



San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott

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Barrio Logan Landlord Pleads Guilty *City Attorney Ensures Families Find New Homes*

City Attorney Mara W. Elliott continues to fight for tenants living in dangerous and substandard housing conditions. On May 24, 2018, the City Attorney's Nuisance Abatement Unit obtained misdemeanor convictions against Shawn Corneille, the property manager of a duplex at 2771-2773 Logan Avenue in Barrio Logan. The City Attorney's Office also ensured that the tenants, two families with young children, were provided with \$6,166 in relocation costs, enabling them to move into new homes.

These tenants endured horrible living conditions for over two years, including infestations of roaches and mice, plumbing leaks, mold, and no heat. They begged the property manager for relief, but were ignored.

Beginning in August 2017, inspectors from the City's Code Enforcement Division documented the tenants' complaints, finding major Health and Safety Code violations. They discovered that the rear exit from one unit had rotting stairs and a landing so badly deteriorated that it posed a fire and safety hazard to the family living inside. The City asked Corneille to correct these violations (see attached), but that request also fell on deaf ears.

On December 21, 2017, the City Attorney's Office charged property manager Shawn Corneille and property owner Nagui Adly Estafanous with maintaining dangerous and substandard living conditions. On May 24, 2018, Corneille pled guilty to three misdemeanor counts for maintaining substandard housing. In addition to the \$6,166 in relocation cost to the tenants, he was sentenced to 100 days of custody (suspended pending compliance with probation terms) and three years of probation. He was also ordered to pay a fine of \$1,500 (with an additional \$1,500 stayed pending successful completion of probation) and to pay \$1,890 in investigative costs to the City.

As part of Corneille's plea agreement (attached), charges were dismissed against his father-in-law, property owner Estafanous, who has since sold the property. The City Attorney's Office will monitor the rehabilitation of the property by the new owner to ensure that future tenants do not suffer similarly unsanitary and unsafe conditions.

"It is intolerable for young children and their families to be forced to live in such deplorable conditions," City Attorney Mara W. Elliott said. **"Our Office will prosecute landlords to the fullest extent of the law and will demand they provide victims with the means to relocate to safe and sanitary new homes."**

The City Attorney's [Nuisance Abatement Unit](#), previously titled the Code Enforcement Unit, was established in 1984 to address nuisance properties and blight throughout the City of San Diego. This unit works in partnership with the City's Development Services Department, the San Diego Police Department, and the community to identify and aggressively address nuisance properties. Community members can report code, health and safety and environmental violations to the City Attorney's Nuisance Abatement Unit at 619-533-5655.

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