Jeffrey H. Sutherland

A Professional Corporation Attorney at Law

2106 New Road, Suite F-4 Linwood, NJ 08221

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Telephone: (609) 926-0705 Facsimile: (609) 926-0741

April 13, 2015

Dorothy McCrosson, City Solicitor City of Ocean City 861 Asbury Avenue Ocean City, New Jersey 08226

RE:

Our Clients: Residents of the 400 Block of Asbury Avenue

and Central Avenue

Subject Property: The former Palermo's Supermarket

a/k/a (Block 407, Lot 10)

Dear Ms. McCrosson:

Please be advised that my firm represents the interests of a group of residents that reside in the area of the 400 Block of Central Avenue and Asbury Avenue regarding their concerns with the ongoing deplorable condition of the former Palermo's Supermarket.

I have had the opportunity to review a copy of the Department of Community Affairs file on this property. The materials include notices, complaints and violations and it is about an inch thick going back 2006. I attached a printout provided by the City that appears to have been created on August 8, 2014. (See enclosed).

I have also selected a few complaints and notices from the City and neighbors, including the following: a formal Notice of Unsafe Structure was issued on March 30, 2012 referring to debris falling from Soffit/overhang, a letter from a neighbor - Susan Morrison, a notice from a neighbor that 2 small children were seen leaving the abandoned store in May, 2012 and a report from the City dated 12/5/2014 that has a specific notation from Ken Jones that states; "Structure is extremely dangerous, unsafe for entry to have extermination due to deterioration of roofing and lock of floor and subfloor. ", and recent NOVs issued by the City dated December 5, 2014 and 2/11/2015. The building remains in deplorable and a hazardous condition. Considering that your law office is only two blocks away on Asbury Avenue I assume you are familiar with the property.

It is also known that there is contamination on the site as a result of a leaking UST, that could be migrating off site to neighboring properties.

Please accept this letter as formal notice that the City could be held liable for allowing a dangerous condition to exist pursuant to NJSA 59:4-3. In particular, the City has particular

ordinances to force the owners of the property to maintain the property, and/or demolish the property and by failing to do so it has created a dangerous condition along the public sidewalks and alleys abutting the Palermo's Supermarket which could result in injury to our clients abutting properties and the general public using the public right of ways.

In addition, if the building should collapse or catch on fire it could impact the surrounding neighborhood or general public and an action could be brought against the City seeking damages. In particular, the City should enforce the immently dangerous buildings section of City Ordinance 12-9. City ordinance 12-9.7 defines an imminently dangerous building as "any structure or building when it is:

a. Unfit for human habitation or occupancy or use, or,

b. Dangerous to the health and safety of persons on or near it, or

c. Dangerous to the health, safety and general welfare of people in the city; and

d. The building or structure is also found to be in such condition that it cannot be reasonably repaired and/or otherwise cannot be made to comply with the standards applicable to it.

The former Palermo's building meets most if not all of these categories and definitive action needs to be taken. The Ordinance gives the City clear authority to take action against the property owner and if the owners do not comply, it allows the City to demolish the property.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter

Very traffy yours

Jeffyy M Sutherland

JHS/dlp

cc: Barbara Karbach, Kathy and Michael Megargee, Susan Phillips, Cosmos Pagano, Helen McSweeny and Phyllis Coletta

to 08/08/2014
08/08/1999
pplications from
list of A

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407 Spections	10	ī		COMPLAINT PALERM 401 ASBURY AVE OCEAN CITY	PALERMO & PALERMO EAN CITY	401 ASBURY AVE	05/17/2006	
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407	10	1/20 -	07/17/2006	COMPLAINT PALERM 401 ASBURY AVE OCEAN CITY	PALERMO & PALERMO SAN CITY	401 ASBURY AVE	07/21/2006	

oor Run For City Of Ocean City

07/20/2007

401 ASBURY AVE

401 ASBURY AVE OCEAN CITY

Site Inspected

Result

Inspector

SubPrograms

Inspection Date

07/12/2007 07/20/2007

07/12/2007

ReqDate

Ref Number

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07/20/2007

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Inspection Inspection

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Resolved

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JCP CO INC: STEPHEN PALERMO

401 ASBURY AVE OCEAN CITY

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401 ASBURY AVE

401 ASBURY AVE

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out Run For City Of Ocean City

