

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES
Andrea L. Turner, J.D., Director



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Melvin Carter, Mayor

200 City Hall Annex
25 West Fourth Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102-1631

Telephone: 651-266-6500
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April 20, 2018

266-8887

Steven Johnson
1495 West 7th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: Claim Number C180031

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I have completed my investigation of your claim filed against the City of Saint Paul for the damages you suffered when you had your sewer line replaced.

Our decision is that the City is not responsible for your damages.

The original sewer line was constructed in 1910 and in 1927 the City sewer was lined with brick. In 1990 there was a sewer separation project done, but no blasting was used on the project along West 7th.

Any licensed sewer contractor has access to the specifications of the sewer services via the online Public Works webpage. In addition, any contractor could have reviewed the plans for the West 7th sewer line in the Public Works sewer office prior to bidding on your sewer project. Had that been done, they would have realized, very quickly that your sewer line went through a brick line tunnel.

It would appear that the contractor you hired did not review the specifications of the City's sewer line as it related to your sewer line prior to bidding your job. In addition, you appeared to only have gotten one estimate for your job. Finally, it is not uncommon to have up to 1000 feet between manholes on a sewer line.

The homeowner is responsible for all repairs on sewer services from the home up to and including all connections to the City's sewer line. The high price that you paid for your sewer work is not the responsibility of the City of Saint Paul.

Sincerely,

Sandra Bodensteiner

Sandra Bodensteiner
Claims Manager

Jim From MIB DID HIS JOB and looked up
info it showed accessible drift that's how he
came up with original bid ~~it~~ Not Bulk Henced Drift
maybe city sewer should do up dated plans for contractors
Over

Especially ones showing no drift access
Why no permit showing Bulk Heaped drift
City sewer In compitense
Also city website showing Home owners responsibility
From House to sewer in Street Does not
Show Pipe Coming out of House Down 10' over
30' then Down 40' and over 30' to sewer
Like it is on W 7th St Why no Pictures on
Website Showing That Move Misrepresentation
By city.

Dear Rebecca Hopefully You can Share Fu Fo
With Council Members

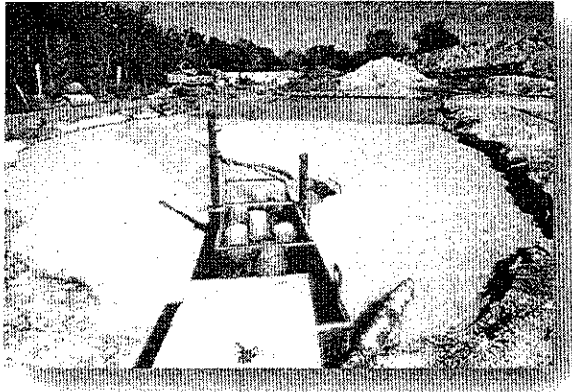
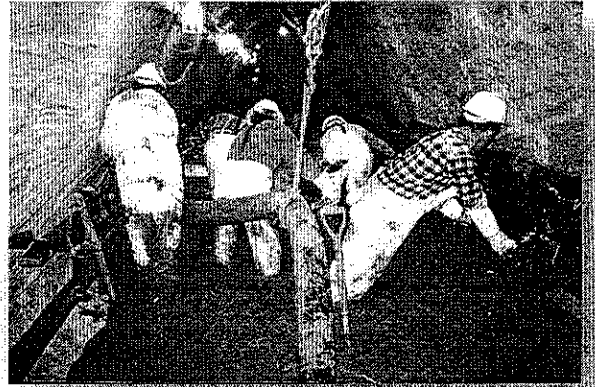
I'm including Paperwork From Please
City web site Showing That W. 7th Corridor
Used Explosives to Loosen Shale rock. So
rock cutting machines could Pull out rock
& set new separation pipe in Place For project
Sandra Bopenstienner Made Decision Based on
No use of Dynamite Being Used For separation
Project When Clearly That's a Blatant Lie!!!
Why would She Lie Just to Save City \$28,500,000
Like I said I Know That I'm responsible For \$16,500,000
Orig Bid That's not in Dispute.

