655 SANTA BARBARA DRIVE

BUILDING AND STANDARDS BOARD AGENDA ITEM # 5 FOR WEDNESDAY, March16, 2011
CODE COMPLIANCE DIVISION
MEMORANDUM
November 2, 2010

TO: The Honorable Chairman and Board Members

THROUGH: Kurt Fenstermacher, Deputy Director, Environmental Services Department

FROM: Bill Stern., Deputy Building Official

SUBJECT: 655 Santa Barbara, El Paso, Texas 79915

The following is a brief chronology of the investigation of the referenced location:

1) First investigated on September 1, 2010. The single family residence, single level structure was built in 1976. Constructed of wood framed walls with bricked veneer and wood frame shingle roof. The structure was found open, abandoned, vandalized and graffitied. Drug paraphernalia has also been found at the property. Kids have been gaining access to this structure and it is located nearby area schools. The El Paso Police Department has attended calls in regards to the building being used as a harborage by unwanted persons. There is trash, weeds and debris throughout the property.
2) A certified condemnation letter was mailed to Raul and Eva D. Alarcon on September 22, 2010.
3) Certified notices of the public hearing scheduled for March 16, 2011, were mailed to the owners and all interested parties on February 22, 2010.
4) As of March 1, $9,249.14 in taxes is owed.

The owners have been notified of the property maintenance violations at this property to date there has been no response or corrective action taken, and therefore the Division recommends that it be found:

1) That the structures are substandard, and unfit for habitation or use and a hazard to the public health, safety, and welfare; and
2) That the structures are not in substantial compliance with the municipal ordinances regulating fire protection, structural integrity, and disposal of refuse; and
3) That the structures certificate of occupancy be revoked; and
4) That the main structure can be rehabilitated; and
5) That the main structure be secured within thirty (30) days; and maintained secure until rehabilitated; and
6) That the accessory structure and carport be demolished within thirty (30) days; and
7) That the premises be cleaned and maintained clean of all weeds, trash, and debris within thirty (30) days; and
8) That upon failure by the owner or any other interested party to comply with the order of the Building and Standards Commission the City may take whatever action is necessary to bring the property into compliance, and place a lien on the property for the work which will be done by the City.

CODE COMPLIANCE DIVISION
September 17, 2010

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Raul & Eva D. Alarcon
655 Santa Barbara Dr.
El Paso, Texas 79915

Re: 655 Santa Barbara Dr.
Blk: 2 Hervey Place
Lot: 11
Zoned: R-3
BSC10-00832
7009 2820 0004 3726 4044

To All Owners, Lienholders, and Mortgagees:

An inspection at the above referenced address has revealed that the structure is in violation of the El Paso Municipal Code, Chapter 18.50, Property Maintenance Code, which states:

> **18.50.106.1 General.**
> When a structure or equipment is found by the Director to be unsafe, or when a structure is found unfit for human occupancy, or is found unlawful, such structure or equipment shall be condemned pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 2.38 of this code.

The El Paso Municipal Code Chapter 18.50 International Property Maintenance Code defines unsafe structure as follows:

> **18.50.106.1.1 Unsafe Structures.**
> An unsafe structure is one that is found to be dangerous to the life, health, property or safety of the public or the occupants of the structure by not providing minimum safeguards to protect or warn occupants in the event of fire, or because such structure contains unsafe equipment or is so damaged, decayed, dilapidated, structurally unsafe or of such faulty construction or unstable foundation, that partial or complete collapse is possible.

18.50.106.1.2 Unsafe Equipment

Unsafe equipment includes any boiler, heating equipment, elevator, moving stairway, electrical wiring or device, flammable liquid containers, or other equipment on the premises or within the structure that is in such disrepair or condition that such equipment

is a hazard to life, health, property or safety of the public or occupants of the premises or structure.

