

# 1231 MORROW



BUILDING AND STANDARDS BOARD AGENDA ITEM #8 FOR  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2008

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
BUILDING PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS

MEMORANDUM  
April 17, 2008

TO: The Honorable Chairman and Board Members

THROUGH: Larry Nichols, C.B.O. – The Director for Building Permits and Inspections

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

SUBJECT: 1231 Morrow Court

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

- 1) First investigated January 15, 2008. The structure consists of the shell and exposed wood studs, a permit was issued for the construction of a new residence, however the project was abandoned and the permit has expired. The structure is being used as harborage by unwanted persons.
- 2) A certified condemnation letter was mailed to Santiago E. Avila, 8300 Saturn Place, El Paso, Texas, 79904.
- 3) Certified notices of the public hearing scheduled for April 30, 2008, were mailed to the owners and all interested parties on April 17, 2008.
- 4) As of April 8, 2008, no taxes are owed.

The owner has been notified of the violations at this property, to date there has been no corrective action taken, therefore the Department recommends that it be found:

- 1) That the 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 structure is not in substantial compliance with the municipal ordinances regulating fire protection, structural integrity, and disposal of refuse; and
- 3) That the structure cannot be repaired; and
- 4) That the structure be demolished within 30 days; and
- 5) That the premises be cleaned and maintained clean of all weeds, trash, and debris within 30 days; and
- 6) 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.

JOHN COOK  
MAYOR



CITY COUNCIL  
ANN MORGAN LILLY, DISTRICT 1  
SUSANNAH M. BYRD, DISTRICT 2  
J. ALEXANDRO LOZANO, DISTRICT 3  
MELINA CASTRO, DISTRICT 4  
RACHEL QUINTANA, DISTRICT 5  
EDDIE HOLGUIN JR., DISTRICT 6  
STEVE ORTEGA, DISTRICT 7  
BETO O'ROURKE, DISTRICT 8

JOYCE WILSON  
CITY MANAGER

R. ALAN SHUBERT, P.E., C.B.O.  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICE DIRECTOR

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### BUILDING STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT

February 27, 2008

Santiago E Avila  
8300 Saturn Pl  
El Paso, Texas 79904-2525

Re: 1231 Morrow Ct.  
Blk: 48 Kern Place  
Lot: 14  
Zoned: R4  
COD08-00950  
Certified Mail Receipt #  
7007 0710 0001 1381 9379

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 International 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 a **1231 Morrow Ct.** has the following violations:

- a. The structure is open and accessible to unauthorized entry. [Sec. 301.3]
- b. The premises are full of weeds, trash, and debris [Sec. 302.1 & Sec. 302.4].
- c. 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, 5<sup>th</sup> 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 **30th** day of **April, 2008** 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 **1231 Morrow Court**, in El Paso, Texas, which property is more particularly described as:

**Legal Description: Lot 14, Block 48, KERN PLACE, an addition to the City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas, according to the map made for tax purposes on file at the Central Appraisal District**

is unsafe and dangerous, because of the following violations:

- a. The structure is open and accessible to unauthorized entry. [Sec. 301.3]
- b. The premises are full of weeds, trash, and debris [Sec. 302.1 & Sec. 302.4].
- c. 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, Santiago Avila (the "**Owner**"), 8300 Saturn, El Paso, Texas 79904, 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, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, City Hall, no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 are 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 fail, neglect or refuse 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 show 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:

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

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Mark Shosmith  
Assistant City Attorney

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Bill Stern, C.B.O.  
Chief Building Inspector  
Building Permits and Inspections 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 1231 Morrow Court. was PUBLISHED in the official City newspaper on the \_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

Richarda Duffy Momsen

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 1231 Morrow Court, was MAILED CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED to:

Santiago E. Avila  
8300 Saturn  
El Paso, Texas 79904

Date:  
Time:

Inspector

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 1231 Morrow Court, was MAILED CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED to:

Rene Lopez  
9246 W. H. Burges  
El Paso, Texas 79925

Date:  
Time:

Inspector

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice regarding the property at 1231 Morrow Court, 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 1231 Morrow Court, 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 1231 Morrow Court, 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 1231 Morrow Court, 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 1231 Morrow Court, 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  
1231 Morrow Court, El Paso, Texas.

Date:

Time:

Inspector



# UNSAFE STRUCTURES REPORT

## BUILDING PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS

**DATE OF EXAMINATION:** April 17, 2008

**REP. DISTRICT:** 8

**ADDRESS:** 1231 Morrow Court.

**ZONED:** R – 4

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Lot 14, Block 48, KERN PLACE, an addition to the City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas, according to map made for tax purposes on file at the Central Appraisal District.

**OWNER:** Santiago E. Avila

**ADDRESS:** 8300 Saturn Place  
El Paso, Texas 79904

**BUILDING USE:** Abandoned residence under construction

**TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION:** V

**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:** N/A

**CONDITION:** N/A

**FLOOR STRUCTURE:** Concrete slab on grade

**CONDITION:** Poor. Unfinished

**EXTERIOR WALLS:** N/A.

**HEIGHT:** 12' +/-

**THICKNESS:** N/A

**CONDITION:** Poor. Unfinished walls, only wood framing. 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:** N/A

**CONDITION:** Poor. Walls and ceiling are unfinished. 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:** N/A

**CONDITION:** Poor. Unfinished roof. A structural engineer licensed in the state of Texas must be hired to evaluate the roofing system and install a compliant roof system.

**DOORS, WINDOWS, ETC.:** N/A

**CONDITION:** Poor. There are no doors or windows.

**MEANS OF EGRESS:** Does not meet code requirements.

**CONDITION:** Poor. Windows and doors must installed.

**PLUMBING:** There is only partial plumbing in this structure. A licensed plumber should be hired to install a compliant plumbing system.

**ELECTRICAL:** There is no electrical system. A licensed electrician must be hired to install a compliant electrical system.

**MECHANICAL:** There is no mechanical system in this structure. A licensed mechanical contractor must be hired to install a compliant mechanical system.

**IF CONDEMNED, HOW MANY PERSONS WILL BE AFFECTED:** None

**WARNING POSTED:** Yes

**BARRICADED:** No

**POLICE AID REQD.:** No

**REMARKS:** The department recommends that this abandoned residential project be demolished and the property cleaned of all weeds, trash and debris within thirty (30) days.

Rodolfo Valles

**Building Inspector**

**CITY OF EL PASO  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**M E M O R A N D U M**

**DATE:** March 20, 2008

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

**FROM:** Susana M. Melano, Code Compliance Inspector

**SUBJECT:** Condemnation Report # COD08-00950

**RE:** 1231 Morrow Ct. (48 Kern Place, Lot 14)

An inspection of the property was conducted on March 17, 2008 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**  
No Violation

**SECTION 9.04.340 – ACCUMULATIONS**  
No violation

**SECTION 9.16 - NUISANCE**  
High weeds were noted through out the premises.

**SECTION 9.16.010 – DESIGNATED**  
The premise structure is incomplete and not secured and may be used by vagrants.

**SECTION 9.28 -RAT CONTROL**  
Rodent evidence was not noted on the premise.