



# APPLICATION FOR APPEAL

## Saint Paul City Council – Legislative Hearings

310 City Hall, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd.

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Telephone: (651) 266-8585

RECEIVED

SEP 03 2013

CITY CLERK

### We need the following to process your appeal:

- \$25 filing fee payable to the City of Saint Paul (if cash: receipt number \_\_\_\_\_)
  - Copy of the City-issued orders/letter being appealed
  - Attachments you may wish to include
  - This appeal form completed
  - Walk-In OR  Mail-In
- for abatement orders only:  Email OR  Fax

<b>HEARING DATE &amp; TIME</b> (provided by Legislative Hearing Office) Tuesday, <u>9-10-13</u>  Time <u>11:00</u> Location of Hearing: <u>Room 330 City Hall/Courthouse</u>
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## Address Being Appealed:

Number & Street: 1466 Como Ave City: St Paul State: MN Zip: 55108

Appellant/Applicant: Richard Varberg Email Rvarberg@CHRCOM.net

Phone Numbers: Business \_\_\_\_\_ Residence 651 917 1852 Cell 651 354 5752

Signature: Richard Varberg Date: 9-30-13

Name of Owner (if other than Appellant): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address if Not Appellant's: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: Business \_\_\_\_\_ Residence \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

## What Is Being Appealed and Why? *Attachments Are Acceptable*

- Vacate Order/Condemnation/Revocation of Fire C of O
- Summary/Vehicle Abatement
- Fire C of O Deficiency List
- Code Enforcement Correction Notice
- Vacant Building Registration
- Other

See Attachments



CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
 DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND INSPECTIONS  
 DIVISION OF CODE ENFORCEMENT  
 375 Jackson Street, Suite 220  
 Saint Paul, MN 55101-1806

August 27, 2013

13 - 226380

**SUMMARY ABATEMENT ORDER**

364

- Yog hais tias koj hais tsis to taub tsab ntwav no, hu rau tus txhais lus ntwam (651) 266-8989. Nws yog pab dawb zwb.
- Si necessita un traductor, por favor llamanos al (651)266-8989. No costo.

Richard N Varberg/Florence E Varberg  
 1466 Como Ave  
 St Paul MN 55108-2541

**As owner or person(s) responsible for: 1466 COMO AVE you are hereby ordered to eliminate all nuisance conditions which are in violation of Chapter 45 of Saint Paul Legislative Code.**

- Remove improperly stored or accumulated refuse including: garbage, rubbish, discarded furniture, appliances, vehicle parts, scrap wood and metal, recycling materials, household items, building materials or rubble, tires, brush, etc., from yard areas. SEVERAL LAWN MOWERS AND SNOW BLOWERS IN THE YARD.**
- Cut and remove tall grass, weeds and rank plant growth.**
- Other: DISCONTINUE WORKING ON LAWN MOWERS AND SNOW BLOWERS AT THE PROPERTY. THIS IS AN ILLEGAL HOME OCCUPANCY BUSINESS AND NOT ALLOWED IN THIS RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICT.**

If you do not correct the nuisance or file an appeal before **September 03, 2013**, the City will correct the nuisance and charge all costs, including boarding costs, against the property as a special assessment to be collected in the same way as property taxes. Charges: If the City corrects the nuisance, the charges will include the cost of correction, inspection, travel time, equipment, etc. The rate will be approximately \$260.00 per hour plus expenses for abatement.

**You must maintain the premises in a clean condition and provide proper and adequate refuse storage at all times**  
**FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY RESULT IN A CRIMINAL CITATION**

*Issued by: Paula Seeley Badge Number 364 Phone Number 651-266-1916*  
**If you have any questions about this order, the requirements or the deadline, you should contact the Inspector listed above, Monday through Friday.**

Appeals: You may appeal this order and obtain a hearing before the City Council by completing an appeal application with the City Clerk before the appeal deadline noted above or seven (7) days after the date mailed, whichever comes first. No appeals may be filed after that date. You may obtain an appeal application from the City Clerk's Office, Room 310, City Hall, St. Paul, MN 55102. The telephone number is (651) 266-8585. You must submit a copy of this Correction Order with your appeal application.

**\*WARNING** Code inspection and enforcement trips cost the taxpayers money. If the violations are not corrected within the time period required in this notice, the city's costs in conducting a reinspection after the due date for compliance will be collected from the owner rather than being paid by the taxpayers of the city. If additional new violations are discovered within the next following 12 months, the city's costs in conducting additional inspections at this same location within such 12 months will be collected from the owner rather than being paid by the taxpayers of the city. Any such future costs will be collected by assessment against the real property and are in addition to any other fines or assessments which may be levied against you and your property.



CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

375 Jackson Street, Suite 220  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-1806

Telephone: 651-266-8989  
Facsimile: 651-266-9124  
Web: [www.stpaul.gov/dsi](http://www.stpaul.gov/dsi)

August 27, 2013

Richard N Varberg/Florence E Varberg  
1466 Como Ave  
St Paul MN 55108-2541

Re: 1466 Como Ave

Dear Property Owner:

A complaint has been received regarding a business operating at the above referenced address. This property is located in a RT1 zoning district.

During an inspection of the property, the following was observed: **Several lawn mowerS and snow blowers in the yard with repair and selling observed.**

A home occupation is permitted in a residential district or at a residential use provided it meets the requirements in Section 65.141 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code.

**In order to bring this property into zoning compliance, the following is required prior to September 3, 2013**

I have enclosed a copy of referenced sections of the Saint Paul Legislative Code. You may appeal this order and obtain a hearing before the Board of Zoning Appeals. The application for an appeal must be filed and the fee submitted to the Zoning Administrator within ten (10) days of the date this order was mailed. No appeal may be filed after that date. Applications are available at the Department of Safety & Inspections' main office or on the City of Saint Paul website (<http://www.stpaul.gov>). If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact me at 651-266-1916.

