

October 18, 2023

BY EMAIL <u>acre@attorneygeneral.gov</u> and FEDERAL EXPRESS OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

SDAG Robert A. Willig Office of Attorney General 1251 Waterfront Place Mezzanine Level Pittsburgh, PA 15222

RE: ACRE Request for Review - Frankstown Township - Blair County Residents:

Dear Attorney Willig:

In my capacity as Solicitor for Frankstown Township, I am writing in response to your Sentember 20, 2023 letter requesting that the Township reply within thirty (30) days of least ACRE complaint/request for review filed with your Office.

At the outset, I would note that I appeared on behalf of the Township at the Magisterial District Judge proceedings wherein both and his wife, were convicted of summary offenses involving violations of the Township's Junk and Salvage Yard Ordinance and its Floodplain Ordinance. The Township's Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer, testified for the Commonwealth and presented extensive photographic evidence in support of the charges. As to conviction on the latter violation, the latter violation, the property in the floodplain without a permit from the Township a lean-to structure immediately adjacent to another structure whose presence on the property predated the 2018 Floodplain Ordinance.

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Nevertheless, Judge found the guilty of the Floodplain Ordinance violation. In rendering her decision, Judge concluded unequivocably that the lean-to had in no way been a movable "trailer" or "hay trailer" as contended at the hearing and as he described in his August 23, 2023 email to your office.

Accompanying this letter are color photographs depicting the structure for which was convicted of involving the Floodplain Ordinance violation. The exterior photograph marked as C-12 speaks for itself, and the color photograph of a portion of the interior of the lean-to with an axle and two wheels appearing to be attached the side of it are what pointed to as evidence that the lean-to was a trailer and not a structure. Curiously, the same or a similar axle and wheels appear to be laying in the part and as evidenced by a June 12, 2023 photograph enclosed and marked as Exhibit C-25, days before his receipt of the citation for the ordinance violation. Judge marked as Exhibit C-25, days before his receipt of the citation for the ordinance violation. Judge marked knowledge or training for any other persons to reach the same conclusion.

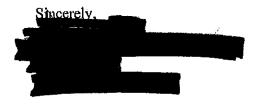
In his Complaint/Request for Review, poke to the "agricultural activities" that the Township allegedly sought to curtail on his "farms" at and an alleged violation of Act 38. The Township denies that enforcement of either its Floodplain Ordinance or Junkyard/Salvage Ordinance prohibits or limits normal agricultural activities by the Moreover, the Township categorically denies ontentions as described in paragraph 2 of your September 20, 2023 letter.

complaints to your Office wholly obscure the nature of the MDJ proceeding: the photographic evidence submitted to Judge, and provided to you with this letter demonstrate under any standard of reasonableness that the maintain their rural residential properties in a deplorable manner-indeed, the visual equivalent of junkyards for which numerous neighbors have appeared repeatedly before the Township Board of Supervisors and registered vocally and loudly their complaints regarding the absolutely trashy condition of the properties. The photographs accompanying this letter show, both before and after ownership, aerial photographs of and They also depict garbage, debris, appliances, hot water heaters, chairs, empty cylinder containers, and other miscellaneous rubbish strewn over each property under wnership. At the hearing, stified the condition of his properties as being wholly in furtherance of farming on them (he had several pigs and horses on the roperty during the period prior to the filing of the charges against him and his wife). Judge id not buy this defense, and efforts to cloak his absolute untidiness under your Office should not be swayed by the guise of farming. As I stated to Judge and as I state again, the condition of the roperties is an affront to all farmers in this Commonwealth.

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Simply stated, the Township's enforcement of its Ordinances against the state is and was wholly within the police power of the Township, and conviction on the summary offenses in no way interferes or limits the belief belief belief by belief to engage in farming activities on their properties in Frankstown Township.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information from the Township in furtherance of your investigation, please let me know.



Enclosures

Frankstown Township Board of Supervisors (w/o enc.)





