

Citation: Request from Commissioner of Health regarding destruction of shacks, April 13, 1942. CF 173660. Comptroller Files, 1802-01, Seattle Municipal Archives.

FILE NO. 173660

Petition
OF
Commissioner of Health

For some action making for the destruction of certain vacant shacks which are now a health and fire hazard.

11/17/67 [unclear] Ref. to them.

FILED: April 13, 1942.

W. C. THOMAS
CITY COMPTROLLER AND EX-OFFICIO CITY CLERK

BY: *[Signature]* DEPUTY

ACTION OF THE COUNCIL

REFERRED APR 13 1942	TO
REFERRED	REPORT ADOPTED
REPORTED	REPORT ADOPTED
REF. FOR ORD.	C. B. ORD.
NOV 23 1942	DISPOSITION ON FILE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Mr. President:

Your PUBLIC SAFETY Committee

to which was referred the within Petition

would respectfully report that we have considered the same and respectfully recommend that
the same be placed on file.

Morton
CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN

Powell
CHAIRMAN

DN 6-41 GATEWAY

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November 20, 1942

Major Walter C. Best,
1121 Post Street,
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Sir:

It has been suggested by Mr. Kirby Torrence of the Civilian Protection Division that I contact you in regard to the Auxiliary Fire Fighters assisting the City of Seattle in destroying old shacks which have been erected by transients in various parts of the town.

For your information, the City has had quite a problem on its hands, particularly in regard to persons building unauthorized shacks on vacant property in certain sections of the city. This created a serious health menace and fire hazard and for sometime now the city has been gradually getting rid of these places.

However, due to the outbreak of the war which placed an additional burden on our Fire Department, and the fact that we have had a long dry spell in this city, there are several shacks about town which have not been destroyed.

Members of the Public Safety Committee suggested that possibly the Auxiliary Fire Fighters would be interested in burning these places down for practice, and at the same time they would be doing a good job for the City of Seattle.

If it will be possible for the Auxiliary Firemen to burn these places for the city I would suggest that you get in touch with Mr. Allen Butler in the Health Department, who is charged with destruction of these illegal shacks, and Chief Fitzgerald of the Fire Department. Both of these parties have been contacted and are in apparent agreement with this method of disposing of these places.

S.

I would appreciate your letting me know, at your convenience, whether you think arrangements might be made to have the Auxiliary Firemen burn these shacks. It would give them an opportunity to apply the training they have received.

Very truly yours,

Wm. L. Norton

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The City of Seattle

WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND SANITATION
FRANK M. CARROLL, M.D., COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

October 31, 1942.

Mr. William L. Norton,
Chairman of Public Safety Committee,
County - City Building,
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your communication of October 27, will say that there are shacks in various parts of the city, which have not all been demolished. This work of demolition was discontinued last April, when the Chief of the Fire Department advised this department and your committee that he could no longer spare equipment for burning such shacks. At that time he also agreed that he would make an effort to have the auxiliary fire fighting crew engage in this work.

This department has burned or caused to be razed a total of six hundred thirty-three shacks. The Port Commission razed approximately four hundred twenty on the site, which was known as "Hooverville". The U.S. Navy disposed of approximately ninety shacks in the Interbay area and the Coast Guard--we are informed--destroyed or caused to be moved approximately four hundred along the Duwamish water way.

Each week we find a number of small shelters being erected around our garbage fills. As soon as we find them they are destroyed. There are a number of shacks which we have vacated, especially those in "Louisville", which should be burned. Now that the dangerous summer fire season is over, perhaps the fire department can again help us in this work.

Very truly Yours,
Frank M. Carroll
Frank M. Carroll, M.D.,
Commissioner of Health.

B:K

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS
THE CITY OF SEATTLE

CHARLES C. HUGHES
SUPERINTENDENT
MEMBER, BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

IN RE: Shacks

November 2, 1942.

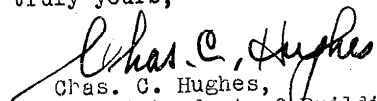
Hon. W. L. Norton, Chairman,
Public Safety Committee
of the City Council,
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Sir:

We have your letter of October 27th, inquiring as to whether or not all shacks in the various parts of the City have been demolished. I believe we are safe in saying that some still exist.

On March 26th you wrote to the Commissioner of Health, in relation to File No. 169237, and in this communication you stated that your committee had made a certain recommendation. This was, in short, that representatives of the Health, Fire, Police and Building Departments form a committee and take action, for the purpose of eliminating shacks throughout the City. Mr. Butler of the Health Department was made the leader of this committee, and was instrumental in eliminating many of the shacks. We are leaving it to his department to make a full progress report to you.

Very truly yours,


Charles C. Hughes,
Superintendent of Buildings.

Dict.

W. 

IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

Shacks

November 2, 1942.

Hon. W. L. Norton, Chairman,
Public Safety Committee
of the City Council,
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Sir:

We have your letter of October 27th, inquiring as to whether or not all shacks in the various parts of the City have been demolished. I believe we are safe in saying that some still exist.

On March 26th you wrote to the Commissioner of Health, in relation to File No. 169237, and in this communication you stated that your committee had made a certain recommendation. This was, in short, that representatives of the Health, Fire, Police and Building Departments form a committee and take action, for the purpose of eliminating shacks throughout the City. Mr. Butler of the Health Department was made the leader of this committee, and was instrumental in eliminating many of the shacks. We are leaving it to his department to make a full progress report to you.

Very truly yours,

Chas. C. Hughes,
Superintendent of Buildings.

Dict.
W. [Signature]

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October 27, 1942

Mr. Chas. G. Hughes
Superintendent of Buildings
City of Seattle

Dr. F. M. Carroll
Commissioner of Health
City of Seattle

Gentlemen:

The Public Safety Committee would appreciate receiving a report from you as to whether or not all the shacks in the various parts of the city have now been demolished. An immediate reply will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Wm. L. Norton

WCH:tw

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The City of Seattle

WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND SANITATION
FRANK M. CARROLL, M. D., COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

April 9, 1942.

Honorable City Council,
County - City Building,
Seattle, Washington.

Gentlemen:

On or about April 25, 1941, the City Council had under consideration File No. 169237, concerning shack elimination. At that time a committee was appointed consisting of a representative from the Health, Fire, Building, and Police Departments, to take what action might be necessary in removing these shacks.

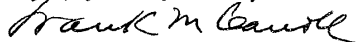
Since that time we have burned or caused to be removed about six hundred of these sub-standard dwelling places. At the present time we have about seventy-five vacant shacks which should be destroyed by burning.

Chief Fitzgerald of the Fire Department has informed Mr. Butler, who has acted as chairman of the committee appointed that the Fire Department cannot assist in any more burning operations, because there is no fire fighting equipment that can be spared for such purposes.

The shacks that are now vacant will soon be reoccupied, if they are not destroyed, and these seventy-five with others which will soon be vacant, are a potential health and fire hazard and a disgrace to the city.

We request that your honorable body consider this question and instruct the shack committee as to what action they should now take.

Very truly Yours,



Frank M. Carroll, M. D.,
Commissioner of Health.

B:K

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