

"REG IMPROVEMENTS" 9/29/09

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 1
 2 CITY OF MILWAUKEE
 3 LICENSES COMMITTEE
 4
 5 * * * * *
 6 Home Improvement Contractor renewal application for
 7 "REG IMPROVEMENTS"
 8 2307 W. Center Street
 9 ROBERT GRIFFIN
 10 (expired 2/28/09)
 11 * * * * *
 12
 13 COMMITTEE MEMBERS
 14
 15 ALD. JAMES BOHL - Chair
 16 ALD. ASHANTI HAMILTON
 17 ALD. T. ANTHONY ZIELINSKI
 18 ALD. NIK KOVAC
 19
 20 LICENSING DIVISION by REBECCA GRILL
 21 POLICE DEPARTMENT by SEARGENT PAUL MacGILLIS
 22 OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY by ATTORNEY BRUCE SCHRIMPF
 23
 24 Proceedings had and testimony given in
 25 the above-entitled matter, before the LICENSES
 COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE, on
 the 29th day of September, 2009.
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 1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Ms. Grill, are there
 2 any holds on this particular application?
 3 MS. GRILL: There are no holds.
 4 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Sergeant,
 5 police report, please.
 6 SERGEANT MACGILLIS: Yes. I will start
 7 with item two on 8/6/2007 at three p.m. The
 8 Applicant was cited in the City of Milwaukee for
 9 certification of worker/employee required. The
 10 charge, certification of worker/employee
 11 required, guilty in Municipal Court, 160 dollar
 12 fine. And that was on September 13th, 2007.
 13 Item three on 8/6/2007 at three p.m.
 14 the Applicant was cited in the City of Milwaukee
 15 for interior site preparation. The charge,
 16 interior site preparation, finding of guilty in
 17 Municipal Court. Sentence of 240 dollar fine,
 18 and that was on 9/13/2007.
 19 Item four on 6/19/2008 at 8:30 a.m. the
 20 Applicant was cited in the City of Milwaukee for
 21 certification of worker/employee required. The
 22 charge of certification of worker/employee
 23 required, finding of guilty in Municipal Court.
 24 Sentence, 160 dollar fine, and that was on 8/7 of
 25 2008.

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 1 P R O C E E D I N G S
 2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Robert Griffin, Home
 3 Improvement Contractor renewal application for
 4 "REG Improvements" at 2307 West Center Street.
 5 THE APPLICANT: Good afternoon.
 6 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Good afternoon to you,
 7 sir. We will swear you in.
 8 (Whereupon the Applicant was sworn.)
 9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I will need your name
 10 and address for our record, please.
 11 THE APPLICANT: Yes, sir. Robert E.
 12 Griffin, 2307 West Center Street, Milwaukee,
 13 Wisconsin 53206.
 14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. And, Mr.
 15 Griffin, do you acknowledge receiving notice of
 16 today's meeting with the possibility that your
 17 application could be denied? There is an
 18 attached police report, as well as a letter from
 19 the State Department of Agriculture, Trade and
 20 Consumer Protection dated, January 7, 2008, and
 21 with an enclosed complaint. Also, an objection
 22 to the granting of the license, based on a
 23 violation and prohibited practice of the
 24 Milwaukee Code of Ordinance under 95-14.
 25 THE APPLICANT: Yes, sir.

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 1 And item five on 9/8/2008 at four p.m.,
 2 Applicant was cited in the City of Milwaukee for
 3 certification of worker/employee required. The
 4 charge of certification of worker/employee
 5 required, finding of guilty in Municipal Court,
 6 100 dollar fine, and the date of that was
 7 2/12/2009.
 8 And it should be noted that item five
 9 has resulted in an open warrant for the
 10 Applicant. A letter was sent on 9/2/2009, and
 11 that warrant was still open as of yesterday.
 12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you, Sergeant.
 13 Mr. Griffin, any questions or comments relating
 14 to the items in the police report?
 15 THE APPLICANT: Yes. We can go through
 16 each one of them. First of all, I have to say -
 17 -
 18 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chairman, if I
 19 may, point of order.
 20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Zielinski,
 21 sure.
 22 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: If - - I would
 23 request that the Applicant address the open
 24 warrant issue first, because if that's not
 25 addressed, I don't want to know anything else - -

