Fannie Mae Fails to Maintain Foreclosures in African American and Latino Neighborhoods in Metropolitan Chicago, IL

HOPE Fair Housing Center South Suburban Housing Center Open Communities







Fannie Mae REO Investigations in 38 Metropolitan Areas



Fannie's Mission for REOs

"At Fannie Mae, the mission of the Fannie Mae Property Maintenance team is to ensure the quality of our REO property maintenance services, consistently producing best-in-class, market-ready properties and maintaining them until removal from our inventory."

- Found on Homepath.com

Fannie Mae's Field Services Checklist

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All companies are to ensure these hazards are identified and resolves on their inspections. Some of the common safety hazards the Flaid Service Company is an asked to remediate include: <u>Windows/Doors</u> • Remove any forkers glass. • Secure and/or board any exposed windows, doors or openings. <u>Electrical terms</u> • Secure and/or board any exposed windows, doors or openings. <u>Electrical terms</u> • Secure and/or board any exposed windows, doors or openings. <u>Electrical terms</u> • Secure and/or board any exposed windows, doors or openings. <u>Electrical terms</u> • Secure and/or board any exposed windows, doors or openings. <u>Electrical terms</u> • Secure board introless or torken steps. • Replace or secure missing or tooken hards. <u>Panistepice</u> • Replace or secure missing or tooken hards. <u>Panistepice</u> • Replace or secure missing or tooke hardrals. <u>Panistepice</u> • Replace or secure missing or tooke terms. • Replace or secure missing or tooke hardrals. <u>Electrical terms</u> • Replace or secure missing or tooke terms. • Replace or secure missing or tooke terms. • Resplace or secure missing or tooke hardrals. <u>Electrical terms</u> • Replace or secure missing or tooke hardrals. <u>Electrical terms</u> • Replace or secure missing or tooke hardrals. <u>Electrical terms</u> • Replace or secure missing or tooke hardrals. <u>Electrical terms</u>	2012 Checklist 2015	Initial Services and Monthly Maid Services Checklist Professional Services and Monthly Maid Services Checklist Professional Services and property is load, is best at all all of Prove Main and expected to be performed and maintained by the Field Service Company at each property Electronic Services and maintained by the Field Service Company at each property Company at each property Company at each property Electronic Services and maintained by the Field Service Company at each property Company at each property Company at each property Electronic Services and Maintained Services Electronic Services and Services Electronic Services and Services Company at each property Electronic Services and Services Company at each property excurred Company at each property excurred Electronic Elec	Subject Headed Checklist Vitro policing services initial and orgology on all Farmie Mae properties, when policineity services initial and orgology on all Farmie Mae properties, each field Service Company is asked to strendistely check for connects safety hazards that refer Service Comparises are asked to remediate include: Narads the Feld Service Comparises are asked to remediate include: Narads the Feld Service Comparises are asked to remediate include: Narads the Feld Service Comparises are asked to remediate include: Narads the Feld Service Comparises are asked to remediate include: Narads the Feld Service Comparises are asked to remediate include: Narads the Feld Service Comparises are asked to remediate include: Narads the Feld Service Comparises are asked to remediate include: Narads the Feld Service Comparises are asked to remediate include: Narads the Feld Service Comparises are asked to remediate include: Narads the Feld Service Comparises are asked to remediate include: Narads the Feld Service Comparises are asked to remediate include: Narads the Feld Service Comparises are asked to remediate include: Narads the Feld Service Comparises are asked to patient of the service Comparises are asked to remediate include: Narads the Service Comparises of analogic subto plates or outper transmitted to the Service Comparises and and the Service Comparises and and the Service Comparises and analogic subto plates or outper transmitted to the service of the Service Comparises and Service Comparises. 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Broker Checklist When performing weekly property inspections, the following Broker-related Items are expected: Property is secure and locked: Arbys are present in lockbox. Company signage is posted and marketing materials are present. Weekly inspections include date stamped phatos for varification of any Vielekly inspections. Include date stamped phatos for varification of any Vielekly and identifymationation date marketing materials are present. Vielekly and identifymathered are stamped phatos for varification of any Vielekly and identifymathered for unsafe to do ex. Ensure all detailmathered box dates removed from entry wardered; Ensure all detailmathered box dates stamped phatos.	Rearrow all fallen lawses, deal shrube, plants, or small ornamental trees. Broom dates weldways. Ensure all male statute signage is properly secured and showing appropriately upon departure. NOTE: Brokers must dreat and provide approval to the Field Senders Correlation and any properties to the field Senders Correlation and provide approach to the field Senders Correlation and any strategies and any strategies and the senders of the senders and the sender sender the senders and the senders and the senders and the senders and the sender sender senders and the sender sender senders and the senders are sendered as the senders and the senders.	same and detail what Fannie Mae says it will do to maintain	Listing Agent Checklist When performing weekly properly inspections, the following Listing Agent- related items are expected: • Encurs entire properly is secure and locked, including padlocks on paths indicationality, at register • policity and additional marketing • policity are present in okohox. • Encurs Reys are present in okohox. • Encurs Devision changes. • Encurs Devision changes. • Encurs Devision are there on unrelises not warened or unaket to do so. • Encurs Devision are there on unrelises not warened or unaket to do so. • Encurs Devision and excision or anti-excision are encoved from entry waylparch. Break.	Remove all shrule and grass digrams, tillerin leaves, deal shrul-balplanname ornametal trees from the property. Case all well-hours and laborates of digrams and dre. Case all well-hours and laborates of digrams and dre. Case all well-hours ministry of the signal and the ministry appropriately. Romar all and retire signals is properly secured and thewing appropriately. Romar all and retire signals is properly secured and thewing appropriately. Romar all provide approach to the finite distribution of the signal of t