4-10-23



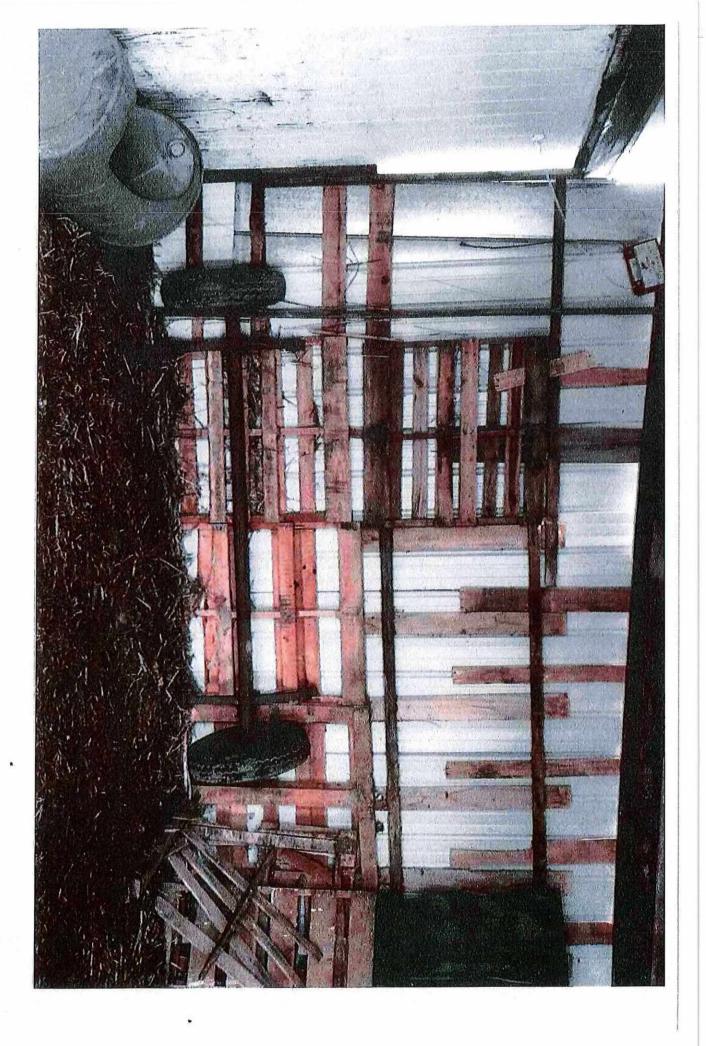
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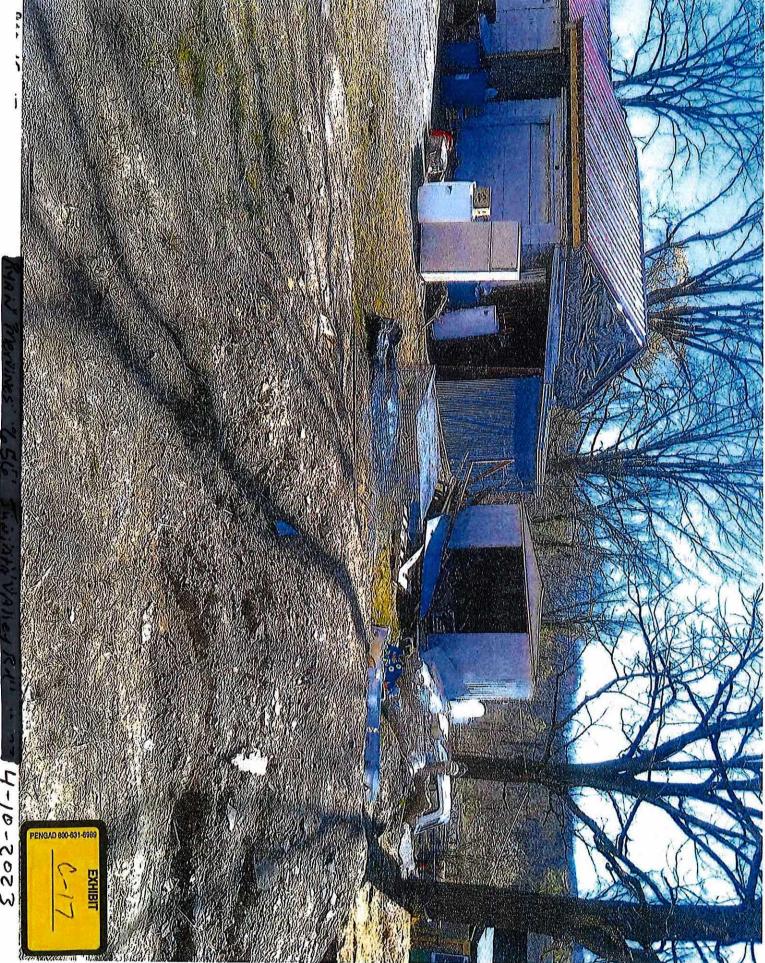


