

The City of Wauchula Code Enforcement met for its regularly scheduled hearing on March 23, 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, Customer Service Representative Karla De La Cruz (for translation purposes) and City Clerk Stephanie Camacho.

NEW CASES:

New Case – 23-024-CV (Repeat) 404 Wisconsin Avenue Jose & Elsa Gonzalez

CE Officer Bergens testified and presented photographic evidence which Special Magistrate Mitchell accepted. Bergens stated she noticed a semi parked in the yard as she was driving by on February 14, 2023. Bergens stated that Mr. Gonzalez is aware that it is a violation to park a semi there because he has been fined for this in the past, therefore this is a repeat offense. Special Magistrate Mitchell addressed Mr. Gonzalez. Mr. Gonzalez confirmed that the semi was parked there for about 5 days and stated that the electric company was doing work where he usually parks so he moved the semi to give them space. CE Officer Bergens and Special Magistrate Mitchell both to make sure he calls and communicates any future emergencies that may come up requiring him to temporarily park the semi at the residence. Special Magistrate Mitchell stated his findings were a violation existed and imposed a one-time fine of \$25. Special Magistrate Mitchell also advised Mr. Gonzalez that, if this happens again, the fine will be increased.

New Case – 23-008-NA 609 N 8th Avenue Mirella Rodriguez

CE Officer Bergens testified and presented photographic evidence which Special Magistrate Mitchell accepted. Bergens stated this case was opened on January 13, 2023. Bergens gave a history of the case. Bergens stated there are 2 inoperable vehicles on the property. Special Magistrate Mitchell addressed Ms. Rodriguez. Karla De La Cruz translated. Ms. Rodriguez stated that the vehicles belong to her tenant. She has told him the vehicles cannot be there and has even had an officer come out to the house. Rodriguez stated the officer said it was ok for the vehicles to be there. Special Magistrate Mitchell stated his findings were a violation existed and gave 60 days (May 23, 2023) to have the vehicles removed from the property. If the vehicles are removed within 60 days, there will be no fine. If the vehicles are not removed within 60 days, there will be an automatic fine of \$100 per day until they are removed. Special Magistrate Mitchell also advised Ms. Rodriguez to call CE Officer Bergens when they are removed. Bergens also advised Ms. Rodriguez that, even if the tenant removes these cars, he cannot bring other inoperable cars to the property.

New Case – 23-012-NA 316 Ohio Street Alejandro & Joann Castillo

CE Officer Bergens testified and presented photographic evidence which Special Magistrate Mitchell accepted. Bergens stated this case was opened on February 1, 2023. Ewil Mejia was present to speak about this. Special Magistrate Mitchell addressed Mr. Mejia. Mejia stated that the silver car belonged to another tenant and the orange car was his. Mejia stated that the orange car did have some mechanical issues and he had been working on it as time permitted. Special Magistrate Mitchell advised Mejia that, per City ordinance, a vehicle cannot sit on blocks for any amount of time. Due to the silver car having apparently been moved and operable, Special Magistrate Mitchell stated he would not impose any fines for it. Special Magistrate Mitchell stated his findings for the orange car belonging to Mr. Mejia were a

violation existed and gave 30 days (April 24, 2023) to remove the vehicle or have it clearly operable, otherwise a fine would be imposed of \$50 per day.

New Case – 23-013-L

207 Goolsby Street

Mary Cobb

CE Officer Bergens testified and presented photographic evidence which Special Magistrate Mitchell accepted. Bergens stated this case was opened on January 30, 2023. Bergens stated Ms. Cobb had tenants there that were already evicted and Cobb has been attempting to get the property cleaned up. Special Magistrate Mitchell addressed Ms. Cobb and noted that it is apparent she is making the effort to fix the problem. Special Magistrate Mitchell stated his findings were a violation existed and gave 30 days (April 24, 2023) to have the property cleaned up, otherwise a fine would be imposed of \$50 per day.

New Case – 23-030-NA

421 S 10th Avenue

Southside Baptist Church Inc.

This case was closed prior to the Code Enforcement hearing.

CERIFICATION OF FINES / LIENS:

21-096-L

111 N 10th Avenue

Mary McClenithan

CE Officer Raina Bergens stated nothing has been done to fix the problem. Fines accumulated so far total \$16,950. Special Magistrate Mitchell stated his findings were a violation is continuing and the fine is appropriate.

22-098-M

217 W Palmetto Street

PMA FIDU INC as Trustee

Special Magistrate Mitchell agreed to the lien of \$18,000.

*Due to not having a notary available at the hearing, case 21-096-L and 22-098-M will be added back to the agenda for the April 27, 2023 Code Enforcement hearing.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS HEARING MINUTES:

The January 23, 2023 minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no one in the audience to speak.

With no further business to discuss, Special Magistrate Mitchell adjourned the hearing at 10:39 a.m.

Special Magistrate Elliott Mitchell

City Clerk Stephanie Camacho