

1017 RIVER



BUILDING AND STANDARDS BOARD AGENDA ITEM # 6 FOR
TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
BUILDING PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS

MEMORANDUM
November 17, 2008

TO: The Honorable Chairman and Board Members

THROUGH: Victor Q. Torres. – The Director for Development Services

FROM: Bill Stern, C.B.O., Chief Building Official

SUBJECT: 1017 E. River Avenue

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

- 1) First investigated February 13, 2009. The single family dwelling was built in 1928. Upon investigation it was found open, abandoned, vandalized and being used as harborage by unwanted persons and as a hangout place by area students. The carpet and vinyl floor covering have sustained some scorching due to fire mischief. The interior walls are full of graffiti and contain several burnt holes. The exterior walls contain several cracks.
- 2) A certified condemnation letter was mailed to Bank of America NA, 475 Crosspoint Parkway, Getzville, New York, 14068.
- 3) Certified notices of the public hearing scheduled for March 31, 2009, were mailed to the owners and all interested parties on March 17, 2009.
- 4) As of March 19, 2009, \$5,330.25 is owed in taxes.

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

- 1) That the main building and accessory structure be condemned as 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 structures can be repaired; and
- 5) That the structures be secured within thirty (30) days and maintained secure until rehabilitated; and
- 6) That the premises be cleaned and maintained clean of all weeds, trash, and debris within thirty (30) days; and
- 7) 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.



BUILDING STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT

February 24, 2009

Bank of America NA
475 Crosspoint Parkway
Getzville, NY 14068-9000

Re: 1017 E River Ave.
Blk: FR 45 Alexander
Lot: 21 & W 1/2 of 22
Zoned: R-5
BSC09-00077
Mail Receipt #:7007 3020 0001 2772 0550

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.

Mayor
John F. Cook

City Council

District 1
Ann Morgan L

District 2
Susannah M. I

District 3
Emma Acosta

District 4
Melina Castro

District 5
Rachel Quintan

District 6
Eddie Holguin

District 7
Steve Ortega

District 8
Beto O'Rourke

City Manager
Joyce A. Wilson

1017 E River Ave

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 1017 E River Ave, El Paso, Texas, 79902, 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]

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 Housing Compliance Office of the Building Permits and Inspections, 5th floor, City Hall, 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 541-4800.

FOR THE DIRECTOR FOR BUILDING PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS:

Nellie Avalos
Building Inspector

MA/nms

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To All Interested Parties:

You are hereby notified that at 5:30 p.m. on the **31st** day of **March, 2009** 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 buildings located on the property at **1017 E. River Avenue**, in El Paso, Texas, which property is more particularly described as:

Legal Description: Lot 21 and the West one-half of Lot 22, Block 45, ALEXANDER ADDITION, an addition to the City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas.

are unsafe and dangerous, because of the following violations:

- 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 shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition free 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 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, Bank of America, N.A., (the "**Owner**"), 475 Crosspoint Parkway, Getzville, New York, 14068-9000 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 Building Permits and Inspections, 5th floor, City Hall, 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:

Mark Shoesmith
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Bill Stern, C.B.O.
Chief Building Official
Building Permits and Inspection Department

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 1017 E. River Avenue was PUBLISHED in the official City newspaper on the ____day of _____, 2009.

Richarda Duffy Momsen

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 1017 E. River Avenue 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 1017 E. River Avenue was MAILED CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED to:

Bank of America, N.A.
475 Crosspoint Parkway
Getzville, New York
14068-9000

Date:
Time:

Inspector

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 1017 E. River Avenue 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 1017 E. River Avenue 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 1017 E. River Avenue 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 1017 E. River Avenue 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 1017 E. River Avenue, El Paso, Texas.

Date:
Time:

Inspector



UNSAFE STRUCTURES REPORT

BUILDING PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS

DATE OF EXAMINATION: March 23, 2009

REP. DISTRICT: 8

ADDRESS: 1017 E. River Avenue

ZONED: R-5

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: FR 45 Alexander, Lot 21 & W ½ of 22

OWNER: Bank of America NA

ADDRESS: 475 Crosspoint Parkway
Getzville, NY 14068-9000

BUILDING USE: Abandoned single family dwelling

TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION: V, wood frame w/stucco

FOOTINGS: Concrete

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

FOUNDATION WALL: Concrete

CONDITION: Fair. A structural engineer should be hired to evaluate actual condition.

FLOOR STRUCTURE: Concrete slab on grade and hardwood covered w/carpeting.

CONDITION: Unable to determine due to carpet covering, did notice scorching throughout due to vandalism. A structural engineer should be hired to evaluate actual condition.

EXTERIOR WALLS: Wood frame with stucco covering

HEIGHT: 12' +/-

THICKNESS: 10" - 12"

CONDITION: Fair. Some cracks noted. A structural engineer should be hired to evaluate structural elements of the building and submit a report on the corrections required to make the building safe.

INTERIOR WALLS & CEILINGS: Wood frame w/sheetrock and plaster.

CONDITION: Fair. Walls and ceilings are full of graffiti and have been vandalized will require repair/replacement. A structural engineer should be hired to evaluate structural elements of the building and submit a report of the required corrections to make the buildings safe

ROOF STRUCTURE: Wood frame w/roll composition roofing.

CONDITION: Unable to determine. A structural engineer licensed in the state of Texas 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.: Metal frame windows and wooden doors.

CONDITION: Poor. Doors have been broken and the windows are not operational. Will need to replace doors and windows, so they are operational and meet egress requirements.

MEANS OF EGRESS: Does not meet code requirements.

CONDITION: Poor. Windows and doors must be replaced to make them operational.

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

ELECTRICAL: A licensed electrician should be hired to bring 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 abandoned single family residence was built in 1928. The structures were found open, abandoned, vandalized, and full of graffiti. The structures should be secured and maintained secure and the property cleaned of all weeds, trash and debris.

Nellie Avalos

Building Inspector

**CITY OF EL PASO
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: 03-19-09

MEMO TO: William Stern C.B.O., Residential Inspector Supervisor

FROM: Jesus H. Arenas, Code Compliance Inspector

SUBJECT: Condemnation Report #BSC09-00077

RE: 1017 E. River Ave, FR 45 Alexander, Lot 21 & W ½ of 22

An inspection of the property was conducted on 03-17-09 and the conditions checked were found in violation of Title 9 - Health and Safety, El Paso Municipal Code.

SECTION 9.04 - SOLID WASTE STORAGE AREA

Unsecured boiler room adjacent to the secondary dwelling in the back of the property.

SECTION 9.04.340 – ACCUMULATIONS

There is overgrown grass on the East side of the home and there are also overgrown, dried vines throughout the property.

SECTION 9.16 - NUISANCE

Inspection revealed boxes full of paperwork on the back porch. The trash bin is also full of trash. Graffiti is also noted at the time of this inspection.

SECTION 9.16.010 – DESIGNATED

The building is unsecured. It is noted that at the time of this inspection that the front & back doors are unlocked. This condition gives vagrants access onto the property. An open window is also noted at this time.

SECTION 9.28 -RAT CONTROL

Rodent evidence was not noted on the premise.