



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



February 22, 2007

Charles J. Willoughby
Office of the Inspector General
Government of the District of Columbia
717 14th Street NW, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Evidence of fraudulent permits issued by DCRA

Mr. Willoughby:

At our duly noticed, monthly public meeting on February 8, 2007, our Commission voted unanimously to report potential fraud within the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA). We have information leading us to suspect that a building permit was fraudulently issued to the owner of 1405 North Carolina Avenue NE. This permit appears to have been issued without being supported by an application for a permit or submission of construction plans and without having been processed through the required approval processes. Our suspicions are supported by the following facts:

- On June 9, 2006, DCRA staff noted an invalid building permit posted on the property after having been alerted by Commissioner Nicholas Alberti in May of 2006.
- DCRA has no record of an application for this address being released from the technical plan review branch to the permit issuance desk, which is a prerequisite for the issuance of a permit.
- DCRA has been unable to provide ANC 6A with copies of an application or construction plans despite a June 12, 2006 FOIA request for these materials.
- Despite having no record of an application having been processed, a file job number (#4442-E-6) exists within the DCRA application tracking system.
- Prior to June 9, 2006, the online tracking system showed that all building disciplines were approved.

Many of the facts we present are documented in a January 27, 2007 letter (attached) from the Zoning Administrator to the owner informing him that the permits in his possession are null and void. This letter comes after more than eight months of repeated inquiry from ANC 6A.

DCRA officials have stated that they are conducting investigation of this case. However, given their actions thus far, we must question their ability to conduct an impartial investigation. We therefore request that you take action to investigate this matter.

On behalf of the Commission

Joseph Fengler, Chair

Cc: Mayor Adrian Fenty	Councilmember Tommy Wells
Dan Tangherlini, City Administrator	Councilmember Mary Cheh
Councilmember Jim Graham	Councilmember Marion Barry
Councilmember Kwame R. Brown	Lisa Morgan, Director DCRA

Attachment

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR



VIA PERSONAL SERVICE,
U.S. FIRST CLASS MAIL, and
U.S. FIRST CLASS CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Tariq Hussain
5606 Braddock Farms Way
Clifton, Va., 20124-1315

Re: 1405 North Carolina Avenue, N.E.
Square 1056 Lot 88
Invalid Building Permit #B98956

Dear Mr. Hussain,

On June 9, 2006, a zoning inspector from my office observed an invalid building permit (#B98956) posted on your property located at 1405 North Carolina Ave., N.E. The issuance date shown was May 1, 2006 for the alteration and repair of a 3 family flat. For reasons stated below, DCRA has no record of this permit ever having been issued by the agency and thus, absent, submission of evidence on your part documenting its legitimacy, we regard this permit as null and void and will act accordingly.

A review of our records indicates that a file job tracking number (#4442-E-6) for this property address exists within our application tracking system. However, we have been unable to find an application or plans for this property, and there is no record that an application associated with the tracking number was ever released from the technical plan review branch to the permit issuance desk, which would have been a prerequisite for issuance of a permit. Furthermore, our records show no permits having ever been issued for the subject property, nor is there any record of a permit being issued on May 1, 2006.

There are other irregularities in the permit indicating that it was not officially issued by the agency. These include the following. The subject property is located at 1405 North Carolina Ave., N.E. yet the displayed permit states the address as 1405 North "Caroline" Ave., N.E. The displayed permit indicates in the "Description of Work" that the work is for "Alteration/Repair to 3 family flat..." when, in fact, a flat means two units. Under zoning regulations, a three unit apartment building is not permitted in the zoning district for this property (R-4). Under "Permit Type" the reference is to a "New Addition," yet

1405 North Carolina Avenue, N.E.
Invalid Building Permit #B98956
Notice to Tariq Husain
Page 2

no addition to the property has been made as the building already occupies 100% of the lot area. Under the "Conditions/Restrictions" section on the permit, "hours of operation" are missing.

If you have any information or documentation evidencing the valid processing and issuance of the above-referenced permit #B98956, please provide such information and documentation to me on or before February 5, 2007.

The posted stop work order will remain in effect until you obtain proper building permits to cover the proposed work.

Should you have further inquiry please feel free to contact me at 202-442-4576.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter

Best regards,



Bill Crews
Zoning Administrator for the District of Columbia

Cc: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Jill Stern, General Counsel, DCRA