

The City of Wauchula Code Enforcement met for its regularly scheduled hearing on August 24, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Special Magistrate Elliott Mitchell called the hearing to order and administered the oath to those testifying.

Also present at the hearing were Code Enforcement Officer Raina Bergens and Communications Coordinator Katie Wheeler.

NEW CASES:

23-073-M 201 S 6th Ave Diamond Dollar Realty LLC

Bergens presented photographic evidence and stated this case was opened on the Family Dollar on May 4, 2023. Bergens testified there was mold and mildew on the exterior of the building, as well as a downed fence around the retention pond, both of which had been taken care of prior to this hearing. Bergens stated the only thing left to do was to replace the signage on the front of the building.

Austin Palombizio 6921 Pistol Range Rd Unit 101 – Mintzer Sarowitz Zeris Ledva & Meyers LLP Palombizio explained the process the store is required to follow in order for Corporate to assign a maintenance team. Palombizio requested 30 days to complete the signage and pressure washing.

Special Magistrate Mitchell found a violation did exist and agreed to the 30 day extension (9/29/23) with no fine imposed.

23-086-M 815 N 8th Ave (Est of) Mervin Morse

Bergens presented photographic evidence and stated this case was opened on May 31, 2023. Bergens testified there was damage to a shed behind the house during a hurricane. She stated she has noticed work going on at the house but the shed is still in need of repair. Bergens also stated Mr. Morse's brother did call her and advised he had sold the house, therefore Bergens was ok with an extension in order to give the new owners time to fix it.

Special Magistrate Mitchell found a violation did exist and granted a 30 day extension (9/29/23) with no fine imposed.

23-092-M 120 N 8th Ave Dexter Cotton

Bergens presented photographic evidence and stated this case was opened on June 6, 2023. Bergens testified this residence is in the historical district and is in need of a paint job. Bergens explained Mr. Cotton did call her and explained that he needs to secure funding in order to paint the house. Because of the approval process he will need to go through with the Historic Preservation Board, Bergens suggested that Cotton request a 6 month extension. An email request from Cotton was provided.

Special Magistrate Mitchell found a violation did exist. Mitchell agreed to the extension (2/29/24) and imposed a fine of \$100 per day if not completed by that date.

23-094-M 1070 S Florida Ave Dany Gamaliel / Maria Guadalupe Macias Hernandez

Christina Trevino – City of Wauchula (for translation)

Bergens presented photographic evidence and stated this case was opened on June 7, 2023 due to maintenance needed on the house and the lot. Bergens testified there was a lot of

damage due to hurricanes, including roof damage and windows busted out. Bergens also stated the house may need to be demolished due to the extensive damage inside and out.

The homeowners were present and stated they were in the process of trying to determine who to speak to about their options. They said they would prefer to repair the home but were unsure if that was possible or if they need to demolish it. Bergens advised the homeowner to contact a contractor for an estimate and then weigh their options based on whatever is most feasible for them.

Special Magistrate Mitchell continued this case until the next hearing. He advised the homeowners to either appear in person or call Bergens ahead of time and explain what they've decided to do with house.

23-101-M **319 N 9th Ave** **Edilberto Diego**

This case was closed prior to the hearing.

23-123-L **0 S 8th Ave** **Easy Home Deals LLC**

Bergens presented photographic evidence and stated this case was opened on June 7, 2023. Bergens testified the tall grass had been mowed prior to the hearing however there were 3 fallen trees that still needed to be removed. Bergens did state the City would be removing 1 of the trees near the easement which would leave the owner with 2 trees to take care of. Bergens stated the owner had been in contact with her and advised they need more time.

Special Magistrate Mitchell found a violation did exist and granted a 30 day extension (9/29/23) to complete the work or a fine of \$100 per day would be imposed after that date.

23-127-L **907 S 8th Ave** **Allen Lester & Kathy Lynn Lester**

This case was closed prior to the hearing.

With no further business to discuss, Special Magistrate Mitchell adjourned the hearing at 10:23 a.m.

Special Magistrate Elliott Mitchell

City Clerk Stephanie Camacho