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# CITY REGULATIONS EXIST FOR GOOD REASONS

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SAYED IQBAL MOHAMED

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SOME landlords don't bother about the law or the safety of their tenants. A grandmother was shocked when builders walked into her dwelling a few days ago and removed the windows from the bedrooms and the lounge.

They told her that the landlord instructed them to proceed with the conversion of her flat into an office.

She spoke to the landlord, who informed her that he could not wait any longer to relocate his financial accounting practice to 81 East Street, Overport.

She was given a verbal notice, the month had expired and he needed to proceed with the changes to the property.

By Friday evening, the windows were replaced with solid brick structures with construction work continuing over the weekend.

The landlord warned her that should she fail to vacate the dwelling by Sunday evening, he could not be held responsible for any injury.

It would appear that the landlord did not get permission from the municipality for conversion.

Even if permission were granted, this would mean that the landlord had to inform the municipality that the dwelling was vacant or would be vacant; display a notice as required by the city byelaw for any objectors to lodge their objection with the city.

Then there is the matter of the notice to vacate. The landlord had to secure a court order to have the grandmother removed from the dwelling.

It would appear that the notice was not valid and the court would not have granted an ejection order anyway.

Sayed Iqbal Mohamed: Chairperson,  
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