

The City of Wauchula Code Enforcement met for its regularly scheduled hearing on September 22, 2022 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 City Clerk Holly Smith.

Old Case – 22-027-M 521 S. Florida Avenue Gordon B & Deborah L Starratt

CE Officer Bergens testified and presented photographic evidence which Special Magistrate Mitchell accepted. CE Officer Bergens stated Starratt was approximately 90-95% finished with the siding. Bergens stated Starratt has plans to put a front porch on the residence. Special Magistrate Mitchell asked Starratt how long would this take him to complete. Special Magistrate Mitchell stated his findings were a violation existed and gave 30 days (October 22nd) for compliance with no fine at this time.

NEW CASES:

New Case – 22-127-NA 401 S 1st Avenue Martina G. Castillo

CE Officer Bergens testified and presented photographic evidence which Special Magistrate Mitchell accepted. Bergens stated there was a car at the residence with no tag, a truck sitting on the concrete and the other truck that was there had been removed.

Martina Castillo – 401 S 1st Avenue

Rodriguez addressed Special Magistrate Mitchell and stated the truck on the concrete did run and she planned on getting a tag for the little black car. Special Magistrate Mitchell stated his findings were a violation existed and gave 30 days (October 22nd) for total compliance or a \$50 a day fine would be imposed until brought into total compliance.

New Case – 22-098-M 217 W Palmetto Street PMA FIDU INC as Trustee

CE Officer Bergens testified and presented photographic evidence which Special Magistrate Mitchell accepted. Bergens stated the case was opened June 29, 2022. No one was in attendance for this case. Special Magistrate Mitchell stated his findings were a violation existed and gave until October 2nd for total compliance or a \$150 a day fine would be imposed until brought into total compliance.

New Case – 22-121-L 1104 S 6th Avenue Joseph D Boms

CE Officer Bergens testified and presented photographic evidence which Special Magistrate Mitchell accepted. Bergens stated the case was opened August 5, 2022 and was the Dollar General Store. No one was in attendance for this case. Special Magistrate Mitchell stated his findings were a violation existed and gave until October 2nd for total compliance or a \$100 a day fine would be imposed until brought into total compliance.

New Case – 22-122-L 312 Illinois Avenue Brenda Brush

CE Officer Bergens testified and presented photographic evidence which Special Magistrate Mitchell accepted. Bergens stated the case was opened August 8, 2022 and was called to the residence by the Wauchula Police Department. Bergens stated she has only addressed the lot and nuisance accumulation and the County and Health Department was addressing the inside of the house. No one was in attendance for this case. Bergens stated Ms. Brush was still in the County Jail. Bergens stated two relatives had contacted her and she advised them to get authorization from Brush before they did anything to the property. Bergens noted the property has homesteaded. Special Magistrate Mitchell

stated his findings were violations did exist and gave until October 12th for total compliance or a \$10 a day fine would be imposed until brought into total compliance.

New Case – 22-123-NA

312 Illinois Avenue

Brenda Brush

Smith advised Special Magistrate Mitchell and Bergens she had received a message that someone was on the way to the meeting to speak on behalf of Ms. Brush. Special Magistrate put a hold on the case.

Old Case – 22-035-M

503 Indiana Avenue

Anna Maria Rodriguez

CE Officer Bergens presented the case to Special Magistrate Mitchell and informed him the case was a continuance from June. Bergens stated the property owner was close to being completed and did not have any objections to giving a little more time. No one was in attendance for this case Special Magistrate Mitchell stated his findings were a violation existed and gave 30 days (October 22nd) for compliance with no fine at this time.

Special Magistrate Mitchell reopened Brenda Brush cases 22-122-L and 22-123-NA, 312 Illinois Avenue.

Special Magistrate Mitchell swore in Jessica Johnson

Special Magistrate Mitchell stated he received photographic evidence and testimony from CE Officer Bergens and violations do exist.

Jessica Johnson – 3515 VA Lane Wauchula

Johnson addressed Special Magistrate Mitchell and explained she was Brush's boyfriend's daughter and there was only herself and one other person cleaning up the property. Johnson presented photos to Special Magistrate Mitchell. Special Magistrate Mitchell stated he would put the photos in the file. Special Magistrate Mitchell asked Johnson how much time did she need. Bergens stated they are going to need more than 30 days. Special Magistrate Mitchell stated he was revising his previous ruling on case 22-122-L.

Special Magistrate Mitchell stated his findings were violations did exist on both cases and gave 60 days (November 22nd) for total compliance or a \$100 a day fine would be imposed on each case until they were brought into total compliance.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS HEARING MINUTES:

The August 25, 2022 minutes will be sent to Special Magistrate Mitchell for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no one in the audience to speak.

With no further business to discuss, Special Magistrate Mitchell adjourned the hearing at 10:31 a.m.

Special Master Elliott Mitchell

City Clerk Holly Smith