



Ray Roa <rroa@cltampa.com>

Fwd: City Statement / Background Information: 3602 Emerson

Arielle Stevenson <arielle@cltampa.com>
To: Ray Roa <rroa@cltampa.com>

Tue, Oct 24, 2023 at 5:05 PM

See below.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Erica V. Riggins** <Erica.Riggins@stpete.org>

Date: Fri, Oct 20, 2023 at 4:17 PM

Subject: City Statement / Background Information: 3602 Emerson

To: Arielle Stevenson <arielle@cltampa.com>

Cc: Alizza T. Punzalan-Randle <Alizza.Punzalan-Randle@stpete.org>, Chandrasaha S. Srinivasa <Chandrasaha.Srinivasa@stpete.org>

Hello Arielle,

Our Codes Compliance Director, Joe Waugh, provided the following statement and background information for the address associated with your Public Records Request.

City Statement/Background:

“The City of St. Petersburg has been working with Ms. Maxwell over the past six months to assist with correcting the code violations caused by the fire that occurred at her residence.

Initially, we connected Ms. Maxwell with the City’s Housing and Community Development program, which offers funding for residents needing repairs to their homes for code violations, safety issues, and accessibility issues. Housing staff worked closely with Ms. Maxwell to better understand the repair needs for her property but determined that the scope of work required major repairs beyond the program’s capacity.

The Codes Compliance department then assigned a Community Support Specialist to work with Ms. Maxwell for repair work assistance from the city’s Neighborhood Team (N-Team), which provides free home improvement services to homeowners who are elderly, disabled, or low-income. During an in-person meeting with Ms. Maxwell, the city’s Community Support Specialist explained the repair work that we could assist with and reviewed the service agreement to allow the N-Team to complete the work on her property. Our N-Team completed the following list of repair items and support services:

- Provided a dumpster, free of charge from our Sanitation Department, to help with removal of debris from the property.
- Assisted with debris removal, including emptying the dumpster multiple times and returning it to the property for ongoing recovery efforts.
- Cut down and removed all vegetative overgrowth outside the home.
- Attempted to install a temporary tarp over the roof to ensure there wasn’t further deterioration to the structure, but the conditions were unsafe and the compromised structural integrity would not support the tarp installation.

Other minor violations were also corrected by the N-team, but the remaining violations are scheduled to be heard before the Code Enforcement Board on October 25th. This hearing is an opportunity for Ms. Maxwell to request additional time to correct the remaining violations at the

property before any fines would start to accrue. On average, the board has granted property owners in attendance an additional 80 days to correct violations, but it is common that even more time is granted in cases such as Ms. Maxwell's based on the circumstances.

Given the difficult situation that Ms. Maxwell is in due to the house fire last year, we have tried to offer comprehensive support and services to assist her in achieving our mutual goal of bringing her property into compliance, and we will continue to do so. We must also balance the situation with addressing concerns of her neighbors who have submitted multiple complaints regarding the conditions at the property.”

-Joe Waugh, Director of Codes Compliance, City of St. Petersburg

Please let us know if we can assist further.

Thanks,
Erica
C: 727-270-2670