



April 4, 2002

Alderman Michael D'Amato  
JUDICIARY AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
Milwaukee Common Council  
200 East Wells  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

**Subject:** 1901 N 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Redemption for  
In Rem property being sought ... **PLEASE DENY**

Dear Alderman D'Amato:

As you know, I am a Community Development Officer for WHEDA. I have been working in partnership with the City of Milwaukee since 1997 to implement the Lindsay Heights Development Initiative, building new homes in Alderman Hine's District, between 12th and 20th Streets, Walnut to Locust. In my professional capacity, I spend significant numbers of my week-day hours working in these neighborhoods with homeowners and other residents, specifically addressing nuisance and crime issues. I am able to observe a great deal of neighborhood life first-hand.

I am writing to ask you, as a member of the Judiciary-Legislative Committee, to deny the appeal of Ernesto Garcia and Maria Varela to have ownership returned of the In Rem property at 1901 N 14th Street, taken in January. Regrettably, I will be out of town on April 15 when the Committee will have this subject on its agenda. However, I hope my written "testimony" will persuade you to deny the appeal.

**This property has been a chronic problem property and a blight on the neighborhood for more than 4 years.** 1901 N 14th Street is a property with two houses on it, which have been the sites of drug use, sales and other illegal activities since at least 1998.

Please consider the following information about this property and the negative impact these conditions have been having in the neighborhood:

Jan 20, 1998 Code violations reported

June 17, 1998 House filled with garbage, roach infested, rotting food all around

July 9, 1999 Nuisance report, house vacant, dogs in basement... feces all over

Dec 14, 1999 Exterior code violations cited, raw sewage odor emitting from building

Feb 4, 1999 Man arrested at 1901 N 14th Street for burglary and theft from new Lindsay Hgts home on Fond du Lac. He was tracked through the snow from the new home to 1901 N 14th, and found with stolen goods.

Mar 26, 1999 Neighborhood reported daily drug sales from the rear cottage on the alley at 1901 N 14th St. Vehicular traffic running through the alley, stop, buy, leave.

July 19, 2000 Neighborhood reported new tenants @ 1901 N 14th, both front and rear cottages, dealing drugs again

Summer 2000 Baby found dead with sock stuffed in his mouth, body in garbage can @ 1901 N 14th St

Nov 15, 2000 Neighborhood reports of drug sales at 1901 N 14th; suspected as supplier to drug dealer on 11th Street as well.

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WHEDA supports equal  
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Dec 13, 2000 Arrests were made for selling drugs; houses were boarded

Feb 7, 2001 34 code violations noted by Building Inspection, orders written

Summer 2001 - Houses vacant, trash all around, people hanging out on porch selling drugs. Neighbors continued to report drug sales throughout 2001, even though the houses were boarded for a time.

10/19/2001 Neighbors reported people staying in houses again, start-up of active, daily drug sales activities started again as well. Calls made to Police and DNS.

Mar 22, 2002 Three drug-related arrests made in front of 1901 N 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mar 28, 2002 Nuisance report made to DNS regarding piles of trash around both houses, vehicles parked illegally on unpaved soil beside and between both houses.

Mar 29, 2002 Noon, drug sales observed at the rear door of house on alley

**Please do not return ownership of this property to Garcia & Varela. They have demonstrated absolutely no sense of responsibility for the property nor any regard for the neighborhood.**

Sincerely,



Constance A. Pukaite  
Community Development Officer.

Cc: 17<sup>th</sup> District Alderman Willie Hines  
Members of the Judiciary & Legislation Committee  
Greg Shelko, RACM