

H & S INVESTMENTS OF ST. PAUL

1562 HAGUE AVENUE
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55104
(651) 649-0972

April 11, 2015

Councilmember Dai Thao
St. Paul City Council
15 W Kellogg Boulevard
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

RE: Payment for couch removal at 1693 Sherburne Avenue

Dear members of the City Council:

This letter concerns a bill I received from the City of St. Paul. Please note:

- I am one of the owners at 1693 Sherburne Avenue, an 18-unit apartment building.
- Earlier this year there was a couch that was half on our property and half in the alley. I assumed the City would take care of the couch because it wasn't entirely on our property.
- When I received notice from the City regarding the couch, I called the City of St. Paul and I believe I was transferred to Public Works. I spoke to a representative about the couch. I explained that the couch was half on our property and half in the alley. I also stated that I did not feel we or our tenants should pay for the couch removal because not only did it not belong to our tenants but half of the couch was in the alley.
- The representative said not to worry, that the City would remove the couch *at no charge to us*.
- A few weeks later I received a notice titled "Public Hearing Notice Ratification of Assessment." I could not attend the public hearing as I had a conflict. I thought we might be charged a nominal fee by the City for the couch removal (our trash hauler would have charged \$30.00).
- The next letter I received from the City was a bill for \$520! I burst out laughing. I thought surely this must be some sort of mistake. But no, I was informed that it is the correct amount. The bill is as follows:
 - Summary Abatement: \$360
 - DSI Admin fee: \$120
 - Real Estate Admin: Fee \$35
 - Attorney Fee: \$5
- May I say, politely, that this is completely outrageous!
- Clearly, had we known the cost the City would charge for removing a couch, we would have gotten two guys and a truck.

Before I pay this bill, I would like someone from the City to call me and if you can't reduce the bill then please apologize for the outrageous cost of removing one couch from an alley!

Sincerely,



Sue Rohland

PROPERTY TAX DESCRIPTION

BRIGHTWOOD PARK LOTS 16 & 17 BLK 3 STIERLE MC CONVILLE AND SEEGER'S MIDWAY ADD & IN SD BRIGHTWOOD PARK; LOTS 12, 13 & LOT 14 BLK 2

On **Wednesday, March 18, 2015** the City Council approved the assessment for Property Clean Up on Private Property during the time period of November 3 to November 26, 2014..

PAYMENT INFORMATION

The amount of your assessment is **\$520.00**. You may pay this amount or a portion of this amount by **04/24/2015** without interest (please enclose the lower portion of this invoice with your payment). After **04/24/2015** any unpaid amount will be collected with your real estate taxes. Any unpaid amount will be charged interest at the rate of **4.25%** per year.

In accordance with sections 64.04 and 64.05 of the Saint Paul Administrative Code, you will be allowed **1 year(s)** to pay this assessment.

There will be an installment paid each year with real estate taxes. Additional payments will be accepted until **NOVEMBER 15th** each year if you wish to shorten the term of the assessment.

SENIORS NOTE

If you are **65 or older** and homestead this property, you may apply for a deferred payment of special assessments with a term greater than 1 year. This is not a forgiveness of payment. It is a deferred payment plan in which interest continues to accrue. Call us at **651-266-8858** to find out if you qualify for this deferment.

APPEAL

City Council decisions are subject to appeal in the Ramsey County District Court. You must file a notice stating the grounds for the appeal with the City Clerk within **20 days** after the order adopting the assessment. You must file the same notice with the Clerk of District Court within **10 days** after filing with the City Clerk.

NOTE: Failure to file the required notices within the times specified shall forever prohibit an appeal from the assessment.

Section 64.06 of the Saint Paul Administrative Code requires regular assessment payments to be made even if an assessment is under appeal. If the appeal is successful, the payments including interest will be refunded.

VIEW/PAY ASSESSMENTS ONLINE

To view assessments online or make a payment from your savings or checking account visit our website at www.stpaul.gov/assessments. Properties can be looked up either by street address or by parcel identification number.

QUESTIONS

Call **651-266-8858** and refer to the parcel identification number listed above.

Tenemos a su disposición servicios de intérpretes gratuitos **651-266-8858**. Adeegyada tarjumaada oo lacag la'aan ah ayaad helaysaa **651-266-8858**. Yog koj xav tau tus neeg pab txhais lus dawb **651-266-8858**.

Returned checks are subject to a \$30.00 returned item fee

(Return this portion with your payment)

OWNER OR TAXPAYER

H & S Investments Of St Paul
1562 Hague Ave
St Paul MN 55104-7465

PROPERTY ADDRESS
1693 SHERBURNE AVE

ASSESSMENT # 158505
AMOUNT \$520.00
PARCEL ID 33-29-23-14-0158

Make checks payable to the **CITY OF SAINT PAUL** and mail to:

CITY OF SAINT PAUL
25 W. 4TH ST., RM. 1000
SAINT PAUL, MN 55102-1660