

708-10 HILLS STREET



**BUILDING AND STANDARDS BOARD AGENDA ITEM #4 FOR
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CODE COMPLIANCE DIVISION**

**MEMORANDUM
April 8, 2013**

TO: The Honorable Chairman and Board Members

THROUGH: Karl Rimkus, Interim Division Manager, Code Compliance Department

FROM: Tom Maguire, C.B.O., Deputy Building Official

SUBJECT: 708 Hills, AKA 708 ½ - 710 Hills, El Paso, Texas, 79901-3039

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

- 1) First investigated on March 24, 2010, Condemned on September 29, 2010. And recently investigated on several occasions, between November 2012 and April 2013. These multi-family dwellings were built on or about 1930. Upon investigation the structures were found open and abandoned, and in a state of disrepair. The roof ceiling assembly and roof coverings show signs of deterioration due to lack of maintenance and water damage. There is evidence of inadequate electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems, Most of the doors and windows are broken and in disrepair.
- 2) A certified condemnation letter was mailed to Francis Febres and Ricardo Vasquez.
- 3) Certified notices of the public hearing scheduled for April 24,2013, were mailed to the owners and all interested parties on April 4, 2013
- 4) As of April 4, 2013, \$1,109.65 in taxes is owed.

The owners have been notified of the property 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 structure is substandard, and unfit for habitation or use and a hazard to the public health, safety, and welfare; and
- 2) That the structure is not in substantial compliance with the municipal ordinances regulating fire protection, structural integrity, and disposal of refuse; and
- 3) That the structure certificate of occupancy remain revoked; and
- 4) That the structure cannot be rehabilitated; and
- 5) That the structure be demolished within thirty (30) days; and
- 6) That the premises be cleaned within thirty (30) days & maintained clean thereafter; and
- 7) That upon failure by the owners 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
November 6, 2012
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

FRANCIS FEBRES & RICARDO VASQUEZ
708 1/2 S HILLS ST
EL PASO, TX 79901-3039

Re: 708-710 Hills ST.
Blk: 48 MAGOFFIN
Lot: 14 & 15 (6000 SQ FT)
Zoned: A-3
ENHS12-00550
91 7199 9991 7030 7650 8356

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:

18.50.108.1 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 Title 2.38 of the Municipal Code.

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

18.50.108.1.1 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.

18.50.108.1.2 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.

18.50.108.1.3 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 **708-710 Hills ST** is in violation of the requirements found in the following sections of the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code as adopted in the El Paso City Code, Chapter 18.50, Property Maintenance Code:

- a. All *exterior property, accessory structures* and *premises* shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition, All accessory structures, including *detached* garages, fences and walls, shall be maintained structurally sound and in good repair. [Sec. 302.1, 302.2, 302.3, 302.4, 302.5, 302.6, 302.7, 302.8, 302.9]
- b. The exterior of a structure shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and sanitary so as not to pose a threat to the public health, safety or welfare. [Sec. 304.1, 304.1.1 conditions 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13, 304.2, 304.3, 304.4, 304.5, 304.6, 304.7, 304.8, 304.9, 304.10, 304.11, 304.12, 304.13, 304.14, 304.15, 304.16, 304.17, 304.18]
- c. The interior of a structure and equipment therein shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition. [Sec. 305.1, 305.2, 305.3, 305.4, 305.5, 305.6]
- d. The components of a structure and equipment therein shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition. [Sec. 306.1, 306.1.1 conditions 1,2,3,4,5,6,]
- e. All structures shall be kept free from insect and rodent *infestation*. All structures in which insects or rodents are found shall be promptly exterminated by *approved* processes that will not be injurious to human health. After *pest elimination*, proper precautions shall be taken to prevent reinfestation. [Sec.309.1, 309.2, 309.3, 309.4, 309.5]
- f. The building must comply with the minimum criteria and conditions for light. [Sec.402.1, 402.2, 402.3]
- g. The building must comply with the minimum criteria and conditions for ventilation. [Sec.403.1, 403.2, 403.3, 403.4, 403.5]
- h. The building must comply with the minimum criteria of the provisions for required facilities. [Sec. 502.1, 502.2, 502.3, 502.4,502.4.1, 502.5]
- i. The building must comply with the minimum criteria of the provisions for toilet rooms. [Sec. 503.1, 503.2, 503.3, 503.4]
- j. The building must comply with the minimum criteria of the provisions for plumbing systems and fixtures. [Sec. 504.1, 504.2, 504.3]

