



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

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December 4, 2014

Wagner, Falconer & Judd Ltd
Attn: Michael P. McKenna, Attorney at Law
1700 IDS Center
80 South Eighth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-2110

Re: 820 5th Street East

Dear Mr. McKenna:

Director Cervantes requested I investigate the issue identified in your November 19, 2014 letter regarding Mr. Hamilton's property at 820 East 5th Street in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Based on a search of our records, Mr. Lavonne Hamilton and Kristi Hamilton are listed as the owners of 820 5th Street East. In addition, Mr. Luches Hamilton (P.O. Box 600335, Saint Paul, MN 55106-0006) is listed as the Responsible Party.

When we receive a complaint, it is entered into our system and an inspector is assigned to respond to it. If the complaint is verified, pictures are taken and orders are sent to resolve it. In this case, orders were sent to the property owner, the responsible party, and the occupant. A follow up inspection is conducted to verify the complaint is resolved. In Saint Paul, the owner of the property is required to maintain their property, so if it is not resolved, we issue a work order to have a city crew resolve it and we assess the cost to the property owner.

It was noted that if our inspector had inspected the dumped items, they would have been able to determine who dumped the items. Since dump bags could contain items that may impact the health and safety of our inspectors, they have been instructed not to open and inspect them. In addition, there is no guarantee that any identifying information found in it is in fact connected to the person dumping it.

As indicated above, the owner of the property is required to maintain their property. Our goal is to work with the property owner to resolve future issues where possible. That is why our inspector suggested setting up a video camera to discourage dumping on this property. A non-operable camera and a sign indicating the site is under video surveillance does discourage illegal dumping. There may be other alternatives that the property owner could considered to stop this activity.

Finally, I want to assure you that the City of Saint Paul Department of Safety Inspector is not harassing the property owner. We are responding to complaints and following established processes to resolve them. If the property owner wishes to appeal the cost of the cleanup, they may do so by returning the post card that is enclosed in the assessment notification letter they will receive.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please contact our office.

Gregory Schroeder, Deputy Director
Department of Safety and Inspections