Public Testimony for the October 1, 2014 City Council Public Hearing

Item #26: Res. PH 14-253. Ratifying the assessment costs for the 2014 Right-of-Way Maitenance Program and 2014 Above-Standard Lighting operation and Maintenance Program. (FileNo. 14ROW Final, Assessment No. 140032)

From Okechukwu Onah and his wife, Nwadimkpa Onah
Owners of Duplex at 1060-1062 Kilburn St.
Ward 5

We have two properties in St. Paul. One at 1153 Central Ave. W., a four-plex, which we pay close to $5,000 property taxes for that property every year. This year we are paying $2,110 times two for property taxes on this duplex. Just on that one building. And on the Kilburn Street Bldg. we are paying $2,500 plus. If look at that, just on property taxes alone, we pay close to $8,000. When it comes to storm sewer charges, this year we received $112.01 for the Central Avenue property and a charge of $82.47 for the Kilburn St property. Now they are sending us, when it comes to the ROW program, $213.22 for the Kilburn St. property and $331.60 for the Central Ave. property. So, for the ROW maintenance we receive a total of over $500 in charges. When we add the property tax for the two buildings we get a total of $6,732, just property taxes. When we add the storm sewer charges for the two properties to that amount, it totals $7,471.30.

We feel that we don't even collect close to this in profit. We live in the duplex. The four-plex on central is a rental. We meet expenses for the rental from out-of-pocket and make no profit, and just manage to break even. It is an old bulding and constantly requires making improvements. We feel so squeezed by all of these expenses.

We are pleading with the council to review these assessments so that we can continue to provide the services that are really benefiting the less fortunate in St Paul, who live in this neighborhood.

We are unable to attend the public hearing because we will be at work. However we would have liked to be in attendance.

Mr. and Mrs. Okechukwu Onah
1060 Kilburn Street