- k. The building must comply with the minimum criteria of the provisions for water systems. [Sec. 505.1, 505.2, 505.3, 505.4]
- l. The building must comply with the minimum criteria of the provisions for sanitary drainage systems. [Sec.506.1, 506.2, 506.3]
- m. The building must comply with the minimum criteria of the provisions for heating facilities. [Sec. 602.2, 602.3, 602.4, 602.5]
- n. All mechanical equipment and fireplaces shall be properly installed and maintained. [Sec.603.1, 603.2, 603.3, 603.4, 603.5, 603.6]
- o. The building must comply with the minimum criteria of the provisions for electrical facilities. [Sec. 604.1,604.2, 604.3, 604.3.1, 604.3.1.1, 604.3.2, 604.3.2.1]
- p. All electrical equipment, wiring and appliances shall be properly installed and maintained in a safe and *approved* manner. [Sec. 605.1, 605.2, 605.3]
- q. Duct systems shall be maintained free of obstructions and shall be capable of performing the required function. [Sec. 607.1]
- r. Means of egress & Emergency escape opening - A safe, continuous and unobstructed path of travel has not been provided from all points in the building or structure to the *public way*. [Sec. 702.1, 702.2, 702.3, 702.4]
- s. All systems, devices and equipment to detect a fire, actuate an alarm, or suppress or control a fire or any combination thereof shall be maintained in an operable condition at all times. [Sec. 704.1, 704.1.1, 704.2, 704.3, 704.4]
- t. 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]
- u. 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 letter. If, due to the scope and complexity of the work more time is needed, you must make this request to the Environmental Services Department, Code Compliance Division.

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

- a. This case is being submitted to the City Prosecutor's Office for court proceedings. The court will decide if the structure is unsafe and if it should be vacated and secured, or demolished as per Title 2.38 of the El Paso Municipal Code.
- b. By authority of Chapter 18.02.103.10.3.3 of the El Paso Municipal Code the electrical service at this property may be disconnected at the request of the Environmental Services Department, Code Compliance Division 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 599-6290.

Roger Iveson
Chief Building Inspector

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To all interested parties:

The owners, mortgagee, lien holders and any others with a legal interest in the property described below are hereby ordered to appear before the Building and Standards Commission, herein after referred to as the "Commission", at the following time and place:

LOCATION: El Paso Downtown Public Library, Auditorium, 501 N. Oregon, El Paso, Texas 79901

DATE: April 24, 2013

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PROPERTY: 708 S. Hills, EL PASO, TEXAS also described as Lots 14 and 15, Block 48, MAGOFFIN ADDITION, El Paso County, Texas, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Records for El Paso County, Texas.

The Property has been determined to be substandard based upon violations of the minimum standards of the 2009 Building Codes, adopted and incorporated in the El Paso City Code, Chapter 18, more specifically addressed below.

According to the real property records of El Paso County, and other relevant public records, Francis Febres & Ricardo Vasquez, 708 ½ S Hills Street, El Paso, Texas 79901-3039 are the owners, herein after referred to as the "Owners" of the Property. 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 from you, if applicable. The affidavit must be delivered in person or by certified mail, return receipt requested, to Code Compliance Division of Environmental Services, 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 execute and deliver the affidavit, it will be presumed that you own or have an interest in the Property, even if you do not.

On or about November 6, 2012 an inspection of the Property was conducted by the Environmental Services Division and the following violations were identified:

- a. *All exterior property, accessory structures and premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition, All accessory structures, including detached garages, fences and walls, shall be maintained structurally sound and in good repair. [Sec. 302.1, 302.2, 302.3, 302.4, 302.5, 302.6, 302.7, 302.8, 302.9]*