03/17/2010

401 ASBURY AVE

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	2	- 0//22/10	010 COMPLAINT PALERM 401 ASBURY AVE OCEAN CITY	PALERMO & PALERMO OCEAN CITY	401 ASBURY AVE	07/26/2010
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100205381	07/14/2010	010077170		IIIspector	Result	
100205201	0102/11/10	0107/41/10	Inspection	KMS	Site Inspected	
100202381	01/13/2010	07/15/2010	Inspection	KMS	Citation	
0206527	07/26/2010	07/26/2010	Inspection	KMS	Resolved	
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100207500	00/25/2010	03/23/2010	Inspection	REH	Letter Sent	
0207544	03/23/2010	10/01/2010	Inspection	REH	Resolved	
707	0.1					
101	01	- 10/07/2010	0 COMPLAINT	PALERMO & PALERMO	ANI ACDIDY AVE	

VII Cases

Close Date		02/02/2011		02/02/2011
Address Owner Telephone	Result Site Inspected Citation I Resolved	NS 401 ASBURY AVE	Result Site Inspected Citation I Resolved	A01 ASBURY AVE Result Site Inspected Citation I Reviewed Reviewed Resolved Resolved
Owner Name	Inspector KMS KMS KMS	ENVIROMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS CT MAYS LANDING	Inspector KMS KMS KMS	CALMAR ASSOCIATES LLC DROTHY Inspector KMS KMS KMS KMS KMS KMS KMS CMS KMS CMS KMS
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100209395	01/14/2011	01/14/2011	Inspection	X	Site Increased	
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100209395	01/31/2011	01/31/2011	Inspection	KMS	Site Inspected	
100209395	01/31/2011	01/31/2011	Inspection	KMS	Letter Sent	
100209395	02/07/2011	02/07/2011	Inspection	KMS	Beviewed	
100209395	02/08/2011	02/08/2011	Inspection	KMS	Site Inspected	
100209395	02/11/2011	02/11/2011	Inspection	KMS	Reviewed	
100209395	02/22/2011	02/22/2011	Inspection	KMS	Resolved	
407	10	MERC	MERCANTILE	JCP CO INC: STEPHEN PALERMO	10 401 ASBURY AVE	
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407	10	i e	COMPLAINT	PALERMO & PALERMO	401 ASBURY AVE	03/30/2011
			401 ASBURY AVE OCEAN CITY	OCEAN CITY		
nspections						
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100212193	03/30/2011	03/30/2011	Inspection	KMS	Resolved	
407	01	- 02/26/2012	12 COMPLAINT	PALERMO & PALERMO	401 ASBURY AVE	07/03/2012
			401 ASBURY AVE OCEAN CITY	OCEAN CITY		
nspections						
Ref Number	ReqDate	Inspection Date	SubPrograms	Inspector	Result	
100217094	04/28/2011	04/29/2011	Inspection	REH	Site Inspected	
100217094	04/28/2011	04/29/2011	Inspection	REH	Letter Sent	
100217094	11/02/2011	11/02/2011	Inspection	KMS	Resolved	
100217094 10218995	01/23/2012	01/23/2012	Inspection	KMS	Reviewed	
407	10	- 07/06/2011	11 COMPLAINT	PALERMO & PALERMO	401 ASBIRV AVE	1100/00/20

Business Name	Lot	Qua	Comply Date	Inspection Type Owner Address	Owner Name	Address Owner Telephone	Close Date
00220136				401 ASBURY AVE	OCEAN CITY		
407 Inspections	01		03/06/2012	COMPLAINT 401 ASBURY AVE	STEVEN PALERMO OCEAN CITY	401 ASBURY AVE	07/03/2012
Ref Number 100220136 100220136 100220136 100220136 100220136 100220136 100220136 100220136 100220136	ReqDate 08/31/2011 08/31/2011 11/02/2011 01/04/2012 01/10/2012 01/23/2012 02/14/2012 02/28/2012	Inspection Date 08/31/2011 08/31/2011 11/02/2011 01/04/2012 01/05/2012 01/10/2012 01/13/2012 02/14/2012 02/28/2012	Date	SubPrograms Inspection	Inspector REH REH REMS KMS KMS KMS KMS KMS KMS	Site Inspected Letter Sent Reviewed Reviewed Site Inspected Reviewed Reviewed Reviewed Reviewed Reviewed Reviewed Reviewed	
407 <u>nspections</u> Ref Number 100248135	10 ReqDate 07/24/2013	- 08/03 Inspection Date 07/24/2013	201	3 COMPLAINT %STEPHEN PALERMO SubPrograms Inspection/Complaint Inspection	PALERMO & PALERMO MO V Inspector Inspector	401 ASBURY AVE Result Site Inspected	07/30/2013
407	01	ı		COMPLAINT STEPHEN PALERMO	PALERMO & PALERMO	401 ASBURY AVE	

Total Number of Applications: 28

Page 6 of 6



NOTICE OF UNSAFE STRUCTURE

Application Date:

Control Number: 0

Permit Number: 0

Date Permit Issued:

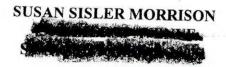
Notice Date: 3/30/2012

Violation Number: 20120017/0

City of Ocean City 115 12th Street Ocean City, NJ 08226 609 5259179

Ocean City, NJ 08226 609 5259179	
	FICATION
Work Site Location: 401 ASBURY AVE	Block: 407 Lot: 10 Qualif -
Owner In Fee: PALERMO & PALERMO	Agent: PALERMO & PALERMO
Address: 401 ASBURY AVE	Address: 401 ASBURY AVE
OCEAN CITY NJ 08226	OCEAN CITY NJ 08226
Telephone:	Telephone:
To: Owner:	Other:
X Agent/Contractor:	Other.
Date Of Inspection: 3/30/2012	Date Of This Notice: 3/30/2012
ACTI	
Take <i>NOTICE</i> that as a result of the inspections conducted by this agence been found to exist pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-132 and N.J.A.C. 5:23-2 unsafe condition is described as follows: BUILDING IS NOT SECURE: DEBRIS FALLING FROM SOF	ey on 3/30/2012 on the above property, an unsafe condition has 2.32. The building or structure, or portion thereof, deemed an
LOOSE DEBRIS MUST BE REMOVED. You are hereby ORDERED to:	MOST DE SECORED AND
Vacate the above structure by	
Demolish the above structure by , or correct the above noted unsa	afe conditions by no later than $\frac{4/13/2012}{2}$.
Failure to correct the unsafe condition or refusal to comply with this ORD prosecution and assessment of penalties up to \$2,000.00 per week per viol Official, your acceptance or rejection of the terms of this ORDER .	VCD 911
Any building or structure vacated pursuant to this <i>ORDER</i> shall not be recall the Construction Official.	occupied unless and until a certificate of occupancy is issued by
f you wish to contest this <i>ORDER</i> , you may request a hearing before the 6.15 business days of receipt of this notice as provided by N.J.A.C. 5:23A-2 be used for this purpose.	Construction Board of Appeals of the Cape May County within 1.1. The Application to the Construction Board of Appeals may
Your application for appeal must be in writing, setting forth your name and pecific sections of the Uniform Construction Code in question and the extrief statement setting forth your position and nature of the relief sought by seful.	d address, the address of the building or site in question, the tent and nature of your reliance on them. You may include a y you, and you may also append any documents that you consider
the fee for an appeal is \$100.00 and should be forwarded with your applic 4 Moore Road Cape May Co	ourt House NJ 08210
you have any questions concerning this matter, please call: 609 5259179)
By Order of:	
Patrick W. Newton Jr. CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL	Date:

Sent by Certified Mail #: 7007 0220 0001 9145 9438



Dear Mr. Jones,

We own vacation property at 408 4th street in Ocean City. Our property is contiguous to the former Palermo's Grocery.

Two years ago, in the spring, I appeared before the zoning hearing board. The Palermo property, at that time, had been vacant for an extended period of time. The exterior had deteriorated and roofing, tar paper and debris were constantly blowing off and landing on our house and property. I was assured, at that time, that the situation would be addressed with the Palermo family. The exterior was SOMEWHAT cleaned up but since that time no other repairs have been made and the building has now become not only an eyesore, but a danger to the community.

This situation needs to be addressed immediately! Our neighborhood has suffered this nuisance long enough. It speaks very poorly of Ocean City that it has not demanded that the property either be brought up to code (and will therefore be salable) or condemned and demolished.

In the wake of hurricane Sandy, we are, as are many of our neighbors, making extensive repairs to our property. Our neighborhood, come spring, will never have looked better. However we are forced to endure this menace. It is a danger to our neighborhood and our children. The building is now attracting a very unsavory element. People have broken into the property, to party and do whatever and sooner or later there will be a fire. I understand, from discussions with our neighbors, that we are not the first to complain about the Palermo property.

We have enjoyed our home in Ocean City (mostly). We have been consistent taxpayers, as well as supporters of the local businesses. We entertain family and friends regularly who also support the local economy. However the current situation has become intolerable, and we ask, that you act on it immediately!

I look forward to speaking with you, Mr. Newton, Mr. Mallon and Mr. Cottrell. I can be reached by phone Regards,

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Susan Morrison

se Number:			F O .	
nicipal Code X Construction Code	Zoning	Date:	51-F-C	<u>-</u>
mplaint Location:		Fire	Police	
Block: Lot:	Qual:		Received By:	_
vners Name: Palecmo -	Maritima		Received By:	
T 1300F	V			
vners City: 0 e	Owners State:	N5	0	-
vners Phone Number: ()			Owners Zip: OFJ	16
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mplainant Willing to Testify in Court Regarding Con	mplaint (X YES	S /N())	
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oke / Car	_ Investigated By: Completion Date: _			



City Of Ocean City 115 12th Street Ocean City NJ 08226

(609)-399-6111

Property Specifications

February 10, 2015 2:06:18PM

Block 407

10

Qual

Site Address 401 ASBURY AVE

Owner Name PALERMO & PALERMO C/O Steve Palermo

Owner Address



Reference No.

