

SPECIAL MAGISTRATE HEARING
City Commission Meeting Room
Judge Floyd Hull, Presiding
January 24, 2005
9:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

Staff Present:

Eve Bazer, Administrative Assistant
Nadine Blue, Service Clerk
Dick Eaton, Secretary
Maurice Murray, Community Code Supervisor

Also Present:

*Martha Menendez, CE02020446

*Massey Hearing

NOTE: All individuals who presented information to the Special Magistrate during these proceedings affirmed they would speak only the truth.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. Judge Hull introduced himself and explained his role in ensuring adherence with the City's codes. He also pointed out that the proceedings were being recorded.

Reference CE02020446

Martha Menendez
3728 Southwest 12th Place

Massey Hearing

Ms. Bazer announced that fines had accrued in the amount of \$ 84,300.

Ms. Menendez reminded Judge Hull of the history of her case. She had last appeared before Judge hull in November 2004. City Commissioners had agreed to eliminate the property's fines if Ms. Menendez were to enroll in the First Time Buyers program. Ms. Menendez had subsequently found a non-profit organization representative who found a first-time buyer for the house.

Meanwhile, an unscrupulous couple had been trying to take the house away from Ms. Menendez's mother. When the Commissioners told the couple they would not be allowed to get the house, they had retaliated by obtaining a \$60,000 lien on the home. In November, Judge Hull had advised Ms. Menendez to wait for the lien to expire; she could then come back before Judge Hull and the fines could be abated. The lien had expired in December and not been renewed and the house had been complied for some time.

Special Magistrate Hearing

January 24, 2005

Page 2

Mr. Maurice Murray, Community Code Supervisor, confirmed that the case had begun in February 2002; the Code Team had become involved in September and November 2002. There were six violations with fines that ran from early 2002. The City Commission had agreed to reduce the fines to \$77,400 in November 2003.

Ms. Menendez explained that past tenants had caused all of the damage. Ms. Menendez was living in Key West at the time and could not physically keep on top of repairs. When she finally had the tenants evicted, they had removed flooring, plumbing, appliances, and ceiling fans.

Judge Hull abated the fines.

There being no further business, the hearing was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Special Magistrate

ATTEST:

Clerk, Special Magistrate