18.50.106.1.3 Structure Unfit for Human Occupancy.
A structure is unfit for human occupancy whenever the Director finds that such structure is unsafe, unlawful or, because of the degree to which the structure is in disrepair or lacks maintenance, is unsanitary, vermin or rat infested, contains filth or contamination, or lacks ventilation, illumination, sanitary or heating facilities or other essential equipment required by this code, or because the location of the structure constitutes a hazard to the occupants of the structure or to the public

The structure located at **655 Santa Barbara Dr., El Paso, Texas, 79915,** is in violation of the requirements found in the following sections of the 2003 International Property Maintenance Code as adopted in the El Paso City Code, Chapter 18.50, Property Maintenance Code:

a. The floors have not been maintained in a safe manner. [Sec. 305.4]

b. The walls have not been maintained in a safe manner free of holes and cracks. [Sec. 304.6]

c. The roof structure has not been maintained free of defects that may cause leaks. [Sec. 304.7]

d. The means of egress is/are inadequate and do not meet minimum code requirements. [Sec. 702.4]

e. The plumbing system is inadequate and does not meet minimum code requirements. [Sec. 504.1]

f. The electrical system is inadequate and does not meet minimum code requirements. [Sec. 604.3]

g. The HVAC system is inadequate and does not meet minimum code requirements. [Sec. 603.1]

h. The structure is open and accessible to unauthorized entry. [Sec. 301.3]

i. The premises are full of weeds, trash, and debris [Sec. 302.1 & Sec. 302.4].

j. The structure needs to be secured from unwanted entry and ongoing vandalism, and the premises need to be cleaned of all trash and debris within (30) days from receipt of this letter. [Sec. 108.2]

The repairs to the structural elements and/or service systems referred to in the previous sections must be completed within 30 days of your receipt of this

k. letter. If, due to the scope and complexity of the work more time is needed, you must make this request to the Building and Standards Commission at a hearing scheduled by this department.

As a result of the aforementioned violations, the following action may be taken:

a. This case is being submitted to the City Building and Standards Commission for unsafe structures proceedings. The City Building and Standards Commission will decide if the structure is unsafe and if it should be vacated and secured, or demolished as per Chapter 2.38 of the El Paso Municipal Code.

b. By authority of Chapter 18.02.103.9.3 of the El Paso Municipal Code the electrical service at this property may be disconnected at the request of the Building Permits and Inspections Department because of Electrical Code violations.

Many of these corrections will require a permit. Permits for commercial or rental property must be taken out by a bonded and insured contractor who is registered with the City of El Paso.

According to the real property records of El Paso County, you own the real property described in this notice. If you no longer own the property, you must execute an affidavit stating that you no longer own the property and stating the name and last known address of the person who acquired the property from you. The affidavit must be delivered in person or by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Code Compliance Division office, 7969 San Paulo Dr., El Paso, Texas, 79907, no later than the 20th day after the date you receive this notice. If you do not send the affidavit, it will be presumed that you own the property described in this notice, even if you do not.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 599-3490.

Zully Davila
Building Inspector

ZCD/nms

Interested Parties:

You are hereby notified that at 5:30 p.m. on the **16th** day of **March, 2011** in the Council Chambers of City Hall, #2 Civic Center Plaza, El Paso, Texas, the Building and Standards Commission of El Paso (the "**Commission**") will hold a public hearing on the question of whether the building located on the property at **655 Santa Barbara Drive**, in El Paso, Texas, which property is more particularly described as:

Legal Description: Lot 11, Block 2, HERVEY PLACE ADDITION, FIRST REPLAT of an addition to the City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas.

is unsafe and dangerous, because of the following violations:

a. The walls have not been maintained in a safe manner free of holes and cracks. [Sec. 304.6]

b. The roof structure has not been maintained free of defects that may cause leaks. [Sec. 304.7]

c. The means of egress is/are inadequate and do not meet minimum code requirements.[Sec. 702.4]

d. The plumbing system is inadequate and does not meet minimum code requirements. [Sec. 504.1]

e. The electrical system is inadequate and does not meet minimum code requirements. [Sec. 604.3]

f. The HVAC system is inadequate and does not meet minimum code requirements. [Sec. 603.1]

g. The structure is open and accessible to unauthorized entry. [Sec. 301.3]

h. The premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition free of weeds, trash, and debris [Sec. 302.1 & Sec. 302.4].

i. The structure needs to be secured from unwanted entry and ongoing vandalism, and the premises need to be cleaned of trash and debris within (30) days from receipt of this letter. [Sec. 108.2]

According to the real property records of the County of El Paso, Texas, Raul Alarcon, 655 Santa Barbara Drive, El Paso, Texas, 79915, ("the **Owner**") is listed as the owner of the real property described herein.