100263166

Application Date

12/5/2014

Inspection Type

COMPLAINT

Closed On

Telephone

Notes

Mr. Palermo,

It has come to the attention of City Council and Administration that the vacant structure and accessory structures have become a place of rodent harborage. Eradication must be performed by a qualified professional service. The City must withhold the issuance of any demolition permits, until documentation of extermination is provided, so as to prevent the scattering of the mentioned vermin upon demolition. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Respectfully,

Bryan Cottrell Code Enforcement Officer ICC Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector

INSPECTION:

12/08/14: entered structure with Ken Jones and Joe Palermo. Structure is in extremely dangerous condition. unsafe for entry to have extermination due to deterioration of roofing and lack of floor and sub-floor. Floor is cleared sandy soil littered with small debris, though minimal points of harborage due to it being a largely open area. Owners in planning process of having the structure razed and the property re-developed.



CITY OF OCEAN CITY

Department of Community Operations Division of Municipal Code Enforcement 115 12th Street., Ocean City, NJ 08226 Email: municipalcodeenf@ocean-city.nj.us

NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND ORDER TO CORRECT IDENTIFICATION

Reference Number: 100263166

Notice Date: 12/05/2014

Comply Date: 01/04/2015

Name:PALERMO & PALERMO C/O Steve

Address:Palermo

Phone:

Block: 407 Lot: 10 Qual: -Site Address: 401 ASBURY AVE OCEAN CITY, NJ 08226

Please be advised that an investigation of a complaint filed with this office revealed that the referenced property is in violation of the following section of Ordinance 87-17, Volume I:

VIOLATION LISTINGS

Violation No. Violation Comments.	Violation Date	Corrected Date	Violation Description
IPMC 302.5 See enclosed.	12/05/2014		302.5 Rodent harborage. All structures and exterior property shall be kept free from rodent harborage and infestation. Where rodents are found, they shall be promptly exterminated by approved processes which will not be injurious to human health. After extermination, proper precautions shall be taken to eliminate rodent harborage and prevent reinfestation.

You are hereby granted (30) days to abate the violation or contact this office and state why this order should be modified or withdrawn. Failure to comply may result in a summons being issued for which a court appearance is required. We can be reached at 9767 to help resolve this matter.

Sincerely,

Bryan Cottrell

Code Enforcement Officer

Phone: 609-399-6111 ext.9767 Fax: 609-525-2496



CITY OF OCEAN CITY

Department of Community Operations Division of Municipal Code Enforcement 115 12th Street., Ocean City, NJ 08226 Email: municipalcodeenf@ocean-city.nj.us

NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND ORDER TO CORRECT IDENTIFICATION

Reference Number: 100265739

Notice Date: 02/11/2015

Comply Date: 03/13/2015

Name:PALERMO & PALERMO Address:

Block: 407 Lot: 10 Qual: -Site Address: 401 ASBURY AVE OCEAN CITY, NJ 08226

Phone:

Volume I:

VIOLATION LISTINGS

Violation No. Violation Comments.	Violation Date	Corrected Date	Violation Description
IPMC 109.2	02/11/2015		109.2 Temporary safeguards. Notwithstanding other provisions of this code, whenever, in the opinion of the code official, there is imminent danger due to an unsafe condition, the code official shall order the necessary work to be done, including the boarding up of openings, to render such structure temporarily safe whether or not the legal procedure herein described has been instituted; and shall cause such other action to be taken as the code official deems necessary to meet such emergency.
17-8.3a Any loose materials ar	02/11/2015 and debris must be see of such materials. L.	ured to deter tresspassing an ured or removed, so as to pose materials are a safety	301.3 Vacant structures and land. All vacant structures and premises d thereof or vacant land shall be maintained in a clean, safe, secure and sanitary condition as provided herein so as not to cause a blighting problem or adversely affect the public health or safety. 17-8.3a It shall be unlawful for any persons or party to cause or allow unsightly litter, debris, foul or offensive odors or potentially hazardous materials to remain or emanate from any property under their control or to discard, abandon or cause the same on any public or private property within the corporate limits of the City of Ocean
PMC 302.5 tructure must be exten	02/11/2015 minated before demo	oltion.	City, New Jersey. 302.5 Rodent harborage. All structures and exterior property shall be kept free from rodent harborage and infestation. Where rodents are found, they shall be promptly exterminated by approved processes which will not be injurious to human health. After extermination, proper precautions shall be taken to eliminate rodent harborage and prevent reinfestation.

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