



CHARLOTTE™

**City Council
Follow-Up Report**

April 2, 2014

February 24, 2014 – Citizens’ Forum

CMPD Concerns of Thomas Lee Sowers

Staff Resource: Major Cam Selvey, CMPD, 704-353-105, cselvey@cmpd.org

Thomas Lee Sowers spoke to Council at the February 24 Citizen’s Forum regarding his ongoing concerns with the police investigation of an incident in which he was involved in September 2011. Mr. Sowers also questioned why he was denied admission to the Police Department’s Citizens Academy.

Police have investigated all of Mr. Sowers’ previous complaints which focused on the accuracy of the police reports related to his arrest. None of the complaints were sustained and none of them were eligible for review by the Citizen’s Review Board.

Mr. Sowers has recently filed another complaint to challenge the legality of the actual arrest. He has told CMPD’s Internal Affairs Unit that he wants an opportunity to be heard by the Citizen’s Review Board. Internal Affairs has taken the new complaint and will hold an Independent Chain of Command Review Board. Mr. Sowers will be informed of the board’s findings and will be given information on how to appeal the findings to the Citizen’s Review Board.

Mr. Sowers submitted a new application for the Citizen’s Academy on February 25, 2014. He was invited to join the next Citizen’s Academy class, which began on March 11, 2014, and has since accepted the invitation to join the class.

March 24, 2014 – Business Meeting

Agenda Item #55C – In Rem Remedy, 4035 Hovis Street

Staff Resources: Ann Wall, City Manager’s Office, 704-336-3187, awall@charlottenc.gov

Ben Krise, Neighborhood & Business Services, 704-336-2485, bkrise@charlottenc.gov

At the March 24 City Council meeting, Mrs. Veronica Hilliard approached the City Council following the conclusion of the meeting. Mrs. Hilliard had intended to speak to the City Council regarding the In Rem action on the property at 4035 Hovis Street. On Friday, March 28, the City Council received the attached follow up report providing the inspection history on the property from August 2013 until March 2014.

Staff has provided an additional inspection update to the March 28 report included in the Manager’s memo:



The reinspection of 4035 Hovis Road was rescheduled for, and conducted on, Monday, March 31, 2014. All violations that were identified in the original write-up (attached above) still remain in violation. Ms. Hilliard claimed that multiple items had been corrected but the City's Code Enforcement review indicated they were still in violation.

Permits for all trades were acquired by Ms. Hilliard on Friday March 28, 2014 with a stated project cost of \$18,000. The City's cost estimate to bring the property into Minimum Housing Code compliance is \$40,895. Staff inquired with Ms. Hilliard regarding the substantial variation, and she stated that was the price her contractor quoted.

At this time, there is no justification to grant additional time. The violations, including structural, plumbing and heating violations, are extensive: areas of flooring and sub-structure are loose, rotted, or missing; wall coverings are damaged by moisture; window panes are broken; wall framing is not structurally sound; roof sheathing is decayed; piers are leaning in the crawl space; plumbing fixtures are loose; the water heater is not operational, and heating equipment is not maintained, in good order, or repair. Some of these images are captured in the PowerPoint attachment below.

Additionally, Ms. Hillard currently has nine open Minimum Housing Code cases on her properties, six of which are older than six months. Code Enforcement will be moving forward with the demolition process for the structure located at 4035 Hovis Road. It is estimated that the actual on site demolition will begin the week of April 14, 2014.



4035 Hovis.pdf