All I wish For Is For Fairness in Decision
making Not Lies!!

I'm Sure IF anyone of You Council Persons
Had this 30% Devaluation of Your Property You
Would want Fairness in Decision of This
magnitude Not Lies!!! To save City For
Their Indiscretions and Not Having Any reason
For Closing up my Drift Access

Thank Steve
Johnson

The sandrock cuttings were then suspended in water and pumped through a 12-inch diameter PVC pipe to a settling basin.



If Sandra did her job she would not see that contractors used dynamite like my father & neighbors

Goodrich-Smith:

This project was in a predominately residential area with limestone overlaid with one to four feet of granular overburden. Similar soil conditions exist along West Seventh Street from downtown all the way to the River.



said Why Lie!!!

Construction in this area is very difficult and time

consuming. Rock had to be removed by using one of three methods: pneumatic hammers mounted on backhoes, blasting with explosives, or grinding with large rock grinding machines.



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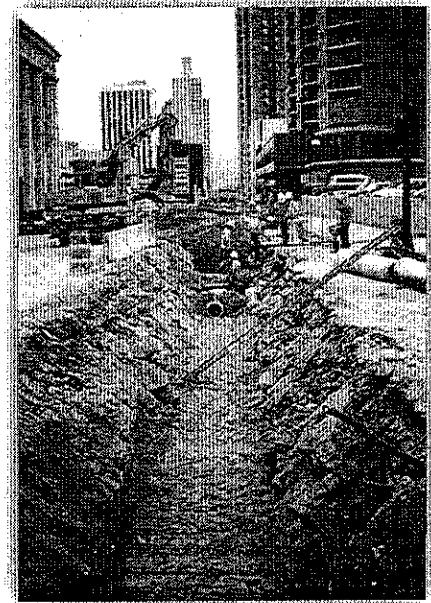
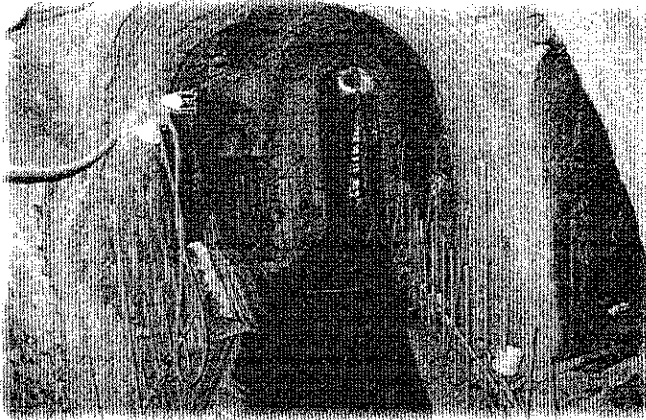


All three methods were used on this project. Construction in rock areas is slow and more noisy and dusty than typical sewer construction. The patience of the residents was severely tested and good public relations were critical.



Seventh-Cedar:

This was a large sewer separation project in downtown Saint Paul. It consisted of both open cut construction and sand rock tunnel construction.



1 of 3
Claim # C180031

From
M & B services

On Jan 19th, I had Jim give me a quote for 1495 W 7th St sewer pipe Replacement for home, price was 14,500 for new pipe from home to sewer under W 7th St.

I called the sewer department to question what I was Responsible for. They said pipe Replacement from home to sewer was my Responsibility, so I accepted that. I gave Jim the go ahead to do the work.

When M & B got out there on Jan 25th to do the job, it all went fine until they needed to get to bottom 90 and piping in drift opening. They encountered bulk head. Jim called me at work and told me they could not get into drift because of bulk head at 1495 W 7th Street drift. No other properties had bulk heads over drift access, except my property so I called city sewer department and talked to Richard Ekobina to figure out why my property was the only home with bulk head. They worked

through all their permits & past records to see why bulkhead would of been put over my drift only, ~~that~~ They could not find any permits or reason for bulkhead to be there.

