

From: Margaret Romero

Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 10:39 AM

To: Cheri Smith <csmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Shawn D. Smith <sdsmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Thaddeus L. Cohen <tcohen@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Cc: Patrick Wright <pwright@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Larry Erskine <lerskine@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Subject: FW: 1324 20th Terr / Hearing April 5th 2016

This is the note I referenced last night at the BoA meeting. I am sending this per Shawn's suggestion.

I have not spoken with the parties involved.

Margaret

From: Margaret Romero

Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 6:54 PM

To: 'Carrie Olatin' <carrieolasin@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: 1324 20th Terr / Hearing April 5th 2016

Dear Ms. Olatin,

Please know that I have read your letter and am reviewing all the details in the package that has been given to us.

Thank you for contacting me.

Margaret

From: Carrie Olatin [<mailto:carrieolasin@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2016 1:28 PM

To: Margaret Romero <mromero@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Subject: 1324 20th Terr / Hearing April 5th 2016

As my commissioner Billy Wardlow had suggested that I am sending my letter of concern to you as well. I am thanking you in advance for your time and attention in this matter...

March 31, 2016

City Commission

3126 Flagler Ave.

Key West, FL 33040

Re: 1324 20th Terrace, Key West, FL 33040

Hearing April 5, 2016

Dear Commissioner Margaret Romero,

In 2011 we were blessed with the opportunity to move in to the house directly across the street from our mother, Natividad Vila, on 20th Terrace. We were given the opportunity to "rent to

own” through a verbal agreement of the (then) owners of 1327 20th Terrace. The current owners were close friends for many years and we were there for each other through the birth of their children, holidays, and the welcoming of their parents into this country with open arms.

We never thought they would renege on their agreement as we brought the house up to date in payments and the property was brought out of foreclosure due to our diligent payments. On December 24th, 2014, we received news from a realtor that the owner had worked with in a prior sale had partnered up and purchased the house that we were currently residing in.

You couldn’t possibly imagine what went through our heads. It was the holidays with the new year approaching. We had not saved up for a different home and certainly did not have saved up a first, last, and security deposit for a different home. We did not know where we were going to live or what we were going to do with our pets. We looked all over Key West and up and down the keys and did not find anything.

The best solution we thought would be to build a bedroom onto the current house that our mother resides in at 1324 20th Terrace, by closing in the carport. She is on her own in Key West, and as we know, it is very difficult for the elderly to live down here. We have always taken care of our mother, including her bills and maintaining her property for her. She is at the age where she really needs assistance and us living with her allows us to provide that for her.

Of course she needs privacy, as do we. This is why we started with the adding on of the bedroom. The bedroom that we added on has three glass doors that lead from one side of the house directly to the other, like an old shotgun house in old town. There are no doors inside the bedroom.

This is a place that we can call home as well as my other. We received notice that we had to be out of 1327th 20th Terrace by January 15th. We jumped into action and started building as soon as we could. We do acknowledge that we were red tagged during the building process. We apologize immensely for this. We listened to bad advice from someone we thought knew the mechanics of permitting, and were informed that we could keep building and pay fines after the fact. Additionally, time was closing in on us and we felt we would have no place to live.

The bedroom is properly strapped, the electricity and water piping are both installed properly. The fire department would still be able to get in between our house and our neighbors fence, as there is adequate clearance. All of our neighbors have also issued letters of support urging you to allow us to stay and be productive members of the neighborhood.

We are willing to do anything necessary to keep our home. We ask that you look at the human side of the equation and grant us the variance so that we can continue to live with and help our mother.

Thank you once again.

Sincerely,
Carrie Olatin & Emilio Vila