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1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Well, he does -- I
 2 mean, that's fine. But this is a renewal
 3 application, rather than even a new one. I mean,
 4 so the ability for the committee, the leeway of
 5 the committee to hold this matter at the Call of
 6 the Chair, while a valid motion, is -- is at
 7 least compromised legally with valid due process.
 8 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Right.
 9 MR. SCHRIMPF: Well, Mr. Chairman, it's
 10 my understanding this license expired on February
 11 28th, 2009.
 12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Oh, it did.
 13 MS. SNEED: Yes.
 14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: February -- February
 15 of --
 16 MR. SCHRIMPF: 2009.
 17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: -- 2009.
 18 MR. SCHRIMPF: Correct?
 19 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Right.
 20 Because --
 21 MR. SCHRIMPF: So, it's already
 22 expired.
 23 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Right. Very good.
 24 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: So it's -- You
 25 know, just personally speaking, if there's an

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1 took it to court, because I didn't have a permit
 2 to do license work. I was working for another
 3 company, and I was just an employee. But being I
 4 had a lead license, they gave my company a
 5 citation. So I appealed the State. Here's my
 6 State, where I appealed them. I won the State.
 7 And then --
 8 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: Mr. Chair, I mean,
 9 I think you got a great presentation set up, but
 10 I want the short answer first, on whether or not
 11 he has any verification that -- that the warrant
 12 is taken care of, and then --
 13 THE APPLICANT: You said --
 14 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: Then -- Then we
 15 can listen to the presentation.
 16 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Right. What's the
 17 point? I don't --
 18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: The answer is no.
 19 Correct? You have not --
 20 THE APPLICANT: I went this morning. I
 21 was supposed to go back -- I was supposed to
 22 have went back at 1:30, but I had a lead -- I
 23 had -- I had --
 24 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chairman, I
 25 would move to hold to the Call of the Chair.

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1 open arrest warrant, I'm -- You know, I'm not
 2 going to support a license for something that has
 3 an open arrest warrant.
 4 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Griffin, do you
 5 have any proof that you can provide the committee
 6 that -- that the open arrest warrant associated
 7 with item number five has been rectified?
 8 THE APPLICANT: I can come back with
 9 that. Actually, I -- I was over this morning.
 10 I was in court this morning at 8:30 on -- on
 11 another violation citation. These are all work
 12 citations for my lead license. If you have a
 13 lead/asbestos license in the State of Wisconsin
 14 or the City, you get these citations. Sure, I
 15 haven't paid one. I've been out of work, and if
 16 I might, I was going to address them, first all,
 17 the 1600 dollar one was -- was a mistake. We
 18 get 160 dollar fine for -- for not putting down
 19 plastic before we scrape lead paint and not
 20 having a seal with -- So that was a mistake, the
 21 1600 dollar. But the rest of them, I satisfied,
 22 all except for the one where I was out of work.
 23 This one, for -- That was on the ninth
 24 -- the ninth at four p.m., this is the one that
 25 I -- I actually made a mistake. I should have

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1 That would provide the Applicant with an
 2 opportunity to satisfy the open arrest warrant.
 3 THE APPLICANT: There we go.
 4 CHAIRMAN BOHL: The -- Here's the
 5 problem. The problem is is that there's been a
 6 complaint made by a neighbor, who has waited and
 7 is here to testify, Alderman.
 8 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Oh, okay. Well,
 9 then --
 10 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I'd -- I'd like to be
 11 able to hear from that neighbor so her testimony
 12 would be part of the record, and she wouldn't
 13 have to return. Is that -- I mean, you are one
 14 of the neighbors who has been a complainant.
 15 THE WITNESS: No, I am a Plaintiff in a
 16 small claims case.
 17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I meant a -- a former
 18 customer of -- of --
 19 THE WITNESS: Former customer that is
 20 still waiting --
 21 CHAIRMAN BOHL: An unsatisfied customer
 22 --
 23 THE WITNESS: -- to be paid.
 24 CHAIRMAN BOHL: -- is what we'll call
 25 it, yeah.

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1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Let's hear from

3 -- from this witness.

4 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: That's -- That's

5 fine.

6 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Ma'am, if -- if you

7 could provide us with your name and address for

8 the record, please.

