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February 4, 2008

**VIA FACSIMILE ONLY**

Beverly K. Bridges  
City Clerk  
CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
400 Stewart Avenue  
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Re: 3705 San Joaquin Avenue, Las Vegas Nevada  
Las Verdes Hgts 6, Unit #3, Plat Book 8, Page 29, Lot 2, Block 5  
Public Hearing set for February 6, 2008

Dear City Council:

This law firm is Pro Bono counsel for Ada Merkel, daughter and administrator of the estates of Walter and Shirley Merkel, owners of the subject property located at 3705 San Joaquin Avenue, Las Vegas Nevada ("the Property"). Please accept this letter as Ada Merkel's objection to the proposed abatement charges. Specifically, Ada respectfully requests that the Council (1) waive all or a portion of the Administrative fees and/or Inspection/Reinspection fees; and (2) deduct \$800 from the amount of the proposed lien because C&W did not repair or replace the roof.

By way of background, prior to 1996 Walter and Shirley Merkel lived at the Property as joint tenants. In 1996, Shirley passed away. Walter continued living on the Property until 2000, at which time Walter passed away. After Walter's death, Ada began living on the Property for a period of approximately two years. Thereafter, Ada's then-boyfriend purchased a home and Ada moved out of the Property and began living with her boyfriend. Ada has not occupied the Property since moving out in approximately 2002.

Sometime in 2005, Ada discovered construction workers performing work on the Property. The workers stated that they had been hired by the "owner" William Berry. Mr. Berry had fraudulently transferred the property into his name. Additionally, since Ada moved out in 2002, squatters began occupying the Property on and off. The squatters destroyed much of the interior and exterior of home situated on the Property as well as the front and back yards. This

Submitted after final agenda

Date 2/4/08 Item #41

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law firm assisted Ada with transferring the Property back into Walter and Shirley's names and is presently representing Ada in probate.

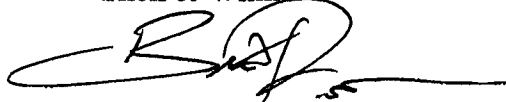
Presently, Ada is homeless and, although she is working and living with a friend, has not had the means to abate the Property herself or to pay the City's fees, penalties, or abatement expenses. Nevertheless, once probate is complete, Ada would like to occupy and take care of the Property.

In light of Ada's financial condition, Mr. Berry's fraudulent activity, the squatters' damage to the Property, and the fact that the Property is still in probate, Ada respectfully requests that the Council waive all or part of the Administrative fee (\$1,470) and/or Inspection/Reinspection fees (\$1,017). Ada is also aware that the Property is subject to Civil Penalties and strongly urges that the Council not impose such fees.

Additionally, according to the Report of Expenses, C&W Enterprises charged \$800 to repair or replace the roof. However, after the abatement was completed, Ada inspected the Property and discovered that the roofing had not been repaired or replaced. Accordingly, Ada requests that the council deduct \$800 from the amount of the proposed lien. Further, Ada respectfully requests that the City take no further action in connection with the Property for a period of 180 days to allow Ada to complete probate and either occupy or sell the Property.

Respectfully,

Snell & Wilmer



Brian R. Reeve

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