

Lanhart's Auto Repair
1024 7th Street East
St. Paul, MN 55106

September 21, 2015

Geoffrey Karls
Assistant City Attorney
400 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102

RE: Notice of violation – Lanharts Auto Repair

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter dated September 11, 2015 regarding some violations at my repair shop and would like to address these issues.

- There was a Midwest Star Taxi hooked up to my tow truck. This is true. When a vehicle is brought to the shop, there are occasions when it takes time to organize the repair area inside the shop to facilitate the repairs on the towed vehicle. Sometimes we need time to finish a repair on a vehicle that is on a hoist before we can put the towed vehicle in the shop. At no time is that towed vehicle left hooked up as a “storage” solution and never left hooked up overnight.
- Tires stored outside the building. Someone had dumped the tires in our lot. I know better than to store tires outside, and don't allow that to happen. The tires have been removed.
- Cars marked with Dealer Vehicle Permits were parked on 7th street. This was true. I have addressed this issue with the sub-lesers in the shop and have made it clear that this is unacceptable and is a violation.
- Vehicles parked in the lot with damage or parts missing. This is a private lot that is used as a holding area for vehicles awaiting repairs. Another example is the lot at Raymond Auto Body on Pierce Butler Road. They also have cars that are damaged and waiting repairs or insurance estimates parked there. I don't mean to single them out, but only to give a comparative example of a storage lot.

- Provide maneuvering space so vehicles don't back into the street but can be turned around to exit going forward. This is a small lot and would require almost all the space to accomplish this. Backing into a street is a common occurrence with almost every homeowner with an attached garage. Vehicles aren't going in and out of the lot on a daily basis and when they do back out there are always individuals in the roadway watching for traffic so that the action is made safely.

I do not dispute the violations that the inspector observed. Recently I relocated to the shop to manage the property and to relieve the individual that had been leasing it from me of those duties. I have made many, many changes and improvements to the interior of the shop and some exterior building improvements as well. I understand what it means to be a good neighbor and business in this location. I know there are too many cars associated with the business on the streets. I have notified all leasers in the shop that they are only allowed 2 vehicles in the shop for repairs and up to two vehicles in the lot.

I would ask that I could have a 30 day extension to remedy the violations and have a re-inspection at that time. Once remedied, these violations won't repeat.

Regarding the matrix fine of \$1000, I would request a public hearing before the City Council for their determination of the amount.

Sincerely:



Long Nguyen OR Thach Le
Lanhart's Auto Repair
952 688-8636