9 THE WITNESS: My name is Lois Sneed. I

10 live at 2820 North 22nd Street, Milwaukee 53206.

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And, ma'am, you have -

12 - You have made a formal complaint with the

13 Department of Consumer Protection -- with the

14 Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer

15 Protection.

16 THE WITNESS: Yes, I have. And they

17 recommended that I file a small claims action

18 against Mr. Griffin for the workmanship that he

19 did on my house, which is poor, to say the least

20 And I did want --

21 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Why don't you please

22 proceed with the -- with the extent of -- of

23 your complaint here? Go ahead.

24 THE WITNESS: I now have an outstanding

25 judgment which was awarded to me, April 6, a

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1 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

2 MR. SCHRIMPF: Could we see that,

3 please?

4 THE WITNESS: This is the docket. Is

5 that the one?

6 MR. SCHRIMPF: That's the docket sheet.

7 THE WITNESS: The docket sheet. You

8 dropped your receipt.

9 MR. SCHRIMPF: And, Mr. Chairman, I

10 have a question for the Applicant. Do you know

11 what the entity, REG Construction, is?

12 THE APPLICANT: Say that again?

13 MR. SCHRIMPF: What is the entity, REG

14 Construction?

15 THE APPLICANT: I don't know. My --

16 My company is REG Improvement. It's been REG

17 Improvement for 20 years, in Georgia,

18 Mississippi, Illinois, and I been here ten years.

19 I been before the committee before --

20 MR. SCHRIMPF: And you are -- But you

21 are Mr. Robert Griffin?

22 THE APPLICANT: I am he.

23 MR. SCHRIMPF: And you live at 2307

24 West Center Street?

25 THE APPLICANT: Yes, sir.

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1 Judge Siefert ordered this. Mr. Griffin has not

2 provided me with the financial statement. He has

3 dodged all my certified mail. There was a

4 warrant issued, and I just spoke with Judge

5 Siefert's court, and they told me that he came in

6 in August, last month, and satisfied that

7 warrant. Mr. Griffin has a habit of knowing when

8 he has to come before a hearing, that he goes in

9 immediately and handles it. Like he says, he was

10 in court this morning trying to, you know, fix

11 them. He's -- He's a dishonest contractor who

12 hires -- or picks up people that are not

13 licensed to do work on, you know, your house.

14 And then I'm stuck with this. I have to have all

15 this work re-done, re-paid for, and Mr. Griffin

16 is not honoring his court order to pay me. And I

17 don't think he needs a license to even watch

18 cats.

19 MR. SCHRIMPF: Mr. Chairman.

20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Schrimpf.

21 MR. SCHRIMPF: Thank you. Ma'am --

22 Ma'am, I have a couple of questions. Number one,

23 do you have a copy of the court order or the

24 judgment that was entered by Judge Siefert with

25 you?

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1 MR. SCHRIMPF: Mr. Chairman, I would

2 suggest that a copy of this document be taken

3 into the record, and that the original of the

4 document be returned to the witness.

5 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay.

6 THE WITNESS: And, also, he has a

7 receipt that he dropped and just happened to fall

8 in my hand where he's listed his name as "REG

9 Griffin," not Robert Griffin. He falsifies

10 information.

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: We'll --

12 THE APPLICANT: REG is the initials off

13 my name for myself.

14 THE WITNESS: REG Griffin is not your

15 name.

16 THE APPLICANT: REG is Robert Earl

17 Griffin. IMP.

18 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: That's why I spell

19 my --

20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: We'll have Alderman --

21 Alderman Kovac -- Alderman Zielinski. I want to

22 say Alderman Zielinski will move to make the

23 court judgment part of our official record in

24 this proceeding, and hearing no objection to

25 that, so ordered. We'll also have Alderman

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1 Zielinski move to make the State of Wisconsin
2 Complaint to the Department of Trade, Agriculture
3 and Consumer Protection by Ms. Sneed dated,
4 January 7, 2008, part of our official record in
5 this proceeding. Hearing no objection to that,
6 so ordered. We also have from Ms. Sneed, a - - a
7 letter to the Licensing Committee dated, July 8,
8 2008. We'll make - - Alderman Zielinski will
9 move to make that part of our official record in
10 this proceeding. Hearing no objections to that,
11 so ordered.

12 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chairman.

