

April 12, 2011

Dear City of Saint Paul,

I am sorry that I cannot attend your meeting on April 19 because I will be visiting grandchildren on their Easter week vacation. Please accept this letter as my testimony and/or I could attend a meeting in May.

To the best of my recollection:

I received a letter from the City sometime in the spring or early summer of 2010. It stated that I had a diseased tree and I thought that the letter stated that I would be advised on what course of action to take.

I waited all summer and never received another letter from the city. The next contact I had was in November when I arrived home Friday night after work with a notice taped to my door by a tree removal company stating that they were contracted with the city to remove the tree. The tree removal company then arrived early Monday morning effectively giving me zero notice.

It was a SMALL TREE and was making contact with a power pole. I have several photographs of the contact points which I intended to email NSP if necessary. If I had been notified that the tree needed removal, I would have had NSP trim the parts of the tree making contact with the pole and I would have removed the remainder of the SMALL TREE myself.

I agree that a diseased tree needs attention, but I think that I should have been given notice from the city that the tree needed removal and more than zero notice from the tree removal company. I think that NSP could have trimmed it away from the pole for next to nothing and I could have taken down and disposed of the remainder for much less than \$726.

Regardless of your decision, I cannot pay the entire amount this month or next. I was laid off November 15, 2010 and I have been unemployed since. If you can reduce the amount by any amount, please do so. If I am eligible for any relief (unemployed 57 year old property owner), please let me know.

Sincerely,

Michael McCoy
579 Bidwell Street
St. Paul, MN 55107