

## DECLARATION OF Chuck Burris

I Chuck Burris am making this declaration at the request of Glenn Whiting. I make it of my own free will and for the purpose of hopefully being able to help resolve an issue that has hurt both the Whiting family and the citizens of Athens. As such I state the following.

1. I was mayor of Athens at the time Seth Sumner ordered the building on Pope Street to be torn down.
2. We the council was told that it was not fixable and had to be torn down.
3. We were told that Matthew Gravely was qualified to make the determination of the buildings condition. We were told the walls were falling in and not savable.
4. We were told that the process that the building was the same that all buildings have gone through.
5. It was my understanding that no-one would ever be able to fix the building due to its condition.
6. As mayor I explained the long process a building had to go through to get to the point that the Pope Street building went through and how it takes years to get there.
7. It is my strong belief the city has conspired against Mr. Whiting for personal reasons by Seth Sumner. A few of the reasons I have to believe this is the following facts.
  - a. The building being fast tracked for the hearing.
  - b. The condition of so many buildings that are literally falling down and not another single commercial building ever being done this was. These buildings are still standing and the city taking no action to require them be fixed or torn down.
  - c. The fact that it was well known that the relationship between Seth Sumner and Mr. Whiting was toxic at best.
8. It was not until after leaving the council that I found out the following facts that are now publicly known.
  - a. Mathew was not qualified to inspect the building even though we were told he was. Had we been told the truth I as mayor would have tried to stop the city from the attack to Mr. Whiting.
  - b. I learned after that although told the building went through the same process it was actually fast tracked and what takes

years only took a little over a month. To my knowledge that had never happened before within the city of Athens.

- c. Told the building was not fixable because of the walls, yet I have personally seen how the building has been fixed by new owners with all the walls still standing with no repairs done to them. It is clear the building department knew the building was fixable.
- d. I learned that the council was lied to in order to cover up the true reason that the building was being ordered to be torn down. Had the council been told the truth I do not believe the building would have been ordered to be torn down and Mr. Whiting would have been allowed to fix the building.

I have received a draft of the lawsuit being finalized to be filed against the city and after reading it, I personally believe the city should at least make an attempt to resolve these issues for the good of all parties involved. I hope that I am not called to testify as I believe the truth that I have knowledge of will only support a new lawsuit and hurt the city.

Under penalty of perjury, I make this declaration and state that to the best of my knowledge the statements are true.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Burn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'C' at the beginning.