13 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Questions of - - of
14 this witness, Alderman Zielinski?

15 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: No. I - - I just
16 have a motion.

17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Any - - Okay. Any
18 questions of Ms. Sneed at this time by committee
19 members. Ms. Sneed, the - - the heart of your
20 complaint, is it that - - that Mr. Griffin was
21 hired, came out to do work, didn't do it
22 sufficiently, didn't complete the work? Was it
23 not - - I remember, seeing, reading, like e-mails
24 of a second story porch where the railing wasn't
25 completed.

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1 THE WITNESS: Mr. Griffin says that the
2 people that he sends out to do work are all under
3 his - -

4 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Tutelage or his
5 control, yeah.

6 THE WITNESS: - - tutelage. He doesn't
7 actually come out and do the work himself, nor
8 does he come out and supervise the work to see
9 that it's done correctly. I have had to call the
10 City Inspector out to, you know, come out and
11 make complaints, because the work was not done
12 properly. And Mr. Griffin was ordered to re-do
13 it, and I don't know what else to say. I don't
14 know what else to say. I've had - -

15 MR. SCHRIMPF: Mr. Chairman.

16 THE WITNESS: And he - - He has an
17 outstanding judgment on him, which he is not
18 going to - - He has called me. He has waded at
19 me today. He has no intentions of satisfying
20 that. And I don't think this kind of individual
21 should be allowed to service any people in this
22 City when he's not honest. Why should other
23 people be subjected to dis - - I mean, work
24 that's not quality. And then when they do take
25 it to court and follow legal proceedings, they

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1 are never going to be satisfied.

2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Schrimpf, if I just
3 may, right before that. Sergeant or Mr.
4 Schrimpf, either one of you, the - - the
5 Applicant here has a number of citations that you
6 read into the record that have to deal with
7 certification of worker/employee required.

8 MR. SCHRIMPF: For lead abatement,
9 that's required.

10 CHAIRMAN BOHL: That would be for lead.
11 Would - - Would that possibly be that he had
12 employees that didn't have the proper
13 certification, or would that be that he wouldn't
14 - - didn't have the proper certification? I
15 mean - -

16 THE APPLICANT: Employees.

17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: It was employees?

18 MR. SCHRIMPF: I'm - - I'm not sure,
19 but my hunch would be that when you're doing lead
20 abatement work, you have to have the proper
21 certification to do it.

22 THE APPLICANT: Right, that's what I
23 - - That's why I had this - - Every day that I go
24 to the job, go to any job site, I have to have a
25 copy of my company registration for the - - for

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1 the - -

2 MR. SCHRIMPF: For the people you send
3 out to - -

4 THE APPLICANT: I had to have - - They
5 either had to have this here blue license by the
6 State or I had to have a copy of it.

7 MR. SCHRIMPF: Okay. And - -

8 THE APPLICANT: And if either one of
9 them not provided, I get a citation. So if they
10 don't - - They can have it and not have it on
11 them, I get a citation.

12 THE WITNESS: I've never seen it
13 before.

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Well, and - - And,
15 ma'am, it wasn't just lead work that you - - you
16 had. Is this the sort of contracted work for
17 improvement on your home.

18 THE WITNESS: At this time there was
19 not any lead abatement. I had used Mr. Griffin
20 in the past through the Neighborhood Improvement
21 Development, and they came out and said that he
22 was approved for that, and he did put some
23 windows in, which are falling out, and he said he
24 was going to come and re, you know, re-do them.
25 There is gutters that he put up that are leaking,

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1 that he said he was going to come and fix. So, I
 2 mean, you know, I could go on and on and on.
 3 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chairman.
 4 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Griffin, anything
 5 you want to respond to - -
 6 THE APPLICANT: Yes, I - -
 7 CHAIRMAN BOHL: - -
 8 THE APPLICANT: I have a signed
 9 contract with her from November 7, 2001. She was
 10 - - When I got my contractor license back in
 11 2000, she was - - she was the first one I did
 12 through the NIDC program. I have over 250
 13 completed projects with the NIDC. I have over
 14 2000 projects completed with the - - with the
 15 City of Milwaukee, lead. If I leave out of here,
 16 I'm going to get my information and come back, I
 17 will go to each one of that knows which one is
 18 which. And I also will go back to NIDC, where
 19 she - - where on her porches, because she didn't
 20 get written up for having a - - a four by four
 21 rigged up on a chair up on a log. I told her
 22 about a Minor Home Repair Program, which she
 23 didn't have 750 dollars to match the funds. So
 24 then I wind up telling her about another program
 25 that lend her 3,000 dollars, 50 dollars back.