- b. The exterior of a structure shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and sanitary so as not to pose a threat to the public health, safety or welfare. [Sec. 304.1, 304.1.1 conditions 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13, 304.2, 304.3, 304.4, 304.5, 304.6, 304.7, 304.8, 304.9, 304.10, 304.11, 304.12, 304.13, 304.14, 304.15, 304.16, 304.17, 304.18]
- c. The interior of a structure and equipment therein shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition. [Sec. 305.1, 305.2, 305.3, 305.4, 305.5, 305.6]
- d. The components of a structure and equipment therein shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition. [Sec. 306.1, 306.1.1 conditions 1,2,3,4,5,6,]
- e. All structures shall be kept free from insect and rodent *infestation*. All structures in which insects or rodents are found shall be promptly exterminated by *approved* processes that will not be injurious to human health. After *pest elimination*, proper precautions shall be taken to prevent reinfestation. [Sec.309.1, 309.2, 309.3, 309.4, 309.5]
- f. The building must comply with the minimum criteria and conditions for light. [Sec.402.1, 402.2, 402.3]
- g. The building must comply with the minimum criteria and conditions for ventilation. [Sec.403.1, 403.2, 403.3, 403.4, 403.5]
- h. The building must comply with the minimum criteria of the provisions for required facilities. [Sec. 502.1, 502.2, 502.3, 502.4,502.4.1, 502.5]
- i. The building must comply with the minimum criteria of the provisions for toilet rooms. [Sec. 503.1, 503.2, 503.3, 503.4]
- j. The building must comply with the minimum criteria of the provisions for plumbing systems and fixtures. [Sec. 504.1, 504.2, 504.3]
- k. The building must comply with the minimum criteria of the provisions for water systems. [Sec. 505.1, 505.2, 505.3, 505.4]
- l. The building must comply with the minimum criteria of the provisions for sanitary drainage systems. [Sec.506.1, 506.2, 506.3]
- m. The building must comply with the minimum criteria of the provisions for heating facilities. [Sec. 602.2, 602.3, 602.4, 602.5]

- n. All mechanical equipment and fireplaces shall be properly installed and maintained. [Sec.603.1, 603.2, 603.3, 603.4, 603.5, 603.6]
- o. The building must comply with the minimum criteria of the provisions for electrical facilities. [Sec. 604.1,604.2, 604.3, 604.3.1, 604.3.1.1, 604.3.2, 604.3.2.1]
- p. All electrical equipment, wiring and appliances shall be properly installed and maintained in a safe and *approved* manner. [Sec. 605.1, 605.2, 605.3]
- q. Duct systems shall be maintained free of obstructions and shall be capable of performing the required function. [Sec. 607.1]
- r. Means of egress & Emergency escape opening - A safe, continuous and unobstructed path of travel has not been provided from all points in the building or structure to the *public way*. [Sec. 702.1, 702.2, 702.3, 702.4]
- s. All systems, devices and equipment to detect a fire, actuate an alarm, or suppress or control a fire or any combination thereof shall be maintained in an operable condition at all times. [Sec. 704.1, 704.1.1, 704.2, 704.3, 704.4]
- t. 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 Owners are entitled to show cause that the Property is safe, does not constitute a dangerous structure and should not be declared a nuisance and ordered abated by presenting relevant evidence and testimony. If the Owners advocate for repair, then they bear the burden of proof to demonstrate the scope of any work that may be required to bring the property into compliance with Chapter 18.50 and the time it will take to reasonably perform the work. The allowable time periods for repair are governed by Texas Local Government Code, Sections 214.001(h), (i), (j) and (k). Any document relied upon to demonstrate that the Property is safe or that it can be repaired must be presented to the Commission at the hearing, including building plans, specifications, drawings, or reports from professionals and any other relevant documentation.

If the Owners fail to comply with the order of the Commission the City may pursue one or more of the following actions:

Perform any and all work necessary to bring the property into compliance with the Commission's order;

Assess civil penalties, provided for in the Commission's order, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per day or \$10 per day if the Property has a homestead exemption, that will accrue interest of 10% per year until paid in full;

Appoint a receiver as permitted by state law; and

Any other remedies permitted by state law.

Commission orders may be appealed to the State District Court within 30 days of the Final order.

The Commission's authority and procedures in regard to a Dangerous Structure Hearing may be found in Chapter 2.38 of the El Paso City Code and in their duly adopted bylaws. A copy of the ordinance adopting the most current version of Chapter 2.38 is enclosed. The bylaws may be obtained at the Code Compliance Division of Environmental Services, 7969 San Paulo Drive, El Paso, Texas 79907 or by calling (915) 599-6290.

This notice will be recorded in the real property records of El Paso County and will be binding on subsequent grantees, lien holders or other transferees of an interest in the Property.

The City Clerk is ordered to provide notice of this hearing to the record owners and all other interested parties, required by law, who are listed following this notice, and file this notice in the real property records of El Paso County.

