

HOUSING COMMITTEE
Mayors Conference Room
December 6, 2004

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman James Ventura

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Shirley A. Sanfilippo, Corporation Counsel Marilyn Fiore-Nieves, Fire Inspector David Crossley, Housing Inspector Bob Weeks, Director of Development Steve Centi, Housing Inspector Greg Moran, Catherine Cavalier, John Whittaker of The Post-Journal

Chairperson Bloomquist called the meeting to order.

The Committee discussed Section 215 of the City Code relative to the issue of court costs. Mr. Centi suggested that the reference to court costs be changed to administrative costs. Corporation Counsel Fiore-Nieves stated that these costs were no different than the surcharge that is imposed by New York State. This surcharge is never waived. She will speak with the Judge regarding this issue. Mr. Weeks advised that at times there are adjournments due to circumstances beyond the control of the property owner and expressed concerns that a mandatory charge would be unfair in these instances. Mr. Centi felt that there might be a way to handle an adjournment. Councilman Calamunci would rather see that the property owner put the money towards property repairs than court costs in cases where the individual was trying to fix up their property. Corporation Counsel Fiore-Nieves suggested that language could be incorporated to allow for a minimum administrative fee of \$50.00. Mr. Moran said that the Judge should be allowed to waive the costs if the money was going toward repairing the property. Chairperson Bloomquist asked the Corporation Counsel to research a graduated schedule and report back to the Committee at their meeting next week.

The Committee discussed repairs to stairs. Chairperson Bloomquist questioned whether the City could stipulate that stairs be maintained according to the architectural period of the house. She was concerned over the appearance of the City. Mr. Centi stated that the current code addressed the strength of the stairs. Some of those present expressed concern over what might be aesthetically pleasing to one person, may not be to another and the difficulty in determining what the original construction of the stairs was. Mr. Weeks pointed out that when stairs are totally replaced they must be in compliance with the current code.

Councilman McElrath stressed that they need to get something in the code to address the storage of materials on open porches. Councilman Calamunci asked Corporation Counsel Fiore-Nieves what they could add to our code to address this problem. She will review and report back at the next meeting. Mr. Centi cautioned that whatever is added, must be enforceable.

The Committee discussed demolition costs and procedures.

The agenda for the next meeting will include the storage of non-trash items on porches and the administrative fees for court appearances.

Councilman McElrath made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a specific property and possible properties for demolition.

Carried: 3 ayes, 0 nays

Mr. Whittaker left.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Cavalier left.

No action was taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Shirley A. Sanfilippo, MMC, RMC
City Clerk