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1 we had to pull a permit. Being that she was a
 2 customer out of the past, in the Minor Home
 3 Repair Program through Lisbon - - Lisbon Avenue
 4 Neighborhood Association, which she sued them,
 5 also.
 6 THE WITNESS: Yes.
 7 THE APPLICANT: But, nevertheless,
 8 though, excuse me, but, nevertheless, though,
 9 that - - that program there, after she - - she
 10 being with me, they no longer have a program over
 11 there. So that was wiped out from then, also.
 12 But they didn't require a permit to be pulled for
 13 to do that. They required you to notify the
 14 Health Department if you're doing lead part of
 15 the work, where porches have lead paint on them,
 16 handrails and stuff like that, the gutters.
 17 That's all they require. But, nevertheless,
 18 though, the neighborhood association, they say
 19 pull a permit. She said that, oh, this is me and
 20 you. You don't have to pull a permit. Why we
 21 have to pull a permit?
 22 THE WITNESS: That's a lie. How would
 23 I know that?
 24 THE APPLICANT: Excuse me. After I
 25 went and done the work and she called the City,

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1 That's what she's upset about. Because when it
 2 got to the 750 dollar rebate she would have got,
 3 it went back to Habitat for Humanity low interest
 4 loan. And she didn't get a chance to fix her
 5 car, which she was trying to get money to fix her
 6 transmission. And since then, I've been the bad
 7 guy. So if we go all the way back, then I'll be
 8 going back, because - - And - - And find all the
 9 information on her.
 10 Because everything that she said, I
 11 didn't pull a permit. If anybody that don't have
 12 a City contractor license go to do some work on
 13 construction work, they're not going to get no
 14 citation. Is nothing they can do. They not
 15 going to go over and arrest them. Well, I have a
 16 - - a license, so then I get a ticket. I get
 17 fined. So what wind up happen where I did work
 18 for her, I did concrete work, there's no problem.
 19 THE WITNESS: You didn't do it.
 20 THE APPLICANT: I have the floor,
 21 excuse me. Half of the contract were for
 22 concrete work that was replaced, that's no
 23 problem. The - - But the porches, you had to
 24 pull a permit before you do anything that dealing
 25 with construction, roofing. It's certain things

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1 so, sure, they made me tear the porch down and
 2 start over. So the porch was completed. So when
 3 I took the porch down, it was in the middle of
 4 the Winter. So trying to get inspectors out and
 5 trying to get - - trying to coordinate, we
 6 decided that it wasn't feasible for to go tear
 7 the porch down in the direct middle of the
 8 Winter. So I went and asked for an extension for
 9 her - - for her, which granted the extension up
 10 until March, and that's when I went to work on
 11 her porch, March. So she's upset about last
 12 year, March, April, May, June, which - - which
 13 it's report - - Because NIDC was permits pulled
 14 on this here stuff. So there's all the City
 15 record of all this stuff that she have a
 16 complaint. If I did certain shabby work, then
 17 why did Keith Spruce okay this here. Now, excuse
 18 me, but if - - if - - So if he approved the - -
 19 the workmanship after I tore down and rebuild to
 20 the - -
 21 THE WITNESS: Three times.
 22 THE APPLICANT: I did it twice. I did
 23 it once, tore it down, and I went through the
 24 proper procedures, because I didn't want to tear
 25 it down again. So I only went as far as he let

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1 me go each time. And as a matter of fact, where
 2 the - - the way the old porches were built, they
 3 can do the job portion without going and tearing
 4 up the wall and attach it on to the frame. I
 5 didn't charge her for that. If I'd been right,
 6 I'd went back and sue her after the fact, because
 7 coming with the inspector, normally we stop, ask
 8 for change orders and all of this here, if you're
 9 working on a City contract, you can do that. But
 10 when you're working on a private contract, then
 11 you either hear yes, no. You try to get change
 12 orders. So, it didn't work. But Mr. Spruce
 13 said, asked me to open up the wall, and I did
 14 everything that he asked me to do. But in the
 15 end, I wasn't paid for the extra work that I - -
 16 that I done over at her house. I did not take
 17 her to court. It would be just like the rest of
 18 the clients. I'll break off and move on to the
 19 next thing, but I have a issue here, so I - -
 20 THE WITNESS: Can I address that?
 21 THE APPLICANT: You need to address
 22 this here, please.
 23 THE WITNESS: May I address that?
 24 CHAIRMAN BOHL: You know what? I'm
 25 going to go to Mr. Schrimpf first, too, and then