He said I was still responsible for the cost. Being how I had occupants in the home, I needed the sewer service. So I Reluctantly I gave the go ahead not having any idea of the total cost involved, getting home back in service.

I contacted Richard Ekobena at the sewer department, he told me my only hope of getting any help was to submit claim to mayor's office & wait for a answer to why I could ~~be~~ possibly be responsible for collapsed drift and bulkhead on ground, when I as the home owner had ability to maintain drift because of access 40 feet under ground. So it is

not only my ~~own~~ belief, but also that of M+B Services that nothing makes sense, except bulkhead was put there because of collapsed drift, never informing any owners of property they were putting bulk ~~head~~ head in to keep collapsed drift from getting into sewer system.

I started talking about getting lawyer involved but Richard at sewer department recommended doing claims with Mayor's office first. That's why they ~~is~~ have program in place to avoid unwanted law suits between home owner & city per Richard.

I clearly knew sewer pipe replacement is my responsibility not any natural occurrence like drift cause. Like I said M+B owners have been business for 20 years they can honestly say this was not anything near normal pipe replacement job, which leads me to believe that if city does not

\$28,125.00

Cover all extra cost over \$14,500 original bid, I would ~~have no~~ other
Because but contact a lawyer.

I have included pictures of the
drift collapse to help city
understand some form of
~~responsibility~~ responsibility to discuss
the fact home owner pays
sewer & water bills to have
service provided to keep
sewer service operating
correctly.

Please understand if extra
work was not needed because
our drift was accessible we
would not of had to waste any
paper or time making claim, also
cost would not have been nearly
as high if city just didn't do
away with access 108 foot from
drift. Because when city re did
w 7th St, city did not keep access
to manhole, incase of these
reasons, instead they just did away
with manhole, obviously because

Fair is all I'm asking for
on this claim. Please I don't
wish to pursue this matter any
further, so please just Be FAIR
in making your determination.

Thank you
Steve Johnson

of cost to Street Replacement Crews.
Stull shows access there on
city prints no update for contractors,
instead they had to go 400 feet
more in tunnel to fix problem.

Steve John

I spoke with my father and he
said when contractor was putting
sewer separation pipe install
in the late 1980's, he saw them
using dynamite to put new sewer
separation pipe in. Pipe was put
in 12-15 feet down in ground and
15 feet from curb on 4th Street.

That very well could of caused
drift to collapse. Said contractor
very well could of put bulk head
covering my drift to stop collapsed drift
drift from entering city sewer main.
Hopefully this helps solve reason for
bulk head install.

