

PASTNER WOULD GET A 'GOLDEN HANDSHAKE' IF FIRED

NON-PROFITS

Cooper Walker Place leader says building not being sold in foreclosure



Roy Cash Jr. sits in the sanctuary at Cooper Walker Place, formerly Galloway United Methodist Church in Cooper-Young.

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Cooper Walker Place auctioned, now called 'Galloway House'

By Thomas Bailey Jr. of The Commercial Appeal

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Despite a foreclosure notice published Thursday, Cooper Walker Place will not be sold at auction, one of the leaders of the nonprofit community center for Cooper-Young said Saturday.

"It's not being sold — already covered. Nonstory really," Ken Steorts said in an exchange of texts with The Commercial Appeal Saturday afternoon.

Cooper Walker Place, at 1015 S. Cooper at Walker, is going ahead with fundraising events to establish memorials on site for the late Johnny Cash. The legendary musician gave his first professional performance at what was then Galloway United Methodist Church as a 22-year-old in December 1954.

Steorts is founder and president of Visible Music College, which has invested in and established an outreach program at Cooper Walker Place. The spaces in the old church building are rented to tenants and for community functions.



A foreclosure notice published last week states that a default occurred on a \$995,000 loan. The loan was taken by Lifelink Church Inc. eight years ago and was assumed by the nonprofit Cooper Walker Place in April 2013, the notice states.

The notice also states that the building, 22,410 square feet on a half-acre, is to be auctioned on the Shelby County Courthouse steps at noon on Jan. 29.

Memphis property taxes for 2014 and 2015 and Shelby County property taxes for 2014 are also delinquent, the notice states.

Steorts stated in texts on Saturday that the foreclosure sale is not happening, but he declined to give details.



"There's no more story to share so I don't know what to tell you," he stated. "No detail available. We celebrate that it is not happening now and the (Cash) events are on track."

Plans are still set to dedicate on May 1 a historical plaque, honoring Cash, at the northeast corner of the church ground, Steorts indicated. Eventually, the goal is to raise \$130,000 to establish a plaza on that corner that features a statue of Cash, bricks inscribed with donors' names and a small seating area.



About Thomas Bailey Jr.

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