

5

Attachment 1

September 5, 2005  
10 Lea Court  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Mr. Lance Norris, Director  
Inspections Department Town of Chapel Hill  
405 Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dear Mr. Norris,

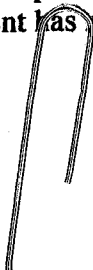
I am writing to you in a desperate attempt to resolve an unhealthy and unsanitary situation in my neighborhood. I live on Lea Court in the Colonial Heights section of Chapel Hill. My husband and I have lived here for 20 years. I realize that you are faced daily with many pressing problems affecting the citizens of Chapel Hill. I am writing to you as a last resort.

For almost five years I have been in communication with the Town Inspections Department about the condition of the property owned by Chin Ying Fan at 720 Lea Court. Over the years Ms. Fan has collected rubbish and dumped it in her yard. The rubbish includes: rolled and rusty chicken wire, jagged glass, broken terra cotta pots, wet rugs, broken lawn furniture, pipes, metal barrels, rotten tarps, discarded heating duct work, shower and storm doors, windows, and cinder blocks. These items have remained exposed to the elements. They eventually rotted and provided an excellent environment for vermin to breed.

In May of 2002 rodents were seen coming from the property. A complaint was filed with Maggie Bowers of the Inspections Department. Nothing was done to remove rubbish from the property, although it was rearranged. At that time we also contacted The Orange County Health Department. My neighbor and I were given brochures about the life cycle of rats and Orange County said they have no jurisdiction in the Town of Chapel Hill.

Several months later, during the summer, many large uncovered barrels were placed around the yard to collect water. Large trenches were dug in the ground that held stagnant water. I noticed objectionable odors coming from the property. Mosquitoes were so bad that my family could not go outside. Once again the Inspections Department was called but nothing was done about the standing water. I also contacted the town's mosquito control officer and was told that nothing could be done.

As you can see from the enclosed photographs the condition of the property is unsightly. Since the Inspections Department has repeatedly told my neighbors and me that there is



①

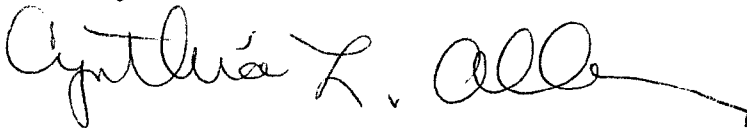
nothing more they can do, I planted trees in an effort to block my view of the property. With this solution I have been able to ignore the continued deterioration of the house, yard and growing piles of rubbish.

Yesterday my husband and I were working in our yard and noticed a strong offensive odor coming from the direction of Ms. Fan's backyard. It seemed to be a decaying animal so we tried to find it to dispose of it. Upon closer inspection we found exposed buckets that are being used as an open sewer. The buckets contained urine and human feces. The area was littered with used toilet paper as well as decaying fruit, vegetables and bags of household refuse. My husband and I were stunned and sickened by the sight and odor. We called 911. Two police officers came to our house and answered our concerns by telling us that one hundred years ago all people defecated outside. They said that keeping buckets of human waste is not against the law. We still insisted that a police report be written.


I believe that keeping buckets of untreated human waste in this manner poses a health hazard to my family and the people in my neighborhood. Out of frustration I have read and tried to understand the Town Ordinances that govern situations of this kind. It appears to me that there are numerous violations at 720 Lea Court and have been for many years. Furthermore, it seems that since Ms. Fan, who is a town employee and works with the public, should be held to the same standard of health and sanitation as the rest of us.

I would like to know from you what agency I should contact about the human waste and rotting household refuse. I feel that I have exhausted all resources that are obvious to me. Surely somewhere there is an agency that can help all parties involved. Please contact me with all necessary names and information needed to resolve this extremely dangerous situation.

Sincerely,



Cynthia L. Allen



7



8

