

From: [Zimny, Joanna \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
To: [J Savasten](#)
Cc: [Dale Savasten](#)
Bcc: [*CI-StPaul LegislativeHearings](#)
Subject: RE: 1457 3rd Street -Berger
Date: Tuesday, July 5, 2022 8:01:00 AM
Attachments: [1457 Third St. E.Berger R-R Ltr.5-27-22.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Good morning,

Thanks for connecting. First, taxes are paid through Ramsey County. I am not sure if there is an appeals process for that, though I don't think its likely. You can call them at 651-266-2222. It is a *general* requirement taxes be paid before being able to rehab a cat 3 property, it was not a requirement that he pay them now (or at all) before his next hearing (I've attached a copy of that letter). I believe everyone was surprised when he showed up at the next hearing having paid them, and concern was expressed that he may be throwing good money after bad.

I think we all have the same concerns as you re: ownership, which was expressed to Mr. Berger in his hearings. Again, all that is done through the County, the City simply pulls records from them. It was advised in the hearing that Mr. Berger speak to an attorney, he said he was at the hearing on the 17th, though at this past hearing said he was working with a realtor (presumably you?) on documents.

As he had already paid taxes, ordered a Code Compliance Inspection and posted the Performance Deposit (which is refundable), (*again, those were given as a "heads up" which we do as follow up after all cases, not an express requirement before his next hearing*) the hearing officer laid out next steps for him to be working on, presumably while he works on clearing title. While I can't give legal advice, I think it goes without saying he obviously shouldn't sign any bids at this point. However, the hearing officer does have to follow precedent for all cases and can't just let this languish for months waiting for the title situation to be worked out, which is why it is typically asked that people begin getting bids on the work once the Code Compliance Inspection is done so they're ready to pull it together when the time comes.

I would encourage you both to look through the file via the link I sent last week, I've included it here again:

<https://stpaul.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5666202&GUID=5D961798-3124-486E-96C7-23ED69730BEE>

You can view attachments for the file there, and you can also view minutes from previous hearings by clicking on "meeting details" in the second column from right for whichever date you chose, and then the file after "published minutes" near the middle of the page.

As I told Mr. Savasten, we all have concerns about how this all came about and hope that he is able to clear title to rehab and not lose any interest he does have in the property. The City however, cannot give legal advice, nor do more than advise him to talk to an attorney about whatever has happened with his payments leading up to this point. I know we are all wanting to help in whatever

way we can, but know that our hands are tied to a certain extent.

If there's any other questions you have re: process or the like, please let me know. I think reading through the attachments and minutes from the previous hearings may be helpful in seeing how this has come to be where it is at now.

I hope this is helpful, and please know we do want to help Mr. Berger to the extent we can.

Thanks,
Joanna



Joanna Zimny

Legislative Hearing Executive Assistant

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Pronouns: she/her/hers

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-----Original Message-----

From: J Savasten <jodisavasten@hotmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, July 2, 2022 1:49 PM

To: Zimny, Joanna (CI-StPaul) <joanna.zimny@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Cc: Dale Savasten <dsavasten@gmail.com>

Subject: 1457 3rd Street -Berger

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Hello Joanna,

I am Carl's niece. I've been looking through the documents and since Carl is not showing up as a legal owner, he should not be responsible for paying taxes or any fees. I think you spoke to Dale and mentioned there is an appeal process to get reimbursed for the taxes. Can you please provide the steps and forms to do this?

I have a message into Wilmington Bank to see if they have any documentation to support Carl being the owner. We are also going to be checking his past bank statements showing the funds being withdrawn from his account as soon as he can give us the information. Unless he can prove ownership as you know, it's a mute point to gather bids, etc. I'm a little concerned as The City of St Paul can't seem to find any record of Carl being the owner, how will we be able to?

In an understatement, it's a bit of a mess. It's unfortunate he came to us when it got this out of hand. Thank you for reaching out to us. At least we can have closure on this one way or another. If there are any other fees he has paid and you believe he should appeal, please let us know.

Again, thank you for all your help and support!

> Cheers,
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