According to the real property records of El Paso County, you own or have an interest in the real property described in this notice. If you no longer own or have an interest in the property, you must execute an affidavit stating that you no longer own or have an interest in the property and stating the name and last known address of the person who acquired the property or interest from you. The affidavit must be delivered in person or by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Building Standards Enforcement Division of the Environmental Services Department, 7969 San Paulo Drive, El Paso, Texas, 79907, no later than the 20th day after the date you receive this notice. If you do not send the affidavit, it will be presumed that you own the property described in this notice.

The Owner of said property is hereby ordered to appear before the Building and Standards Commission and any mortgagees, lien holders, and other persons having an interest in said property are entitled to appear before the Commission at said date, hour, and place to show cause why said building should not be declared a nuisance and ordered to be abated. The Owner, lien holders, mortgagees, or any other person having an interest in the property is hereby required to submit at the hearing proof of the scope of any work that may be required to bring the building into compliance with Title 18, as mandated by Section 18.50 of the Municipal Code, and to specify the time it will take to reasonably perform the work.

At the hearing, the Owner, lien holders, mortgagees, or any other person having an interest in the property must present to the Commission any evidence showing that the structure or part thereof is safe.

All documents such as building plans, specifications, drawings, reports from design professionals and any other required documents must be presented to the Commission at this hearing.

The time periods, which govern the completion of work ordered by the commission, are outlined in Chapter 2, Subsection 2.38.080 of the Municipal Code of the City of El Paso, and pursuant to State law.

If the Owner fails, neglects or refuses to comply with the order of the Commission the City may pursue one, or more of the following actions:

I) the city will perform any and all work needed to bring the property into compliance with this order, at its own expense, but for and on account of the Owner, of said property, the cost of which shall be assessed as a lien against the property and;

II) assess a civil penalty against the property Owner for failure to repair, remove or demolish said building in an amount not to exceed $1,000.00 a day for each violation, or $10.00 a day if the Owner shows that the property is the Owner's lawful homestead; and

III) appoint a receiver as permitted by state law; and

IV) any other remedies permitted by state law.

Any civil penalty or assessment imposed will accrue interest at a rate of ten (10) percent a year from the date of the assessment until paid in full;

The City Clerk is ordered to provide notice of this hearing to the record Owner and all other persons having an interest in the property as provided by law.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Cynthia Osborn
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Bill Stern, C.B.O.
Deputy Building Official
Code Compliance Division

I, RICHARDA DUFFY MOMSEN, City Clerk of the City of El Paso, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Public Hearing regarding the property located at 655 Santa Barbara Drive was filed with the County Clerk's Office, the official public records of real property for El Paso County.

Richarda Duffy Momsen

Executed this ____ day of _____, 2010 on behalf of the City of El Paso, Texas, by Richarda Duffy Momsen in her capacity as City Clerk.

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF EL PASO

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this ____ day of _____, 2010.

Notary Public

I, RICHARDA DUFFY MOMSEN, City Clerk of the City of El Paso, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property located at 655 Santa Barbara Drive was PUBLISHED in the official City newspaper on the ____day of_____, 2010.

Richarda Duffy Momsen

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 655 Santa Barbara Drive was MAILED CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED to:

Raul Alarcon
655 Santa Barbara Drive
El Paso, Texas 79915

Date:
Time:

Inspector

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 655 Santa Barbara Drive was MAILED CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED to:

Eva D. Alarcon
655 Santa Barbara Drive
El Paso, Texas 79915

Date:
Time:

Inspector

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 655 Santa Barbara Drive was MAILED CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED to:

Raul Alarcon
1126 Cuba Dr.
El Paso, Texas 79915

Date:
Time:

Inspector

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 655 Santa Barbara Drive was MAILED CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED to:

Government Employees Federal Credit Union
P. O. Box 20998
El Paso, Texas 79998

Date:
Time:

Inspector

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 655 Santa Barbara Drive was MAILED CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED to:

Carmen Irene Perez
221 N. Kansas Ste 1400
El Paso, Texas 79901

Date:
Time:

Inspector

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 655 Santa Barbara Drive was MAILED CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED to:

Eva Alarcon
1115 Cuba Dr.
El Paso, Texas 79915

Date:
Time:

