

CHEYENNE APARTMENTS**Lien against buildings may ensure fines paid**

Part of a deal to buy 95 and 105 Cheyenne Ave. appears to have collapsed.

By Pat Currie
The London Free Press

A London council committee voted Monday to slap a lien on two Cheyenne Avenue apartment blocks to ensure the owner pays \$6,000 in fines for failing to make city-ordered repairs.

"We want ongoing work reports and we want the city legal department to make sure there's a lien on the properties to ensure the fines are paid," Alderman Grant Hopcroft proposed at a meeting of the community and protective services committee.

"The legal department is doing its best to make sure (apartment owner Elijah) Elieff pays ... the wheels are turning," is all Rocky Cerminara, director of building controls, would say.

Cerminara said that "to my knowledge" Elieff has neither paid the fines levied against his holding company, Elieff Investments Ltd., nor filed an appeal by a Dec. 7 deadline.

Meanwhile, at least part of a deal to buy the properties at 95

and 105 Cheyenne has apparently fallen through.

TALKS BROKEN OFF: Dave Osborne of Ottawa, general manager of Whitehall Estates Ltd., said the Ottawa firm had been dickering with Elieff to buy 95 and 105 Cheyenne "but our negotiations have been broken off."

Whitehall "buys and operates residential properties," he said.

Cerminara told committee members that city hall is in the dark as to what's going on with the properties. Lawyers' letters received by his department indicate Whitehall also was negotiating to sell the Cheyenne apartments, along with properties at 75 and 85 Cheyenne, to a buyer identified only as Roberts.

"We assume that Whitehall was buying them and flipping them over to Roberts, but these letters may have been written in anticipation of a deal going through," Cerminara said. The Elieff-Whitehall deal was to close Dec. 28. The Whitehall-Roberts deal has a Dec. 29 closing date. Elieff couldn't be reached for comment.

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