FAILURE OF THE OWNER AND/OR LIENHOLDER OR MORTGAGEE TO TAKE THE ORDERED ACTION MAY RESULT IN THE CITY TAKING THE ORDERED ACTION AND FILING A LIEN AGAINST THE PROPERTY.

The City of El Paso appreciates your cooperation and prompt attention to remedying the nuisances on the Property. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any additional questions, comments or concerns relative to this notice.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT

John R. Batoon
Assistant City Attorney

Tom Maguire, C.B.O.
Deputy Building Official

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 , El Paso, Texas was 708 S Hills St, El Paso, Texas 79901-3039, PUBLISHED in the official City newspaper on the ____ day of _____, 2013.

Richarda Duffy Momsen

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 708 S Hills St, El Paso, Texas 79901-3039, was MAILED CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED to:

Francis Febres & Ricardo Vasquez
708 ½ S Hills St,
El Paso, Texas 79901-3039

Date: _____
Time: _____
Inspector: _____

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 708 S Hills St, El Paso, Texas 79901-3039, was HAND-DELIVERED to:

City of El Paso
C/O City Clerk
300 N. Campbell
El Paso, TX 79901

Date: _____
Time: _____
Inspector: _____

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 708 S Hills St, El Paso, Texas 79901-3039, 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 708 S Hills St, El Paso, Texas 79901-3039, 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 708 S Hills St, El Paso, Texas 79901-3039, was MAILED CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED to:

El Paso County Clerk, Probate Dept.
500 E. San Antonio Avenue, Suite 105
El Paso, Texas 79901

Date: _____
Time: _____
Inspector: _____

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 708 S Hills St, El Paso, Texas 79901-3039, 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 708 S Hills St, El Paso, Texas 79901-3039, El Paso, Texas.

Date: _____
Time: _____
Inspector: _____



UNSAFE STRUCTURES REPORT

BUILDING PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS

DATE OF EXAMINATION: April 3, 2013

REP. DISTRICT: 8

ADDRESS: 708, AKA 708 ½ -710 Hills

ZONED: A-3

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: 48 Magoffin Addition Lots 14 & 15

OWNER: Francis Febres & Ricardo Vasquez

ADDRESS: 708 ½ Hills Street
El Paso, Texas 79901

BUILDING USE: Abandoned multi-Family Dwellings

TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION: III Brick / C.M.U. / Adobe

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. Notable cracks and crumbling found in several areas. A structural engineer should be hired to evaluate actual condition.

FLOOR STRUCTURE: Concrete

CONDITION: Fair. A section of the floor system has become concave. Portions of the finish floor covering have deteriorated or missing.

EXTERIOR WALLS: Brick / C.M.U. / Adobe

HEIGHT: 10' +/-

THICKNESS: 10" - 12"

CONDITION: Poor. Portions of the adobe walls plaster coating have deteriorated exposing them to the elements. Mortar joints on both brick and concrete block walls have deteriorated which would pose possible compromise to their structural integrity. A structural engineer should be hired to evaluate the structural elements of the building and submit a report on the corrections required to make the building safe.

INTERIOR WALLS & CEILINGS: Wood framing w / gypsum board covering

CONDITION: Poor. Interior walls and ceilings have being damaged due to water leakage from the faulty roof structure, vandalism and lack of maintenance.

ROOF STRUCTURE: Flat roof, wood framing with rolled composition covering.

CONDITION: Poor, disintegrating due to lack of maintenance. 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 and windows, some with wrought iron guards.

CONDITION: Poor. Several windows and doors are broken. Will need to replace or repair 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. Shall need to remove wrought iron window guards and meet minimum egress requirements at bedrooms.

PLUMBING: Substandard plumbing installation and fixtures. A licensed plumber should be hired to bring system up to code.

ELECTRICAL Substandard electrical installation and fixtures: A licensed electrician should be hired to bring system up to code.

MECHANICAL: Substandard mechanical installation and equipment A licensed mechanical contractor should be hired to bring system up to code.

IF CONDEMNED, HOW MANY PERSONS WILL BE AFFECTED: 0

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

REMARKS: These multi-family dwellings were built on or before 1930 and found abandoned and in a state of disrepair. Substandard electrical, mechanical and mechanical installations pose potential danger. The roof structure and ceiling assembly show signs of deterioration due to lack of maintenance. The structure should be demolished. The premises should be maintained clean of all weeds, trash and debris.

Rafael Balli
Building Inspector