Inspector

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 655 Santa Barbara Drive was MAILED CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED to:

Eva Alarcon
1126 Cuba Dr.
El Paso, Texas 79915

Date:
Time:

Inspector

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 655 Santa Barbara Drive was HAND-DELIVERED to:

City of El Paso
C/O City Clerk
#2 Civic Center Plaza
El Paso, TX 79901

Date:
Time:

Inspector

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 655 Santa Barbara Drive was MAILED CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED to:

Governor of the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Indian Tribe
AKA Tigua Indian Community
119 S. Old Pueblo Road
El Paso, Texas 79907

Date:
Time:

Inspector

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 655 Santa Barbara Drive was MAILED CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED to:

El Paso Central Appraisal District
5801 Trowbridge Ave.
El Paso, Texas 79925

Date:
Time:

Inspector

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 655 Santa Barbara Drive was MAILED CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED to:

El Paso County Probate Court
500 E. San Antonio Avenue, Suite 703
El Paso, Texas 79901

Date:
Time:

Inspector

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 655 Santa Barbara Drive was MAILED CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED to:

Delgado, Acosta, Spencer
Linebarger, Heard & Perez, LLP
Attn: Bonnie Cooper
221 N. Kansas Suite 1400
El Paso, TX 79901

Date:
Time:

Inspector

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice was POSTED at 655 Santa Barbara Drive El Paso, Texas.

Date:
Time:

Inspector

UNSAFE STRUCTURES REPORT

BUILDING PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS

DATE OF EXAMINATION: November 1, 2010 **REP. DISTRICT:** 6

ADDRESS: 655 Santa Barbara Drive **ZONED:** R-3

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lot 11, Block 2, HERVEY PLACE ADDITION, FIRST REPLAT of an addition to the City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas

OWNER: Raul and Eva D. Alarcon **ADDRESS:** 655 Santa Barbara
El Paso, Texas 79915

BUILDING USE: Abandoned single Family Dwelling

TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION: V, Wood frame with brick veneer and siding

FOOTINGS: Concrete
CONDITION: Fair. Unable to determine condition of footing due to subterranean placement. A structural engineer should be hired to evaluate actual condition.

FOUNDATION WALL: N /A
CONDITION: N / A

FLOOR STRUCTURE: Concrete with carpet and vinyl flooring
CONDITION: Fair.

EXTERIOR WALLS: Wood frame with brick veneer and siding.

HEIGHT: 8' - 10' +/- **THICKNESS:** 8" - 10" +/-

CONDITION: Fair, exposure to elements and lack of maintenance.

INTERIOR WALLS & CEILINGS: Wood frame with gypsum board.
CONDITION: Poor. Walls have some holes and have been damaged by vandalism.

ROOF STRUCTURE: Wood frame with composition shingle roof covering.
CONDITION: Poor. A registered roofing contractor or building contractor must be hired to evaluate the roofing system and submit a report of required corrections to bring the roof system into code compliance.

DOORS, WINDOWS, ETC.: Wood frame doors/aluminum frame windows.
CONDITION: Poor. Broken or missing doors and windows need to be repaired or replaced.

MEANS OF EGRESS: Does not meet minimum code requirements.
CONDITION: Poor. Windows and doors must be replaced or replaced.

PLUMBING: A licensed plumber should be hired to bring the plumbing system up to code.

ELECTRICAL: A licensed electrical contractor should be hired to bring the electrical system up to code.

MECHANICAL: A licensed mechanical contractor should be hired to bring mechanical system up to code.

IF CONDEMNED, HOW MANY PERSONS WILL BE AFFECTED: None

WARNING POSTED: Yes **BARRICADED:** No **POLICE AID REQD.:** No

REMARKS: This single family dwelling was built in 1976. This structure was found open, abandoned and used as harborage by unwanted persons. The structure has been vandalized and graffitied. The carport and accessory structure are in a very poor condition. The roof system for both of these structures is failing due to lack of maintenance and exposure to the elements. There is trash, weeds and debris throughout the property. The department recommends that the main structure be secured and maintained secured within thirty (30) days and the carport and accessory structure be demolished within thirty (30) days and that the property be cleaned of all weeds, trash and debris within 30 days.

Zully Davila
Building Inspector