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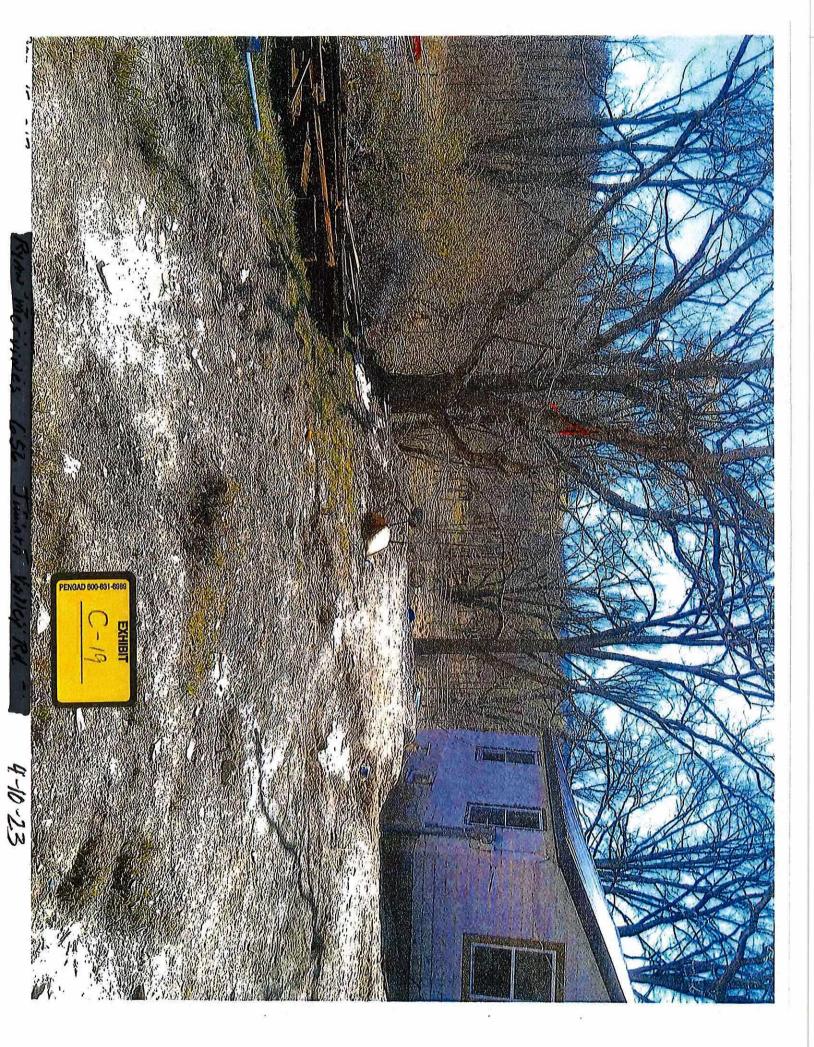








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