



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, October 28, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m.
City Council Conference Room, 10th Floor City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Garza called the meeting to order at 4:00pm

PRESENT

Council Member Jeremy Garza, Chair
Council Member Carol Wood, Vice Chair
Council Member Brian T. Jackson, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Renee Richmond, Council Staff
Mary Bowen, OCA
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance
Council Member Betz
Kyle Kaminski

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OCTOBER 14, 2021, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION – Orders to Make Safe or Demolish to the owners of property located at 4108 Deerfield Avenue

Scott Sanford stated this was tagged due to fire damage and tabled multiple times as they said they were going to pull permits. There have been three different builders now the owners are on a fourth, but there as been no permits, inspections or action. All previous permits have expired, we recommend MSD 30 days. Council Member Garza asked if they asked for extensions and Mr. Sanford confirmed they were granted three. Mr. Sanford continued that his office received a call from the electrical contractor and cancelled his permit citing concerns that Mrs. Titus couldn't handle the repairs and process. He also stated that they've spoke with Mrs. Titus several times and have posted the notice and still no work being done. Council Member Garza asked Mr. Sanford to follow up one last time with her so we are doing out due diligence and Mr. Sandford confirmed the notice will be posted on the building and sent out to the property owners. Council Member Wood asked Mr. Sanford that once he reaches out and if she responds, can he make sure she understands the requirements for funding, timeline and permits pulled and paid for. Mr. Sanford confirmed.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH TO THE OWNERS OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4108 DEERFIELD AVENUE. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

DISCUSSION – 1428 New York Avenue

Council Member Garza informed the Committee that at the Council meeting on the 11th, two handwritten statements were presented regarding 1428 New York Avenue. Ms. Monroe's statement included that she lives across the street from the home, and this house is used for drugs, parties and to verbally abuse neighbors. Cars are lined up everywhere on both sides of the street, people can't get to their own homes. People pass out in lawns and walk through front and back yards that are not theirs. There was a red tag on it and they ripped it off and keep living there. Mr. Sanford confirmed it was red tagged on 10/23/2019 with an outstanding tax bill over \$3,000. It was owned by Leonard and Andrea Sklar and they sold to Ameil Moore, who the Department haven't seen or heard from. Council Member Garza noted that it a neighbor said there is no electricity, and the people are running a generator and Mr. Sanford confirm they continue to rip off the red tags, that this is a LPD issue and not a code issue. Council Member Wood indicated the first issue is there are reports of drugs, gambling and prostitution, OCA needs to send a letter registered mail to the owner or record. There is a timeline in which this needs to be done and then LPD can investigate so it can be deemed a nuisance, also maybe an alarm put on it so when they try to get in it would be trespassing. Mary Bowen said that when LPD responds it needs to be cited as a red tag trespass, it has to be specific. Council Member Wood asked if it would be possible to get the owner for a meeting with Code, OCA, LPD and explain what is going to happen. Council Member Garza noted that the last paid taxes were Summer of 2019. Council Member Garza asked about a letter regarding trash and Mr. Sanford said a letter went out and was submitted on 10/25 and boarded up again, if the guys can get on the property but people staying there are telling code officers they can't be there and are being verbally abusive. Mr. Sanford stated that a few issues are that LPD is not enforcing when called out to the property, and there are a lot of young officers that just don't know the process and what they are able to do. Council Member Garza requested a follow up at the next meeting and to include OCA/Code/LPD, and Brian McGrain. Council Member Jackson mentioned that OCA once did a training and when LPD goes out to a house and gives a warning the first time and can inform them that subsequent visits could result in an arrest that might help. Council Member Betz concurred this is being used as a drug house, it was boarded up and the continue to break in the back of the house. Council Member Betz mentioned 2304 Forest Avenue and that Mr. Sanford hit it on the head that Code and LPD keep sending it back to each other. Mr. Sanford explained that 2304 Forest is a parking issue not a code issue therefore it goes to LPD to handle, and they were told to move the vehicle. Council Member Wood added that a commercial vehicle cannot park in a residential area, Mr. Sanford added that there was no plate or registration and Council Member Wood commented to tag it abandoned. Mr. Sanford said LPD informed the person if it wasn't disabled to move it. Council Member Bets added that the guy is running a business out of his home, there is a woodchipper, and other equipment. Mr. Sanford concluded that they met with the owner and all ID come back to that home, he is paying utilities, it used to be a rental and is not anymore, so this is a LPD issue not Code. Council Member Betz mentioned the zoning code for commercial and Mr. Sanford stated zoning code covers property

OTHER

Council Member Garza asked Mr. Sanford about a property on Mt. Hope between Cedar and Washington across from Forest, that is a two story and the status and wasn't sure on the address. Mr. Sanford indicated there was one currently in Demo on Mt. Hope and would look into the status.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:24pm

Submitted by Renee Richmond

Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved as presented on November 18, 2021