



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 06/06/05
05-311

Communication No.:

Agenda Item Type: Receive and File
No.:

Roll Call

Submitted by: Larry Hulse, Director, Community Development

SUBJECT—

Ingleside Hills Council Speaker May 23, 2005.

SYNOPSIS—

On May 23, 2005, Robin Ghormley addressed the Council as the spokesperson for Ingleside Hills Neighborhood. Ingleside Hills is not a standalone City-recognized Neighborhood Association. It is a subset of the Drake Neighborhood Association. Ms. Ghormley related that she was dissatisfied with the response of Ed Leedom, the NBSD Inspector assigned to the Drake neighborhood. Her specific concerns were (1) vacant and abandoned residential structures in the Ingleside Hills neighborhood and (2) that Mr. Leedom did not attend their meeting on May 12th. The purpose of this communication is to clarify the facts surrounding their meetings on April 4th and May 12th.

Mr. Leedom could not attend the May 12th meeting and informed Ms. Ghormley that he could not attend because of a conflict with an NBSD Neighborhood Association meeting. However, he had prepared the information Ingleside Hills had requested and attempted to give that information to Ms. Ghormley.

FISCAL IMPACT—

None

RECOMMENDATION—

Receive and File

BACKGROUND—

On April 4, 2005, Mayor Cownie, Council Member Vlassis and Inspector Ed Leedom attended an Ingleside Hills neighborhood meeting at the senior center across the street from CCI. Approximately fifty people were attendance. The Mayor asked how many of the attendees were from Ingleside Hills, and approximately six people raised their hands. At the meeting, neighbors showed videos of buildings that they questioned as public nuisance structures. The video was time dated with a February date, but this was the first time these issues had been brought to the attention of Inspector Leedom.

Mr. Leedom explained to the group at the April 4th meeting that their complaints could be addressed more efficiently if they would call him directly on his cell phone when they found a property that they had issue with, rather than waiting for a meeting. He passed out his business cards and encouraged attendees to call with issues. In the following few weeks, he received calls from people who had been at the meeting who lived in other neighborhoods, but no calls were received from Ingleside Hills residents.

The properties in question are 1512-23rd, 1423-22nd, 1813-21st, 1822-21st and 1503-23rd.

1512-23rd, 1423-22nd and 1813-21st are all vacant and secure. After the April 4th meeting, Mr. Leedom sent letters to each of the property owners and requested permission for an interior inspection. In one case permission was denied, and the other two owners have not responded. Law requires that staff ask permission before requesting an administrative search warrant. The next step is to persuade the court that the City has sufficient grounds to require entry. Mr. Leedom believes that, based on the exterior inspection, the City would obtain a warrant. Staff is in the process of pursuing these warrants.

1822-21st is a property that was declared a public nuisance prior to the April 4th meeting, and staff is working it through that process.

Soon after the April 4th meeting, a major renovation was started on the property at 1503-23rd. Staff will continue to monitor this property to insure the renovation progress continues. As long as progress continues staff has no plans to declare it a public nuisance.

During the April 4th meeting, a second meeting was planned to discuss the progress that had been made in dealing with these structures. The second meeting was held on May 12, 2005. On either May 11th or 12th Ed Leedom discovered that he would either be late to the Ingleside Hills meeting or would not be able to attend at all due to a pressing conflict in one of his NBSD neighborhoods. Mr. Leedom phoned Robin Ghormley to inform her of his conflict and attempted to relate the information cited above. Ms. Ghormley refused to take the information. Mr. Leedom related that he would like to discuss the neighborhood expectations and his expectations as to how NBSD is supposed to work as a partnership. She was unwilling to deal

with that issue or to take the information that he was attempting to provide to the May 12th meeting.