



City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Minutes - Final

Legislative Hearings

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer
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651-266-8585

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

9:00 AM

Room 330 City Hall & Court House/Remote

17 [SR 22-47](#)

Review Request of Brandon Stecher to a Ratifying of the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1237 CONWAY STREET adopted by Council on March 23, 2022 under AR 22-19. (File No. J2214A, Assessment No. 228513)

Sponsors: Prince

Delete the assessment.

Brandon Stecher, owner, appeared via phone

[Moermond gives background of appeals process]

Staff report by Supervisor Lisa Martin: a Summary Abatement Order was issued October 28, 2021. It went to occupant and the owner at the same address to remove and properly dispose of furniture from rear of property. There is a photograph of the furniture by fence. It was not removed and a work order was sent. Total proposed assessment of \$478. No returned mail. No history at the property. It has been well maintained.

Moermond: why are you appealing?

Stecher: I am looking to not have to pay this. The couch wasn't mine and I didn't know it was there. In the Voicemail I left earlier the neighbor next door had his garage burn down and when the owner was cleaning it up they got a dumpster. During that time the neighbor next door asked me if I put that couch there. I said no, I had no idea whose it was. Then a month or 2 later I'm opening up the mail and I see all this mail from the City. Someone moved it from next the dumpster on his property to the alley next to my fence. There is a privacy fence so I couldn't see it. I never go in the alley. And when I was receiving all this mail it was when I had Covid. I finally got around to opening them and eventually got to you, Marcia. My neighbor asked me if I put the couch there and I think he left a Voicemail a couple days ago or talked to someone to verify what I've said. Basically I didn't know it was there and it wasn't mine, I didn't know until I saw all this mail saying \$500. With the neighbor verifying my story I don't know what else is needed.

Moermond: in your favor is there have been no violations since 2013.

Stecher: I bought it in 2014.

Moermond: I'm looking at whether there was a good faith effort to address it. It sounds like there was a lot of communication about where that couch belonged garbage-wise and there was confusion amongst the neighbors and then Covid. Taking that into account I'm going to recommend Council deletes this assessment.

Stecher: thank you.

Moermond: you were probably invoiced on this already. You can disregard the invoice. Any problems related to that reach out to assessments. It should be voided in our system.

Stecher: thank you very much.

Received and Filed