

Nov. 8, 2016

My name is Peter Riemenschneider and I am the owner of 959 Burr St., St. Paul. I am here today to respectfully request that property tax assessment fee be waived, for "Property Clean Up" in the amount of approximately \$504.00.

I request this exception because I believe we acted quickly and in good faith to address the Summary Abatement Order and remove the excessive trash and personal belongings, left on our driveway, once the problem was brought to our attention.

I'd like to take a few minutes to explain what had happened the week of Aug. 1 and what we did to comply with the City's request.

- On Monday Aug. 1, our tenant at 959 Burr St. moved out of her unit and, with our knowledge, left a large pile of personal belongings and trash next to the property's four trashcans. The trash was left on the side of the private driveway, not on the curb or boulevard.
- The tenant agreed to contact our trash hauler, East Metro Environmental, to pick up the extra trash, including five mattresses, two CRT televisions, several pieces of small furniture, and several bags of trash. The trash was to be picked up two days later, on our regular trash day, Wed. Aug. 3. Apparently that didn't happen. It isn't clear if the tenant forgot to request the pickup, or if the trash company didn't tell the driver. In any event, the trash in the driveway was not picked up when it was supposed to.
- On Wednesday Aug. 3, a Summary Abatement Order was sent from St. Paul Dept. Safety and Inspections requesting the removal of the trash, including "Overflowing trash containers, mattresses, furniture in driveway," asking that we "comply before Aug. 8, 2016".
- During this time, my family and I were out of town for a family event - Monday Aug 1 - Sunday Aug. 7. As proof, I've enclosed is an email confirmation from USPS agreeing to hold our mail for that week.
- On the evening of Sunday Aug 7, I received the Summary Abatement Order with the rest of the mail from that week. I was upset to find that the trash hadn't been removed the previous Wednesday and surprised that I only had until the next morning (Monday Aug 8) to be compliant.
- It was Sunday night, so I didn't really have any options. I wasn't able to ask the City Clerk's office for an extension to the Summary Abatement Order and

1. I am a small business owner with four multi-unit rental properties in the Payne Phalen neighborhood and I have always complied with DSI Orders, even when dealing with trash illegally dumped on my properties (televisions, mattresses, furniture, etc.)
2. In this instance, I believe we made a good faith effort to comply with the Summary Abatement Order by removing all of the trash and personal belongings from the driveway at 959 Burr St. by the date specified.
3. I believe that the city workers were being spiteful when they insisted in dumping the four trashcans, knowing full well that there would be a substantial fine assessed. All of the "overflowing" trash was removed before they arrived. If I knew that it was going to be an issue, I would have had 1800-Got-Junk take the containers too. It was frustrating that the inspector wasn't available to clarify the Abatement Order and didn't return my call for three days.
4. I understand that it isn't the city's problem that my family was out of town during the time the Summary Abatement letter was sent, however the timeline to respond or appeal the order seems unreasonably short. A letter sent on Wednesday wouldn't have arrived until Friday afternoon, leaving only a few hours to make disposal arrangements or file an appeal before a Monday deadline. Even if I had been home to receive the letter, a few hours doesn't seem fair or reasonable. Because of this short timeline, I was forced to pay \$639 for last-minute trash removal rather than using less expensive options.

For all of these reasons I request that the Property Clean Up assessment be waved.

Thank you.

Peter Riemenschneider
JPR Flats, LLC
Owner
651-269-1640

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804 SHERWOOD AVE
SAINT PAUL, MN 55106-1717

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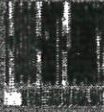


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Custom Amount	639.00
1 X \$639.00 Ea	
Total	\$639.00

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Aug 2016 (Central Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 TENANT MOVES OUT	2	3 <u>TRASH DAY</u> ABATEMENT ORDER MAILED	4	5	6
7 ABATEMENT ORDER <u>RECEIVED</u>	8 TRASH REMOVAL DEADLINE	9	10 <u>TRASH DAY</u>	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3