the property or bring the property up to code through the summer. Discussion ensued and an agreement was reached whereby the appeal was withdrawn and the buildings were to be vacated by December 31, 2013 and demolished.

Since then, the company has vacated the property and plans are to have the buildings demolished this spring. No plans have been announced for the property.

“This was a situation where people were living in unsafe conditions in a building that wasn't zoned for long term residency. We're always glad when a situation like this is resolved,” Howard said.