its foreclosures.

Ensure all debris/mailings/door drops are removed from entry way/porch

area. Continn interior and exterior maintenance is satisfactory. Follow all expectations as indicated in the Fannie Mae REO Sales Guide.

- Famile Mae expects all snow removal to be in compliance with all local codes and ordinances. Snow removal service includes:
- Remove snowlice from steps, driveway, and walkways, including sidewalk in front of property and ensure access to parking area (garage, calports, etc.).
 Apply said remeting agent on all cleared areas including steps, driveway, and walkways, including sidewalk in front of property.

area. Confirm interior and exterior maintenance is satisfactory Follow all expectations as indicated in the Farvie Mae REO Sales Quade. @ 2015 Farmie Mae. Trademarks of Farmie Mae. For Farmie Mae purposes only

Field Services Checklers, 0713

nemote stroketic tion at enters to the property. Remote stroketic tion steps, diversely, and sakways, including sidewalk in front of property and emuse access to parking area (garage, calports, etc.). Stroketic may, not be pushed up to the property or garage blocking access. Apply sail or meting agent on all deared areas including steps, driveway, and validways, including satemak in ritions of property.

Exterior Services Checklist

Fannie Mae expects each property's exterior to be in compliance with local codes and ordinances year round, as well as the exterior to look its best to remain competitive in the market.

Exterior services include:

- Removal of trash/debris.
- <u>Cut grass and remove clippings from sidewalks, driveways and lawns (front, back, and sides).</u>
- □ Knock down, remove, and treat weeds as needed in all rock-scaped areas.
- Trim weeds/overgrowth from fence lines, foundation of home/other structures, driveways and flower beds without damaging existing plants or flowers.
- Edge driveways, walkways and sidewalks.
- **Remove all non-decorative vegetation attached to structure (including hanging vines).**
- Hedge all shrubs and small ornamental trees on entire property, and ensure overgrown shrubs are hedged and trimmed from all exterior entrances and walkways, as well as below window sills as appropriate.
- **Remove all fallen leaves, dead shrubs/plants/small ornamental trees from the property.**
- <u>Clear all walkways and sidewalks of clippings and dirt.</u>
- **Ensure all real estate signage is properly secured and showing appropriately.**
- **Ensure all debris/mailings/door drops/cobwebs are removed from all entry ways/porch areas.**
- **Property is secured and locked.**
- **Confirm interior and exterior maintenance is satisfactory.**

HomePath.com Maintenance

Fannie Mae has also provided its vendors with the authority to immediately perform additional services, without obtaining prior approval up to specified dollar thresholds as conditions at the property warrant, including, but not limited to:

- Installation of exterior doors if damaged or missing (instead of using temporary securing materials);
- Exterior porch light replacement if damaged or missing;
- <u>Finished handrails/guardrails (instead of temporary replacements);</u>
- Deck and <u>wooden step repairs;</u>
- □ <u>Gutter repairs;</u>
- <u>Fence repairs;</u>
- **•** Rehanging shutters; and
- Painting over graffiti.

https://www.homepath.com/field-services.html

Methodology for Investigation

- Neighborhoods selected for investigations were:
 - Majority African American
 - Majority Latino
 - Majority Non-White
 - Majority White
- Neighborhoods selected had Fannie Mae foreclosed homes listed for sale on <u>Fannie's website</u>.
- □ 100% of Fannie Mae REOs in targeted zip codes were investigated.

Methodology for Investigation

- These 39 items are important maintenance issues addressing curb appeal, health and safety items, and structural issues for marketing the REO, maintaining property values, and being a good neighbor to surrounding homeowners.
 - The investigator marked "yes" or "no" as to whether the deficiency was present on the REO.
 - For example, 1 unsecured hole in the structure counts as 1 deficiency; likewise, 3 holes in the structure also counts as only 1 deficiency.
- Photos were taken of the REO and neighbors on both sides and across the street to show routine maintenance of homes in neighborhoods.
- No homes that were occupied were evaluated or used in the complaint.

Evaluation Measures

Curb Appeal

 Trash, Leaves, Overgrown Grass, Overgrown Shrubs, Invasive Plants, Dead Grass

Structure

 Broken Windows, Broken Doors, Damaged Fences, Damaged Roof, Holes, Wood Rot

G Signage

 Trespassing/warning signs, "Bank owned", "Auction", or "Foreclosure" signs, "For Sale" signs missing or broken/discarded











Evaluation Measures

Paint/Siding

 Graffiti, excessive peeling/chipped paint, damaged siding

Gutters

 Missing, out of place, broken, hanging, obstructed

Water Damage

 Mold, discoloration, excessive rust, erosion

Utilities

 Tampered with or exposed



Property of the National Fair Housing Alliance - Copyright 2016

Metro-Chicago, IL Racial Disparities

- In the metropolitan Chicago area, we investigated 353 Fannie Mae REOs from 2012 to 2015.
 - 71 located in African-American neighborhoods
 - 52 located in Latino neighborhoods
 - 50 located in Majority non-White neighborhoods
 - 180 located in White neighborhoods
- 49.7% of the REO properties in communities of color had <u>trash or</u> <u>debris</u> on the premises;
- 39.9% of the REO properties in communities of color had <u>overgrown</u> or dead shrubbery; and,
- 36.4% of the REO properties in communities of color had <u>unsecured</u>, <u>broken</u>, <u>or boarded windows</u>

HOPE Fair Housing Center Evidence

Fannie Mae's Failure to Maintain REOs in African American and Latino Neighborhoods in Aurora, Chicago, and Elgin

Anne Houghtaling, Executive Director





Fannie Mae REOs in 2012, 2013, 2014, & 2015

Sampling of Fannie Mae REOs in Latino, African American, and White neighborhoods in Aurora

2012: This poorly maintained Fannie Mae **REO** is located in a Latino neighborhood.

08/28/2012 22:55

Fannie's REO has hanging gutters, missing downspouts, boarded windows, damaged soffit and dirt for a backyard.





08/28/2012 22 5



The neighbors' homes are wellmaintained.

Fannie claims to maintain its REOs in the same or better condition than homes in the neighborhood.

Clearly that is not the case in this Latino neighborhood.



Fannie REO in African American neighborhood in Chicago with trash, broken window, overgrown backyard, invasive plants.





Fannie Mae REO in African neighborhood in Chicago with overgrown grass, boarded windows, invasive plants, trash and damaged front steps.

2012: Fannie Mae REO located in Latino neighborhood. Listed for \$74,900 on 8/3/12 and sold for only \$41,000 on 3/20/13.



Perhaps the low sales price is because Fannie failed to prepare the home by removing invasive plants, repairing the screen or steps or replacing the wooden lattice on the foundation.





<u>2013</u>: Fannie Mae REO located in a Latino/African American neighborhood in Aurora. The front entrance has peeling paint and broken light fixture and the back of the home...



