

POWERFUL LEGAL REPRESENTATION

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May 17, 2006

## HAND DELIVERED

Alderman James N. Witkowiak Office of the City Clerk, Room 205 City Hall 200 East Wells Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-3570

Re:

Proprietor/Owner: David Martin

Property located at 500 West Maple

## Dear Alderman Witkowiak:

On Monday, I advised your aide, Katina that I would be forwarding information regarding the property at 500 West Maple. I am not aware of all the circumstances, but I am aware that there were some problems with the rooming house license.

Mr. David Martin, the owner had placed a Carla King in the position of manager. She and a Melody Johnson who was also a resident of 500 West Maple, were arrested sometime in November or December of 2005 (it involved drug trafficking). When Mr. Martin became aware of that, he immediately ordered Ms. King out of the premises and neither she nor Melody Johnson have returned. Unfortunately, some of the people Carla King had allowed to reside in the place, were people of similar disposition. In February, he met with the Captain of #2 District Police Department who gave Mr. Martin suggestions on how to deal with problem tenants. Mr. Martin now does a background check on all tenants.

Mr. Martin has systematically cleaned up the property to the point that in the month of March 2006, there were only two residents on the property. Those two residents were Klaus Anderson and Jerry Alexander. These are both individuals who are contributing citizens and have never been arrested, nor caused any problems in the neighborhood or at the particular residence.

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May 17, 2006 Page 2

POWERFUL LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Since that time, Mr. Martin has personally allowed six other people to move into the place with a mean age of approximately 50+ years old. They are primarily people on social security disability, or social security.

Mr. Martin has also undertaken to make sure that he monitors the property and is on the premises every day for a minimum of an hour. That includes, policing the area and making sure that there are no people permitted to stay on the premises who are not listed as lessees.

His primary ongoing concern is that there are some people who are using his address even though they do not live there. He received some calls regarding a James Hollis who uses 500 West Maple as his address. To Mr. Martin's knowledge, Mr. Hollis has not even been on the premises for two years.

In short, there was a problem with this place, but Mr. Martin, a client of our office on other issues, has assured us that he took steps even before he received any notice from the Licensing Committee. Those steps were to insure that the property of 500 West Maple is not a nuisance and does not tolerate any drug activity and, in fact, he has taken action against such illegal activity or other activity that might disrupt the neighborhood.

I am just advising you of this before the hearing on Thursday. Mr. Martin will be pleased to have all of the tenants (all eight of them) at the hearing if you think that is appropriate. He also has several neighbors who have volunteered to come forward to testify that he has taken steps to clean up the property and they are satisfied with his continued presence in the neighborhood.

Thank you for review of this matter.

Yours truly,

D. MICHAEL GUERÍÑ

DMG/ker

Staff/dmguerin/misc/2006/AldermanWitkowiak2006-05-17