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1 Chairman.
 2 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chairman.
 3 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Zielinski.
 4 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Okay. I'm - - I'm
 5 going to ask a question here, and please just - -
 6 just answer the question without all kinds of
 7 other things. Okay. So there's a number of
 8 things he said that she said type of thing going
 9 on here. She has a judgment against you.
 10 THE APPLICANT: Yes, sir.
 11 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Okay. So how was
 12 she able to get a judgment against you if you're
 13 right and she's wrong?
 14 THE APPLICANT: That's the same thing,
 15 the Judge say that she was so positioned to come
 16 down there and how many time that the case was
 17 opened and closed, because the first time they
 18 awarded her all the money. And I went back and
 19 opened up the case, went back, and then they
 20 awarded her 13. I went back and opened up the
 21 case, and then we leave here again, I'll open it
 22 up again.
 23 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Okay. So do you
 24 have any intention of paying her the money
 25 that - -

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1 I'll - - I'll - - We'll give everybody a turn,
 2 and then we'll go to Alderman Zielinski, and then
 3 we'll give you a chance to retort.
 4 MR. SCHRIMPF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
 5 Question for Mr. Griffin.
 6 THE APPLICANT: Yes, sir.
 7 MR. SCHRIMPF: On the porch that you
 8 were working on on Ms. Sneed's house, did you
 9 pull a permit or not? Yes or no.
 10 THE APPLICANT: Yes, sir.
 11 MR. SCHRIMPF: And where is that
 12 permit?
 13 THE APPLICANT: That's what I said, I
 14 didn't bring in that information, because I
 15 didn't know - -
 16 MR. SCHRIMPF: But if I check the City
 17 records, I should be able to find a permit for
 18 her house.
 19 THE APPLICANT: Yes, sir. I have a
 20 plumbing permit, but I didn't - - I didn't look
 21 for the construction permit. Here's the plumbing
 22 permit right here.
 23 THE WITNESS: Plumbing has nothing to
 24 do with it.
 25 MR. SCHRIMPF: That's all I have, Mr.

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1 THE APPLICANT: No, I should open up
 2 the case again, sir
 3 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: You don't.
 4 THE APPLICANT: Because everything was
 5 satisfied with the City, but - - but the - - the
 6 attorney, not the attorney, but the one that was
 7 listening to the case over there, he threw out
 8 all - - all the City record of the work I did.
 9 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: So, okay, so
 10 you're going to - - you're going to appeal this.
 11 THE APPLICANT: Yes, sir.
 12 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Okay. That's all
 13 I need to know.
 14 THE APPLICANT: As of this here, I am.
 15 THE WITNESS: Yeah, we will see you in
 16 court again.
 17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Ma'am, do you want to
 18 give some testimony here?
 19 THE WITNESS: Right. What Mr. Griffin
 20 so fastly talks and throws in there, he did not
 21 get permits, and as a result, he was fined triple
 22 fee or something for not having pulled these
 23 permits. And then he was going to tell me that I
 24 should have pulled these permits. I'm not the
 25 professional here. I don't know when a, you

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1 know, a permit is needed. And the neighborhood,
 2 the NIDC has informed me that Mr. Griffin will no
 3 longer be getting any jobs through them, because
 4 they have had so many complaints on him. And as
 5 he throws all this stuff around with Mr. Spruce,
 6 the City Inspector did, in fact, come there on
 7 the day that they nailed the last nail in my
 8 front porch, and it was solid. Everything looks
 9 good when it's fresh. Less than 30 days, I'm
 10 walking up on my steps, and it broke under my
 11 foot. I have pictures. Because the wood was - -
 12 had been set out, like he said, he didn't do any
 13 work over the Winter for whatever his reasoning
 14 was. This wood was left laying around my house
 15 all Winter, all Summer. He used the same wood to
 16 put back on this porch, which was rotted by then.
 17 Less than 30 days after Mr. Keith Spruce approved
 18 it, the step broke. It is still not safe. I
 19 have a sign in my window now, "caution," because
 20 of the stairs. I'm left to have to have these
 21 stairs tore down, for the fourth time, and
 22 rebuilt again. And I'm still paying Habitat for
 23 Humanity for this, and Mr. Griffin, as you see,
 24 says he's going to take me back to court. Let's
 25 go.