Back of Fannie REO has trash, boarded windows, broken downspouts, light fixture and fence.







2/13/2013 3 11pm



<u>2013</u>: Fannie REO located in a Latino/African American neighborhood. Can you see the "For Sale" sign? Does this newer REO in community of color get better maintenance? No.

2/13/2013 2:46pm

First Impressions: Fannie failed to remove algae in basement window, allowed accumulation of debris on front porch and in the window well.

1786

olt



<u>2014</u>: Fannie Mae REO in middle class Latino neighborhood. Not too bad from front—just invasive plants growing in bushes, but...



The back of the Fannie REO is filled with trash, bricks, damaged siding and the storm window is open.





Obstructed gutters, more trash, the downspout empties at foundation and bent awning—all these issues hurt curb appeal.



<u>2015</u>: Fannie Mae REO in middle class Latino neighborhood. From the front you can already see dead plants left in the home's gutter.





There are obstructed gutters in the front and back of the home. Fannie Mae has also left a bird's nest sit on the home's gutter.





Fannie Mae has ignored these broken windows instead of repairing or replacing them.



In the back of the home Fannie Mae has neglected to mow the grass and has left dead shrubbery to decay instead of disposing of it properly.



Fannie Mae's REOs are Well-Maintained in White neighborhoods

Fannie REOs in White neighborhoods in 2012 in Aurora, IL.





Notice there are no overgrown shrubs or invasive plants and no obstructed gutters. Both homes have "For Sale" signs posted and ³³ manicured lawns. Fannie Mae REOs in White neighborhoods in 2013 and 2014 in Aurora, IL







These Fannie REOs have well-maintained yards, no trash, no obstructed gutters and even an emergency contact number on REO.





Fannie Mae's failure to maintain REOs in Hanover Park and Elgin, IL

Fannie Mae REOs in Elgin and Hanover Park's Latino neighborhoods suffer from poor maintenance, including accumulation of trash, unsecured doors, boarded windows, invasive plants and overgrown shrubs and lawns.


Unsecured structures and boarded homes invite vandalism and hurt property values for neighbors.



A close up look at a Fannie REO in a 71% Latino neighborhood.

Fannie's REO doesn't look bad from a distance, but let's take a closer look.

Below are the well-maintained neighboring homes.











Fannie fails to replace the downspout diverter to protect the foundation from water damage or to replace the clip to keep the downspout in place.



Fannie doesn't cover hole in the home to keep out insects and animals.



Obstructed gutters will lead to water damage on the roof and interior wall.

And the



Fannie fails to remove dead tree branch and leaves.

The state



Another close up look at Fannie REO in a Latino/African American neighborhood in Hanover Park, IL

Neighbor's well-maintained home

10/23/2014 16:38

Property of the National Fair Housing Alliance HOPE Fair Housing Center - Copyright 2015

Fannie's REO has trash left in yard.

10/23/2014 16:41

Siding that is lifting way should be repaired so wasps and bees cannot nest.

These are easy and inexpensive fixes to preserve the REO.

Property of the National Fa HOPE Fair Housing Center

10/23/20

Fannie Mae claims to have eyes on its REOs every week. If so, then how can Fannie explain this decaying animal carcass?

10/23/2014 16:42

<u>2015</u>: Fannie Mae REO in middle class Latino neighborhood. You can already see dead and overgrown shrubbery from the curb.



A closer look shows a completely dead shrub as well as overgrown bushes and invasive plants growing up the home's handrails.



Fannie Mae has left more dead plants on the side of the home.



This broken window was haphazardly taped by Fannie Mae instead of replacing it.



Fannie Mae has neglected to mow the home's backyard and has left debris sit in the grass.



Fannie Mae's Well-Maintained REOs in White Neighborhoods



Fannie Mae properties in white neighborhoods in 2015

13 36

03/06/2015 13:54

Riffsto Bundle

1000 (000) 100000 1000 (000) 1000 

00/11/2015-14:17

South Suburban Housing Center Evidence

Fannie Mae's Failed REO Maintenance in Dolton, Harvey, Hazel Crest, and Riverdale

John Petruszak, Executive Director





Fannie Mae listed this REO in July 2014 for \$49,900 then just let it run down until it sold for \$25,000 in December 2014.

