

HOUSING COMMITTEE  
Mayors Conference Room  
September 16, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Carolyn Bloomquist and Council Members James Ventura, A. John Calamunci and James McElrath

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Shirley A. Sanfilippo, Director of Development Steven Centi, Housing Inspector Bill Jones, Fire Inspector David Crossley, Corporation Counsel Marilyn Fiore-Nieves

Chairperson Bloomquist called the meeting to order.

The Committee discussed the storage of items on porches. Mr. Jones suggested that they could tweak the language in the code to better define terms such as "refuse". Councilman Calamunci asked for a recommendation from staff.

Chairperson Bloomquist asked if lawn-mowing charges could be charged to the tax bill. Corporation Counsel Fiore-Nieves advised that an improvement to the property could be assessed against the property after a specific period of time. She cautioned against going on private property as it could be considered trespassing. Mr. Centi apprised the Committee that in the case of a demolition, they always sought a court order before beginning.

The Committee discussed vacant lots and buildings. Councilman Calamunci suggested that the Committee establish a goal of reducing the listing by a specific number or percentage and outline the steps necessary to reach the goal. He asked staff to determine what might be a realistic goal to set. He would like to see a plan to put people into some of these vacant houses. Mr. Centi stated that they should first get the list as accurate as possible and then go through it to separate out the ones that should be demolished and the ones that could be rehabilitated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Shirley A. Sanfilippo, MMC, RMC  
City Clerk