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Code violations against Jackson quickly resolved

By TaMaryn Waters • DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER
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Most of the code violations involving properties owned by Tallahassee City Commission candidate Erwin Jackson dealt with trash produced by his tenants.

Of the 119 violations on his record at City Hall since 2004, 108 were "voluntary-compliance notices" that were either posted on Jackson-owned properties or given to his tenants. He was never fined.

"They are violations that were created by my tenants and were resolved immediately by tenants when they were notified," Jackson said.

Fifteen involved "notices of violation" that were mailed directly to Jackson. However, four should not have been on his record because three involved a fence later deemed to be acceptable by the city, and another was actually a complaint reported by Jackson himself about someone else's property, said Michael Parker, assistant director of Economic & Community Development.

City officials earlier gave the *Tallahassee Democrat* records showing Jackson had 15 "notices of violation." The actual number is 11. Nine were related to trash that tenants hadn't cleaned up, Jackson said; one was related to an inoperable vehicle; and another was related to minor violations involving a cracked window, weather stripping, a broken outlet cover and a closet door off the hinges.

Jackson, who's running for Seat 5, described himself as a conscientious landlord who has crews picking up trash twice a day, six days a week. He said he's had about 4,200 tenants since 2004.

"I have never claimed to be perfect," he wrote in a letter to the *Democrat*. "However, my office manager and staff do an outstanding job, and these numbers prove that their management of my properties is almost perfect."

Jackson earlier this week said he was unaware of the 108 "voluntary-compliance notices." Parker wrote

Jackson on Thursday saying Jackson likely was not aware of those notices because either tenants or maintenance staff remedied the violations within a required time frame, and therefore Jackson received no formal notice.

Jackson said tenants, not staff, took care of the issues.

"An analogous situation would be if you loaned your car to a friend and they received a parking ticket and paid the ticket within the required time frame," Parker wrote to Jackson. "In this instance you would not be notified of the parking ticket. However, there would be a record indicating that a parking ticket had been issued for your car."

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Erwin Jackson, candidate for Tallahassee City Commission.