Steve John

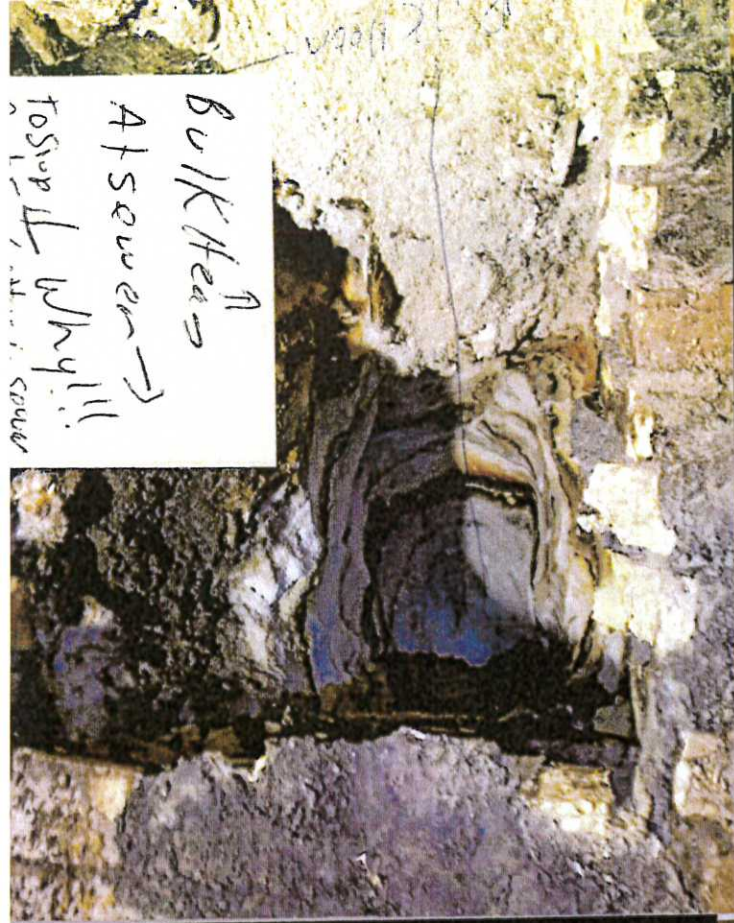
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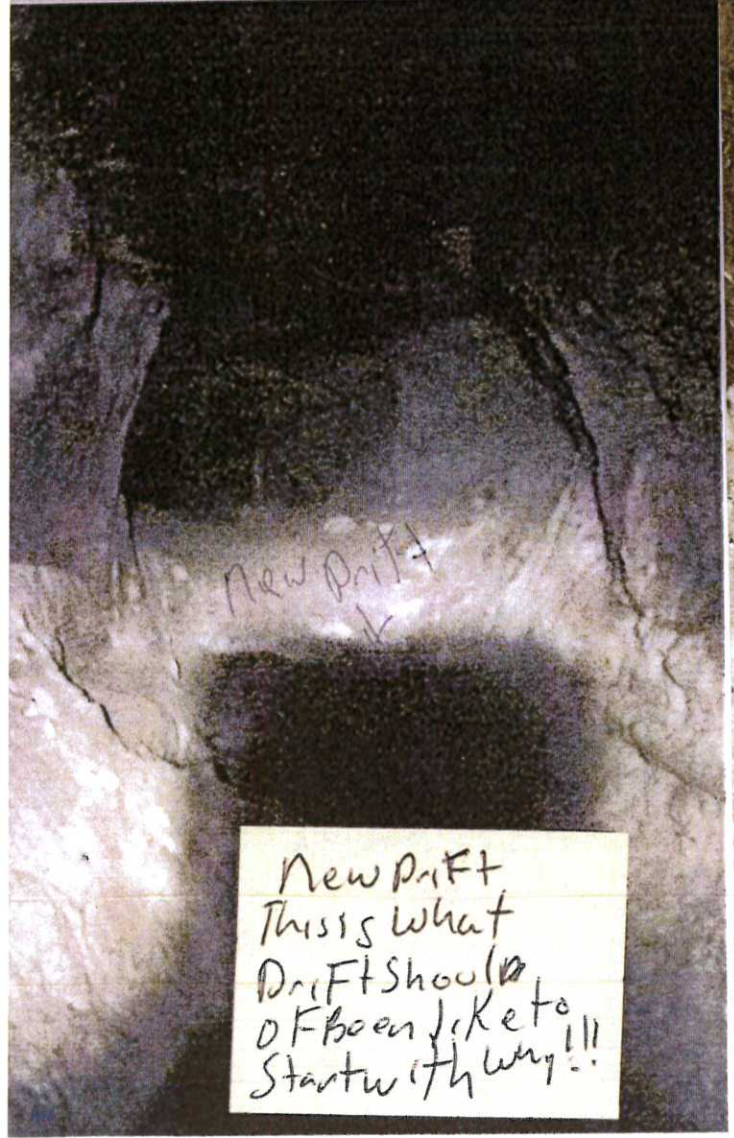


