

# 71 EVERGREEN



BUILDING AND STANDARDS BOARD AGENDA ITEM # 5 FOR  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2008

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: 71 Evergreen Street

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

- 1) First investigated September 22, 2008. Upon investigation the duplex was found open and abandoned, with exposed wires and vandalized. This structure was built in 1949 out of wood frame and brick veneer. The abandoned structure is being used as harborage by vagrants.
- 2) A certified condemnation letter was mailed to Ramon and Maria Sanchez.
- 3) Certified notices of the public hearing scheduled for November 25, 2008, were mailed to the owners and all interested parties on November 11, 2008.
- 4) As of November 4, 2008, there is \$1,773.48 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 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 building is not in substantial compliance with the municipal ordinances regulating fire protection, structural integrity, and disposal of refuse; and
- 3) That the structure's certificate of occupancy be revoked; and
- 4) That the structure can be repaired; and
- 5) That the structure be secured and maintained secure within 30 days; and
- 6) That the premises be cleaned and maintained clean of all weeds, trash, and debris within 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.

JOHN COOK  
MAYOR



CITY COUNCIL  
ANN MORGAN LILLY, DISTRICT 1  
SUSANNAH M. BYRD, DISTRICT 2  
EMMA ACOSTA, 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

VICTOR Q. TORRES  
DIRECTOR

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### BUILDING STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT

October 15, 2008

Ramon & Maria D Sanchez  
71 Evergreen St.  
El Paso, Texas 79905-2606

Re: 71 Evergreen St.  
Blk: 2 Tobins Washington Park  
Lot: S 30 Ft of 14 & 15  
BSC08-00288  
Certified Mail Receipt #  
7007 3020 0001 2772 1182

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.

71 Evergreen St.

**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 **71 Evergreen St.** has 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 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]

71 Evergreen St.

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 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, 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 **25th** day of **November, 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 **71 Evergreen St.**, in El Paso, Texas, which property is more particularly described as:

**Legal Description: The South 30 feet of Lots 14 and 15, Block 2, TOBIN'S WASHINGTON PARK ADDITON, an addition to the City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Volume 11, Page 40, Plat Records of El Paso County, Texas**

is 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, Raymond Sanchez and Dora Mari Sanchez, 71 Evergreen, El Paso, Texas, 79905-2606, Ruggero S. Provenghi, Trustee for Lorin K Hockett and Mavis Hockett, 6410 Gateway, El Paso, Texas 79905, Loren K. Hockett and Mavis Hockett, 3901 52nd Street, NE, Tacoma, Washington 98422, El Paso County Attorney's Office, 500 E. San Antonio, 79901, Attn: Jose Rodriguez, Fort Bliss Federal Credit Union, P. O. Box 24901, 79914 (the "**Owner**") are 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 Owners of said property are 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 buildings should not be declared a nuisance and ordered to be abated. The Owners, 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 Owners, 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 Owners fail, neglect or refuse to comply with the order of the Commission the City may pursue one, or more of the following actions:

- l) 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 Owners, 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 Owners 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 Owners 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 Owners 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 Shoesmith  
Assistant City Attorney

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



# UNSAFE STRUCTURES REPORT

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## BUILDING PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS

**DATE OF EXAMINATION:** November 18, 2008

**REP. DISTRICT:** 3

**ADDRESS:** 71 Evergreen Street

**ZONED:** C - 4

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** The South 30 feet of Lots 14 and 15, Block 2, TOBIN'S WASHINGTON PARK ADDITION, an addition to the City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas.

**OWNER:** Ramon & Maria D. Sanchez

**ADDRESS:** 71 Evergreen Street  
El Paso, Texas 79905

**BUILDING USE:** Abandoned duplex

**TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION:** V, wood frame with brick veneer

**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 w/tile.

**CONDITION:** Fair. A structural engineer or registered contractor must be hired to evaluate the flooring system.

**EXTERIOR WALLS:** Brick veneer w/plaster

**HEIGHT:** 12' +/-

**THICKNESS:** 10" - 12"

**CONDITION:** Poor, the structure has sustained notable cracks due to lack of maintenance. A structural engineer should be hired to evaluate structural elements of the buildings and submit a report on the corrections required to make the building safe.

**INTERIOR WALLS & CEILINGS:** Wood frame, sheetrock w/ plaster

**CONDITION:** Poor, there are visible cracks on the walls and leaks on the ceiling. 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:** 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 casement windows.

**CONDITION:** Poor, several windows and doors have been 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.

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

**ELECTRICAL:** A licensed electrician should be hired to bring system up to code.

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

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

**WARNING POSTED:** Yes

**BARRICADED:** No

**POLICE AID REQD.:** No

**REMARKS:** This is an open and abandoned duplex. The structure is being used as harborage by unwanted persons. The structure should be secured and the property cleaned of all weeds, trash and debris.

Nellie Avalos

**Building Inspector**