

# Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Hearing

## October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Minutes

The hearing of the Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate, Deborah Hooker, took place at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium and was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 18, 2016.

*The following county staff members were present:*

Beth Albert, Code Enforcement Officer  
Rollo Ridley, Code Enforcement Officer  
Jennifer Kinard, Code Enforcement Officer  
Brandi Cowing, Secretary to the Special Magistrate  
Laura McCall, County Attorney

After the Pledge of Allegiance and a brief introduction statement, Magistrate Hooker swore in the Code Officers.

Code Officers stated the following cases are in compliance.

New Business: B&B Engineering Consultants	Case number: 1606-0061
New Business: Cruz Hernandez and Catherine Hernandez	Case number: 1607-0031
New Business: Bobbi Royster c/o Steven Williams	Case number: 1604-0076
New Business: Danette M Keenum Cossaboon	Case number: 1602-0101
Old Business: Nancy Bella Urbina-Bustos	Case number: 1603-0039
Old Business: Charles H Bryant III	Case number: 1509-0045
Old Business: Angus J Freeman and Veronica J Freeman	Case number: 1411-0003

Special Magistrate Hooker approved and signed the minutes from the September 20, 2016 hearing.

### NEW BUSINESS:

*Case number 1604-0076 for John and Megan Louthan was called.*

Megan Louthan was present for this case.

Officer Beth Albert presented the case for the property located at 1637 SW 67<sup>th</sup> Drive which was cited for a pool enclosure, 8.00.00G 303.2 and overgrowth, 10.02.02K. Compliance was achieved for the overgrowth violation. Respondent states that her pool cover is in compliance as of today. She states that the pool cover came with the house and that it is a specific type that would be in compliance. Cover will need to be inspected.

Officer Albert offered several supporting documents into evidence.

**Magistrate Hooker found the Respondent to be in violation of section 8.00.00G 303.2 and ordered Respondent to be in compliance by November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*Case number 1605-0097 for Rosemary Richardson, Trustee of the 3632 Okeechobee Land Trust was called.*

Charlene Golden (tenant) was present for this case.

Officer Jennifer Kinard presented the case for the property located at 3632 NW 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which was heard during the September 20, 2016 hearing and originally cited for emergency escape egress, section 8.00.00G 702.1 and 702.4 and condition which constitutes a safety hazard, section 10.02.02E. A window permit was issued, but no final inspection. Tenant states that the plate is now covering the exposed wires and that the windows came in, but were the wrong size. Correct windows would come in later during the week.

Officer Kinard offered several supporting documents into evidence.

**Magistrate Hooker found the Respondent to be in violation of section 8.00.00G 702.1 and 702.4 and 10.02.02E and ordered Respondent to be in compliance by November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

**REQUEST FOR REDUCTION OF FINE:**

*Case number 1008-0007 for James L Jackson Sr. (current owner) and Betty R Humenik (previous owner) was called.*

James L Jackson Sr. was present for this case.

Officer Beth Albert presented the case for the property located at 8658 SE 57<sup>th</sup> Drive, and was originally cited for overgrowth, 10.02.02K and a derelict mobile home 8.00.00G 108.1.1. On May 17, 2011 a daily fine was imposed of \$75.00 per day beginning May 18, 2011. The property was in compliance on September 22, 2016. The total outstanding lien on the property amounted to \$146,550.00. James L Jackson Sr. (current owner) requested the fine be reduced to zero. The county requested the fine be reduced to \$10,876.25. Mr. Jackson agreed to the amount of \$10,876.25.

Officer Albert offered several supporting documents into evidence.

**Magistrate Hooker approved the request to have the fine reduced to \$10,876.25 to be paid by 5pm, 30 days after the BOCC meeting (December 8, 2016). This amount will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration. If not paid within the time period the fine would revert back to the original amount.**

*There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brandi Cowing, Secretary to Special Magistrate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Deborah M. Hooker, Special Magistrate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date