

**Blight Appeal Hearing**  
CITY HALL  
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*Elizabeth Synech*  
TOWN AND CITY CLERK  
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

## MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY, December 10, 2014**  
**ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS 5:30 PM**

Attorney Keith Murray opened the meeting at 5:45. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Murray asked who was representing Washington Management. Mr. Moustapha Diakhate stated that he is representing them. Mr. Murray then stated that Mr. Diakhate is the blighted party. Mr. Murray then stated that he is going to allow Mr. David Blackwell Sr., who is the Blight Enforcement Officer to present his findings and then Mr. Diakhate will have a chance to respond.

Mr. Blackwell stated that the property in question is located on 501 East Main Street. He then presented pictures to Atty. Murray for the record. He stated that there are numerous windows that are broken, graffiti on many walls. He closed the alleyway between the buildings across from where the staircase that runs from East Main Street to Main Street. He did this because the windows on the upper floors were ready to fall out and it was endangering people that would walk along the passage. There is also a section in the rear alley that had to be boarded up because there were squatters that had been living in the building. The building was emptied and was boarded up so that no one else would be able to get in. There is a tremendous amount of overgrowth covering sections of the building. The parking lot is full of trees. There is a broken canopy over the trucking dock. Mr. Murray then indicated that Mr. Blackwell stated that there are 70 sections of broken glass on the east side 17 sections of broken glass on the north side, 22 sections of broken glass on the west side and 94 sections of broken glass on the alley side of the building. He further stated that there is graffiti, plant growth and in the pictures there is cement falling off eight sides of the building. Mr. Blackwell stated that was accurate. Atty. Murray then stated that Mr. Blackwell brought this to the attention of Mr. Diakhate and he has subsequently filed for an appeal stating that the buildings have been in the same condition prior to Washington Management acquiring the buildings. Mr. Diakhate stated that he is a senior member of Washington Management. Atty. Murray further stated that Mr. Diakhate explained in his appeal request that the buildings are being redeveloped and all blight issues will be fixed during major construction to start within 60 days. Atty. Murray stated that this is the basis for Mr. Diakhate's appeal. Atty. Murray then stated that given the significance of the building and the blighted aspects, he would like to have the parties meet in the hallway and see if they can come to some sort of mutual agreement and then come back and let him know what they were able to come up with. Corporation Council John Marini and Mr. Blackwell

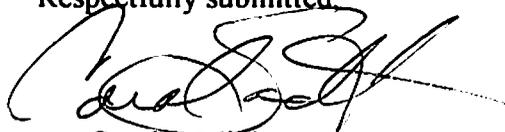
representing the city and Mr. Diakhate then left the chambers to have their discussion. They returned 20 minutes later.

Corporation Council Marini stated that they have reached a tentative agreement. The City has an interest in working with property owners for the principle goal of the program which is remediation of the blight and safety hazards. The agreement is that in a weeks' time the property will be fenced to restrict access to squatters. Mr. Blackwell will be given a key to the fence so that he can make sure that no squatters are getting by the fence and getting into the property. The bulk of the plan is the remediation to address the graffiti, the overgrowth and the windows. Mr. Diakhate has agreed to have this completed by the end of January on the 31<sup>st</sup>. The City will allow him to have that time to remediate with the agreement that if the remediation is not completed by that time, Mr. Diakhate will accept the full lien in the amount of \$20, 000 per day from the date of this hearing until January 31<sup>st</sup> and also stipulate to that lien on that property and to leave all the fences to that lien. They are proposing that they meet in a little more than a weeks' time next Thursday at which time the fence should be either commenced or completed and at that time evaluate the written agreement that would stipulate to everything that they had discussed.

Atty. Murray then stated that he wants to have that meeting on the record at City Hall or would they meet elsewhere? Corporation Council stated that he feels that it would be wise to have it on the record at a reconvened Blight hearing. Atty. Murray asked if there was an Economic Development meeting on the same date as this. He was told that there is a meeting scheduled. He then stated that they would have the meeting prior to that meeting at 5:30. Atty. Murray then asked Mr. Diakhate if he was in agreement with what Corporation Council just stated. Mr. Diakhate stated that he was in agreement with the tentative agreement.

Atty. Murray then adjourned the meeting at 6:30

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Sardinha