Leaves accumulate in the backyard and the gutters are obstructed.





Curb appeal is what draws owner-occupants to a home. Auction signs all over the property sends a negative message about the neighborhood.

This broken light indicates to the community that this home is not cared for and could also pose an electrical hazard.

The shed is left unsecured.

014 13:17



The \$25,000 sales price for Fannie's REO hurts the property value and refinancing opportunities for this neighbor and the others in this African-American neighborhood.

No, this is NOT a Fannie REO. It is the neighbor living next door to a poorly maintained Fannie REO.



Fannie Mae is NOT a good neighbor in this African-American neighborhood.



Fannie fails to cut the invasive plants or fixing the screens, but says it maintains its REOs to the standard in the neighborhood. The neighbor would take issue with this poor standard by Fannie Mae.



Fannie fails to simply replace the downspout and lets water run into the foundation.





This Fannie REO in Hazel Crest has dead tree limbs and trash on the property.



Trash and the boarded back door conveys a negative message for buyers.



How does Fannie Mae miss covering this opening in the roof of its REO? What could be living in there?

10/16/2014 14:17

This Fannie Mae REO in Riverdale is in poor condition. The neighbors take good care of their homes.

10/27/2014

9:18

There is no reason for Fannie Mae to allow the accumulation of trash, invasive plants or dead leaves at a home.






The rear of the brick home has an addition, but the siding is missing. This is a simple and inexpensive fix for Fannie Mae to authorize, and it would present the home in good condition like the neighbors' homes.



The next door neighbor's well-maintained home.

10/27/2014

9:19

This Fannie Mae REO in an African American neighborhood in Riverdale is placed for auction rather than sale for an owner-occupant. Fannie listed the home for sale in 11/13 for \$61,290 but sold in 3/15 for \$12,000.

53

10/27/2014

9:4(



Fannie Mae's REO Maintenance in White Neighborhoods

Tinley Park, Mokena, Oak Forest, and Frankfort







This modest Fannie Mae REO in Oak Forest is for sale, not up for auction.

Another Fannie Mae REO in Oak Forest has a clean and manicured yard.



Freddie Mac REO Comparisons

Let's see how Freddie Mac maintains its REOs in all neighborhoods in Dolton and Tinley Park.



Freddie Mac REO in an African American neighborhood in Dolton, IL



Freddie Mac REO in an African American neighborhood in Dolton, IL

Freddie Mac REO in White neighborhood in Tinley Park, IL





Freddie Mac REO in White neighborhood in Tinley Park, IL

Open Communities Evidence

Fannie Mae's Failure to Maintain REOs in African American and Latino Neighborhoods in Des Plaines, Evanston, North Chicago, Skokie, and Waukegan

David Luna, Executive Director



This Fannie Mae REO in Des Plaines in a Latino/African American neighborhood just needs the same attention that REOs in white neighborhoods receive to be in market condition.





Fannie Mae can replace the slates in the fence and mow the lawn.

Fannie can spray the weeds and remove trash that it let accumulate on its REO property.







This next door neighbor deserves the courtesy of Fannie Mae maintaining its property in good condition.

This Fannie Mae REO in Des Plaines in a Latino/African American neighborhood had the grass cut, but debris left all over the property. The lower front window needs repair.







Fannie Mae is showing this home with trash all over the property.





Why does Fannie Mae allow this home to be listed for sale and shown to buyers in this condition?



Here is proof that Fannie Mae listed this REO with trash left on the property.

Listing from Redfin.com

END UNIT TWO STORY TOWNHOME WITH BASEMENT. PRIVATE, FENCED YARD AREA WITH CEMENT PATIO. CLOSE TO SCHOOLS AND SHOPPING. MINUTES FROM 1294. THIS IS A FANNIE MAE HOMEPATH PROPERTY. PURCHASE THIS PROPERTY FOR AS LITTLE AS 5% DOWN! PROPERTY IS APPROVED FOR HOMEPATH MORTGAGE AND HOMEPATH RENOVATION MORTGAGE FINANCING.



This is what we call a Fannie Mae "Drive-by REO listing." In Evanston's African-American neighborhoods Fannie allows poor maintenance. From the front of the REO you just see overgrown grass and scrubs, but go around the back... You see how Fannie Mae is really marketing its REO in this African American neighborhood in Evanston...