Bulk Head →
 At sewer →
 To stop & why!!!
 cover



Be
 188
 188

Call
 188

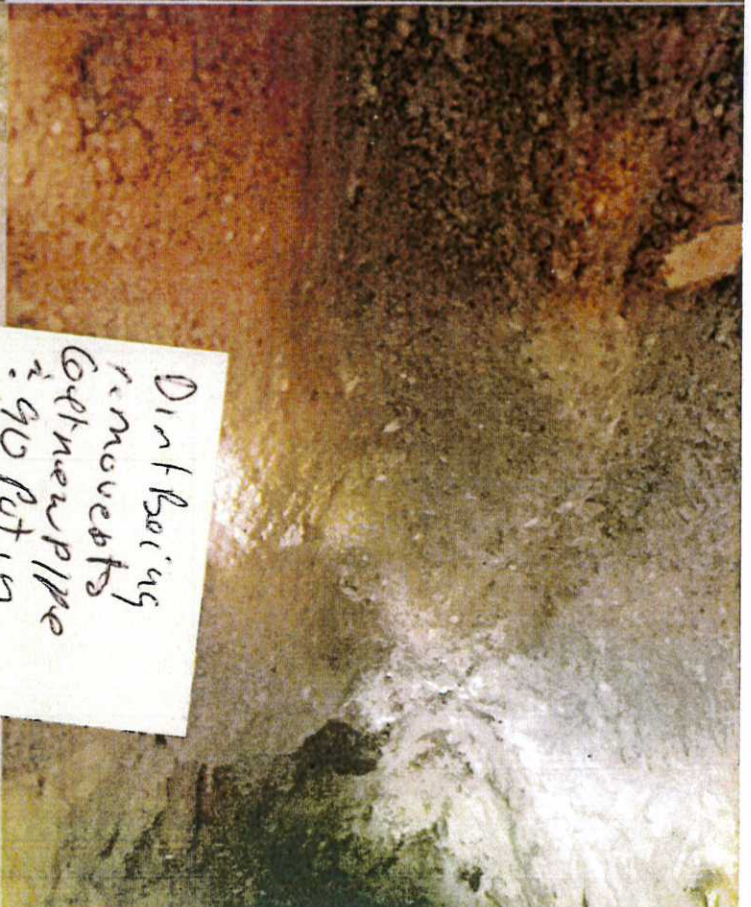
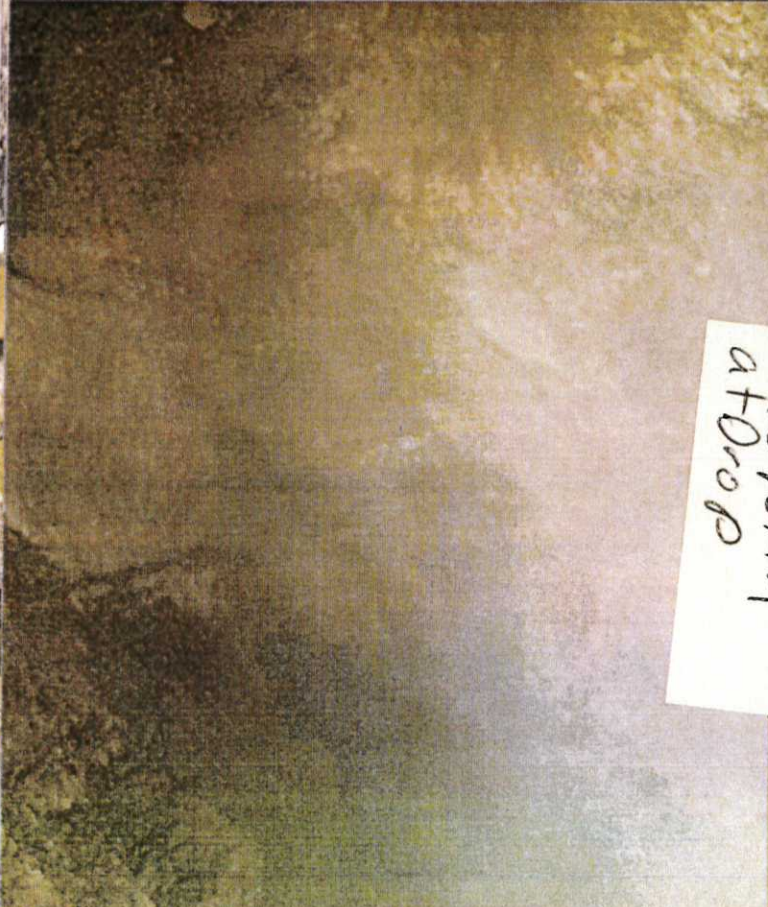
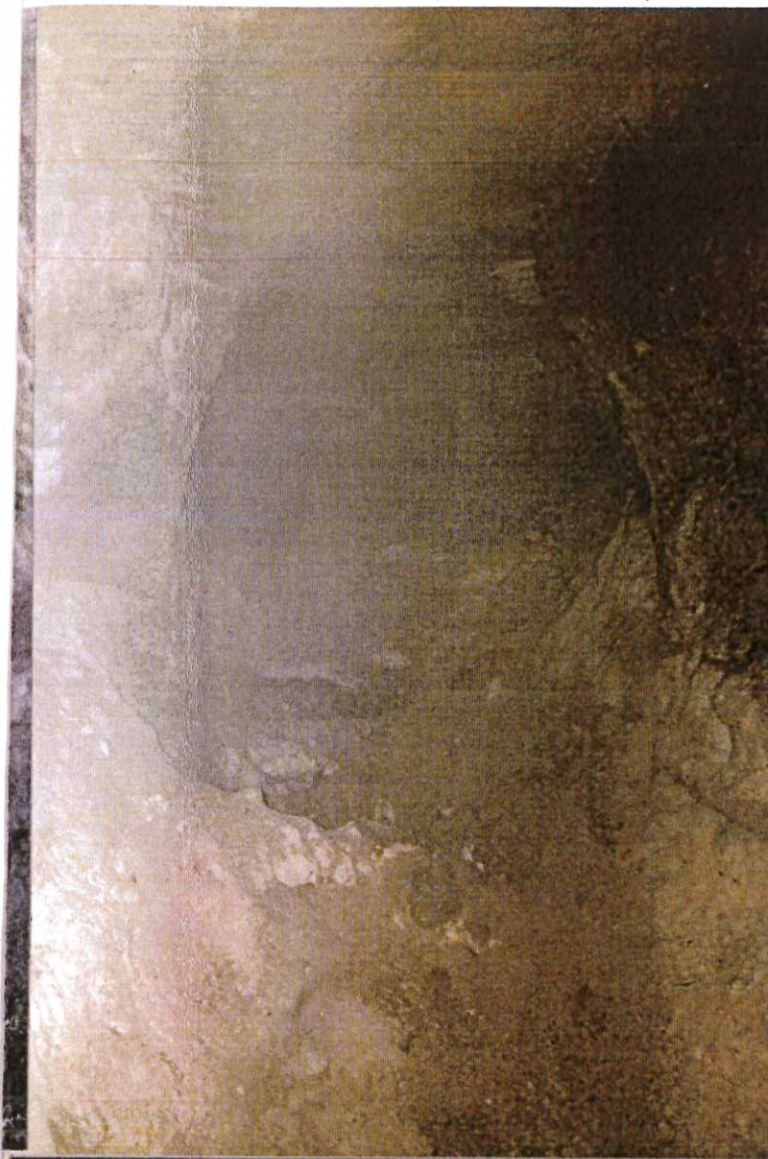


New Drift
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New Drift
 This is what
 Drift should
 of been like to
 Start with why!!!



Other side
 of Drift
 Call
 188
 188
 188



Dirt Boiling
removes
with pipe
in 90 ft in
at Drop