

HOUSING COMMITTEE
Mayors Conference Room
December 13, 2004

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

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Shirley A. Sanfilippo, Corporation Counsel Marilyn Fiore-Nieves, Captain Lee Davies, Housing Inspector Greg Moran, Housing Inspector Bill Jones

Chairperson Bloomquist called the meeting to order.

Department of Development staff advised that Ms. Cavalier to date has not provided the documents that were requested.

Corporation Counsel Fiore-Nieves discussed the proposed mandatory appearance fee. The \$50.00 surcharge could be mandated for each required appearance in court. She felt that the discretionary action could come from the Department of Development with the issuance of an appearance ticket. Councilman Calamunci stated that they need to be clear that this is a last resort utilized to address the chronic violators. He questioned the use of an escalating scale of fees. Mr. Moran advised that many times the tenant is the one who has created the problem. Chairperson Bloomquist felt that it was the landlord's business and their responsibility. Mr. Moran reminded that there are professional deadbeats who take advantage of the landlords. Corporation Counsel Fiore-Nieves advised that legally, they couldn't go after the tenants. Chairperson Bloomquist asked if housing code fines could be attached to tax bills. The Corporation Counsel will look into this and report back to the Committee.

Mr. Moran discussed the problem of people continuing to live in dwellings that have been posted not to be occupied. He wondered if hours could be established when the dwelling could be worked on. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Chairperson Bloomquist expressed concerns over the direction that the Housing Committee was taking. She felt that they should be looking to raise the standards by strengthening the code. She wants to look into the goals of the Committee. Councilman Ventura stated that sometimes you can't move as fast as you would like.

The agenda for the next meeting will include the storage of non-trash items on porches; an update on unregistered vehicles; update on the demolition plan for 2005; and a discussion on foreclosure counseling that is available.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Shirley A. Sanfilippo, MMC, RMC
City Clerk