.20

08.06.2013





This homeowner in an African-American neighborhood in Evanston lives next to a poorly maintained Fannie REO

Boarded and poorly maintained Fannie Mae REO.

1411



The back of the REO is boarded and notice the downspout hanging.



This hole in the foundation allows insects and rats or mice to enter the home.



And yet again, Fannie Mae allows trash and debris to accumulate at its REO and Fannie lists and markets the home in this poor condition.



Fannie Mae's REO in an African-American neighborhood in North Chicago. Same poor maintenance issues here...

14



Trash is allowed to accumulate. Fannie says it has "eyes on the property weekly," then how does this happen consistently in African-American neighborhoods?


WARNING

THIS PROPERTY IS OWNED BY FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION

THEFT, TRESPASSING, OR VANDALISM WILL BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW.

Fannie Mae

RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL

(847) 679-4757

The warning sign ought to say:

"BEWARE: Fannie Mae does not maintain homes in African-American neighborhoods."



Another Fannie Mae boarded REO in a African-American neighborhood in North Chicago.



The Fannie REO is boarded all around. How do you show a home with no natural light?

Another Fannie Mae "Drive-By" REO in Skokie's African-American neighborhood where the front looks fine, but...

See.

- - 14 D eff.





Fannie Mae treats Waukegan's Latino neighborhoods are as poorly as the African-American neighborhoods. This Fannie Mae REO has an overgrown front lawn and scrubs...

And an overgrown backyard...

Trash throughout the back yard...

Trash on the deck...



And trash killing the hosts in the perennial flower bed.



This Fannie Mae REO in a Latino neighborhood in Waukegan is missing a "for sale" sign and has zero curb appeal. Note the overgrown grass and boarded window that can be seen from the curb.



The backyard is completely overgrown.



Fannie Mae REO in Latino neighborhood in Waukegan



Invasive plants and bags of trash in back yard...



More trash is littered throughout the dead invasive plants.



Fannie Mae receives notices about trash.

Fannie Mae's Well-Maintained REOs in White Neighborhoods

Samples of REOs from Des Plaines, Skokie, and Waukegan



Fannie Mae's well-maintained REO in Des Plaines.

This Fannie Mae REO in a White neighborhood in Des Plaines has a manicured lawn and no leaves remaining from the Fall. This photo was taken in September.





1835

Fannie Mae's REO in Des Plaines front and back are well-maintained.



Fannie Mae REO in white neighborhood in Des Plaines is well maintained.

Fannie Mae REO in white neighborhood in Skokie is well-maintained.

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Another Skokie Fannie Mae REO in a White neighborhood is well-maintained. Fannie Mae REO in Waukegan's White neighborhood is well maintained in te front and backyards.

AL>



KSY

Health & Safety Concerns

Living next to or nearby foreclosed homes causes stress, high blood pressure, asthma, and anxiety. People report feeling their neighborhood is stigmatized.

American Heart Association

- "The increases in blood pressure observed could be due in part to unhealthy stress from residents' perception that their own properties are less valuable, their streets less attractive or safe and their neighborhoods less stable," said Mariana Arcaya, Sc.D., M.C.P.
- "Safety could also be a concern that affects their ability to exercise in these neighborhoods."
- "Because the study involved predominately white, middle-class, suburban neighborhoods with single-family homes, research on different populations in urban and rural settings is needed," Arcaya said.

POOR QUALITY OF LIFE

 Boarded up housing and vacancies contribute to social isolation, anxiety, and feeling of stigmatization.

 Residents' fear of crime in neighborhoods with vacancies may cause significant barriers to exercise and physical activity.

- Vacant and abandoned homes cause rapid neighborhood decay and blight. (Broken Window Theory)
- Residents feel unsafe walking on streets with abandoned or vacant properties.
- A higher proportion of vacant homes in urban neighborhoods is associated with increased crime.

UNSAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

- Unattended and unmaintained properties result in:
- Illegal dumping and rodent infestation
- Injuries from accidental fires or arson
- Deterioration of lead paint.

QUESTIONS?

From Fannie Mae REO home in Orlando, Florida.

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