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1 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chairman.
 2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Zielinski.
 3 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: I - - I - - You
 4 know, I - - We've spent an enormous amount of
 5 time on this - -
 6 THE WITNESS: Right. Right.
 7 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: - - listening to
 8 all sides. I would just like to make a motion,
 9 based on the - - the open arrest warrant, the
 10 police record, the, you know, the judgment, the
 11 testimony. I would - - I would just hate to see
 12 any other citizen in Milwaukee - -
 13 THE WITNESS: Right.
 14 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: - - have to go
 15 through what Mrs. Sneed is going through, and I'm
 16 sure that there's other people that don't - -
 17 aren't as diligent in terms of pursuing this
 18 through - - through legal channels. So I would
 19 like to spare any future citizens in Milwaukee
 20 from having to go through this ordeal, and I
 21 would move denial.
 22 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
 23 CHAIRMAN BOHL: The motion by Alderman
 24 Zielinski is to recommend denial of the renewal
 25 of the Home Improvement Contractor license for

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1 Robert Griffin, based on the testimony provided
 2 by neighbor, complaint to the State Department of
 3 Consumer - - State Department - - Department of
 4 Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the
 5 police report, as well as, as additional
 6 testimony provided here. Is there any discussion
 7 on the motion? Are there any objections to the
 8 motion? Hearing none, so ordered. Mr. Schrimpf.
 9 MR. SCHRIMPF: The committee is going
 10 to be doing findings of fact and conclusions of
 11 law, Mr. Griffin, recommending denial of the
 12 renewal of your Home Improvement Contractor's
 13 license. You'll have an opportunity to submit
 14 written objections to that recommendation. If
 15 so, it must be received in Room 205 of this
 16 building by the close of business, which is 4:45
 17 p.m., October 8th, 2009. If you submit written
 18 objections, then you will also have the ability
 19 to appear before the Milwaukee Common Council
 20 when it considers this matter on the morning of
 21 October 13th, 2009 in the Common Council Chambers
 22 of this building at approximately nine a.m., the
 23 same floor that you're on, but the opposite end
 24 of the building. Do you understand all that?
 25 THE APPLICANT: Um-hnh.

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1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. All right.
 2 Thank you. Moving on to our 2:15 agenda - -
 3 THE APPLICANT: Will I get this in the
 4 mail again or - -
 5 CHAIRMAN BOHL: You will get a copy of
 6 this in the mail. Do you have - - Is that - - Is
 7 that correct?
 8 MR. SCHRIMPF: Yes.
 9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Does he get a copy - -
 10 He gets a copy of the findings of fact,
 11 conclusions of law. In order to appeal that you
 12 will have to provide that, again, Mr. Schrimpf,
 13 the date?
 14 MR. SCHRIMPF: October the 8th, 2009 at
 15 the close of business, 4:45 p.m. in Room 205.
 16 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. The Common
 17 Council on the other end, second floor. You
 18 would have to then, provide in writing your
 19 appeal, saying, you don't believe that the
 20 decision to - - to take the license away is
 21 worthy in order to have the ability to appeal it
 22 before the entire Common Council. You will have
 23 to turn in a - - a - - your own rationale as to
 24 why you believe that that's not proper. Okay?
 25 Thank you.

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4 STATE OF WISCONSIN)

5)

6 MILWAUKEE COUNTY)

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8 I, JEAN M. BARINA, of Milwaukee Reporters
9 Associated, Inc., 5124 West Blue Mound Road,
10 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208, certify that the foregoing
11 proceedings is a full and complete transcript of REG
12 IMPROVEMENTS taken in the foregoing proceedings.

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JEAN M. BARINA
Court Reporter

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22 Dated this day of October, 2009.

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