

Moermond, Marcia (CI-StPaul)

From: Skarda, Therese (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 9:15 AM
To: Moermond, Marcia (CI-StPaul)
Cc: Magner, Steve (CI-StPaul)
Subject: 701 Summit Avenue

Marcia –

A Legistar notification informed me that the homeowner of 701 Summit, Charles Rolph Lampert, has appealed the vacant building status in this case. I want to make sure that the enforcement record on the criminal proceedings for failure to maintain the exterior of the structure is a part of the record when you consider that appeal.

Some of the details will be readily accessible from DSI's file, but the extensions granted by the court and repeated failures to comply in the criminal matters are not easily available.

To that end I offer you this brief synopsis:

On June 29th of 2012 orders were issued to Charles Lampert as the owner of 701 Summit to correct four deficiencies. To summarize, he need to replace missing siding, replace rotting eaves, repair a hole in the chimney and replace missing window screens.

Return visits by the inspector on July 30, 2012, October 1, 2012, November 15, 2012 and May 7, 2013 showed that the owner had failed to address the violations and a criminal citation was issued October 10, 2013.

Mr. Lampert was arraigned on October 19, 2013 given and signed a copy of his rights. He entered a plea of guilty to two counts of failure to maintain the exterior of his property. The agreement was that I would further continue the case to the spring (March 18 of 2014) for him to fix the screens and broken windows. He also needed to come with a timetable for the rest of the items. He represented that he worked for Tom Boche and Sandy Gaye who were both architects and that he was a mechanical engineer so he was very aware of the work he had ahead of him. He represented that the extra time was needed to allow him to prepare and lay out the plan for remaining work and timetable.

On March 18, 2014 the matter was further continued to May 20, 2014. This continuance was due to the severity of the winter and actually requested by the code enforcement officer. Mr. Lampert was given until May 1, 2014 to finish the windows and screens and until the end of August to finish the fascia, chimneys etc.

Mr. Lampert failed to appear for the court date on May 20, 2014 and a warrant was issued. Mr. Lampert did not address the warrant until another citation was issued on January 1, 2015.

Mr. Lampert's court date on the two cases was set for February 17, 2015 and he appeared with attorney Steven Meisinger. They asked for time to consider options and the offer. It was granted and the matter was continued to April 21, 2015.

On April 21, 2015 Mr. Lampert and his attorney appeared. They told me that the property was being foreclosed upon and that the Sheriff's sale had already happened. They agreed that they would continue working on the glass and screens and have that work done by July 21, 2015. If that was complete, he would need to have at least half of the roof done by September. The two cases were continued to August 18, 2015 for a compliance hearing.

Before the August 18th compliance hearing I learned that the property had gone into vacant building status due to Xcel shutoff. It appeared that the redemption period was almost up. At that point I believed that Mr. Lampert lacked the funding and capacity to complete the work. Given the vacant building status and the need for a full code compliance report I did not believe continuation of the criminal cases was warranted. The sentence on the 2012 case was vacated and a misdemeanor conviction with a fine imposed.

I believe all photos associated with the cases will be coming to you as part of the complete file. If not, please let me know and I will PDF them to you for your files.

Please let me know if you need anything further – Thanks - Therese