

To: Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer, City of St Paul
Steve Magner, Manager of Code Enforcement, City of St. Paul

From: Linda Van Egeren and Steven Mose
511 Desnoyer Avenue

Date: Aug 4, 2018

Subject: Desnoyer Park Rental Properties Owned by Jay Olson
Aug 28, 2018 Hearing RE: Property at 522-524 Otis Avenue

We have lived at 511 Desnoyer Avenue since 1989. We are located with Olson duplexes on both sides of us (2 duplexes on one side and 4 on the other) and vacant properties on each side.

Since we have an almost 3 decade history of living next door to Jay Olson and his family's properties, we want to provide a more general context regarding Olson's negligence of his properties. We also want to lend support to our neighbor's concerns regarding 522-524 Otis, given that it mirrors our experience with Olson duplexes.

We very much appreciate these hearings. As a direct result of the hearings, finally the problems are being addressed. We are especially appreciative of Mr. Chermak's involvement as without his assistance, it is unlikely that Mr. Olson would have adequately addressed these long standing problems.

The points we would like to make are as follows:

- The property at 515 (immediately next door) has been vacant for over 8 years minimum, although it was only recently registered as a vacant property (Aug 25, 2017). The property at 501 Desnoyer has been vacant for over 5 years but also was only recently registered as vacant. The properties at 503 Desnoyer and 517 Desnoyer have been mostly vacant over the past 5-7 years with 503 being vacant for 1-2 years at a time and 517 was only occupied for a few years during the past 7 years.
- Mr. Olson is very difficult to contact when there are concerns. Over the years, we would try to catch him while in the neighborhood to discuss concerns regarding vacant properties, waist high weeds, commercial vehicles stored on the properties, previous tenants things left in vacant apartments etc. He would respond minimally if at all.
- Over the years, we have had many very nice renters and we miss that. We have heard complaints from renters. Needless to say those renters are no longer in Olson properties. We also know that renters are very appreciative of the below market rents especially given that there is a lack of affordable housing in St. Paul.

We would like to ask the following:

- Given that there are multiple properties vacant and given Mr. Olson's pattern of negligence of his properties, we request that policies be enforced to the fullest and if possible, all of his properties be inspected.
- If possible, we ask that the process be expedited. This slow process of reviewing one property at a time has been very hard on the neighborhood. It has been sad to see the riff between neighbors with legitimate concerns and those who are in support of Mr. Olson. It has resulted in both sides feeling attacked. The sooner this can be resolved, the better for our neighborhood.