



City of El Centro  
1275 W. Main Street  
El Centro, CA. 92243

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Mayan Hotel Condemned**

El Centro, CA – February 26, 2018 - The City of El Centro's Community Development Department Code Enforcement Division along with the assistance of local law enforcement agencies were forced to 'Red-Tag' the Mayan Hotel in El Centro. Red-tagging means that the structure is dangerous and unsafe to remain in and that all tenants or others residing there must leave for their own safety.

This action became necessary when the owner, Mohammad Shah aka Jack Rafiq failed and refused to respond to city notices and citation. Over the past two months, city staff has tried to work with him to resolve the substandard conditions of the hotel; most recently, with the discovery of new violations that create a severe fire danger, staff tried to work with him to determine how many tenants are actually renting rooms at the hotel. Mr. Rafiq agreed to provide that information and notify tenants, but failed to do so. Mr. Rafiq has been uncooperative with the compliance process and unwilling to provide City staff with tenant information. The city has commenced the legal process of declaring Mr. Rafiq to be a slumlord and has cited him for criminal code violations.

It is estimated that 22 individuals were assisted in the process of condemning the hotel. The City in coordination with the County of Imperial is offering programs and services, which may be of assistance to those tenants affected by this situation. Individuals are also encouraged to contact the Inland Fair Housing and Mediation Board located at 444 S. 8th Street, El Centro, 760-482-5773. Inland Fair Housing serves as an intermediary to assist individuals in resolving issues related to rental complaints and disputes.

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