Sincerely,

Paula Seeley  
CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTOR

enc.

## The Reason for My Appeal

My name is Richard Varberg. I am 81 years old. I am a retired missionary who served in the Philippines for 40 years under the Baptist General Conference (Bethel University). We served in a primitive area where there was no electricity and living and health standards of the people were very low. We did our best to help the people physically, spiritually, socially and economically. Though we were at first hated by the hierarchy, (I even received a letter signed in blood saying that they were going to cut my head off!) we continued our work of trying to help the people in any way we could. We introduced new ways of building that could withstand the strong earthquakes and typhoons that frequented the area. We started a non-profit business that rebuilt used engines from the junk yards of Japan and built generator sets, threshing machines, irrigation pumps, etc. to improve the living situations of the people. To make a long story short, we eventually won the hearts of the people and received many awards and honors. The governor of Masbate even gave the order to all heads of office that I was to be invited to attend all important meeting of their respective departments. I seldom had time to attend these meetings. Before we left the Philippines in 1997 the Provincial Board of Masbate Province held a special session to adopt me as a "Son of Masbate."

After leaving the Philippines, I was asked by the Baptist General Conference to become the International Director of Training to train and mentor missionaries in 21 different countries. While doing this we moved into our home at 1466 Como Ave. I immediately began trying to help our neighbors and those in need here in St. Paul. When I was not traveling overseas I helped many widows and people in need repairing their houses, appliances, lawn mowers, snow blowers, etc. I bought a large snow blower and blew the snow for our whole block. I did all of this free of charge. If they insisted on paying, I encouraged them to give the money to their church or to someone in need. If they insisted on giving it to me, I would tell them that I would then give it to some charity. Sometimes I would tell them to find someone they could help and in that way pay for the help they had received from me.

After serving for six years as an International Director, I asked to be relieved so I could write my memoirs. This turned out to be a 776 page book which to my amazement was very well received and was soon out of print. So, I decided to write another book. This book has gone through more than one printing and is soon out of print again. A copy was given to every church in our denomination. This past year the Bethel Seminary Alumni voted to give a copy to every new seminary student. I was also voted the 2012 Bethel University Seminary Alumnus of the Year.

After completing this writing of books, I told people that I was going out to the garage and get dirty doing what I had been doing throughout my whole carrier – helping people. When people saw me out there almost every day, they began coming in hordes. How they found out about me I do not know. I suppose that the word has gotten out that I am a good mechanic and that I do not charge. When people

ask me, "What will it cost?" I tell them I do not charge—it's whatever they want to give. I also tell them that what they give me I will give to one of several charities. People seem shocked but also pleased. Now that some hardware stores charge \$15.00 to dispose of old lawn mowers many people bring them to me and I either repair them or remove parts from them to use in the repair other mowers. Scrappers come by and want me to buy lawn mowers and snow blowers that they have picked up. They say "It's a shame to throw this away. All it needs is a new starting rope!" Sometimes that is all that is needed

Let me give a few examples of what I do and the responses I have received:

1. I received a phone call from a lady who said I had helped her brother and wondered if I could help her. She said that she had been taking care of her parents who had recently died. As a result of this she had neglected her snow blower which though almost new was now very rusty and would no longer run. She also stated that she had no way of taking it to any shop for repair. I offered to go to her house and pick it up and bring it to my garage for repair. When I later delivered it to her house she didn't recognize it as it was repainted and looked and performed like new. When she asked for the bill, I told her that I don't charge and that whatever she wanted to give was just fine. If I remember correctly, she gave me \$75.00. I thanked her and went home. About a week later I received a letter from her thanking me for restoring her faith in man-kind. She said that she had lost faith in her fellowmen because everyone seemed to be trying to rip her off. "And to think that you said 'whatever you want to give is just fine!' Please accept the enclosed check for \$200.00 to be used for whatever you want."

2. I received a call on my answering machine from an elderly lady who said she drove by my house and saw snow blowers and wondered if I could help her. She said they had a snow blower that did not run and had no way to take it to any shop for repair. I was very busy and did not answer her call. A few days later I got a call from her husband complaining that I hadn't answered his wife's call. He begged me to help. I told him I was very busy and could not help. He continued to plead for help so I finally agreed to go to his house and diagnose the problem. When I got there he turned out to be a 96 year old man living across from Luther Seminary. He showed me his machine and when I saw it I had pity on the old couple and loaded the blower into my van and took it to the shop. I rebuilt and repainted it so it looked and ran like new. I called their home several times and got no answer. Finally he called and said he was in St Cloud and would be home in a few days. I told him I needed to get his machine out of my garage. He suggested I take it back to his garage as it was not locked. This I did but have never heard from him since. Not even a thank you.

3. An African-American man stopped by my garage to ask me to tune up a riding lawn mower which had been given to him. He is a family man but had been on dialysis for 15 years. He wanted to start up a lawn service to help support his family. I told him that I was too busy and also that I didn't work on riding lawn mowers. Again he pled with me for help. I finally told him to come back in two weeks to see if I had time. When he came back I couldn't refuse him even though I was very busy. I spent part of two

days repairing his machine. After we had loaded his machine into his trailer, he turned to me and asked me for his bill. I asked him if he was a Christian. "Absolutely," he answered. "What did Jesus say Christians should do in situations like this? I asked. He looked at me with a strange look on his face and then thoughtfully quoted from the "Golden Rule" that Jesus gave. "You mean, do unto others..." "Yes," I said. "I know that you came to me because you knew that I know how to do some things that you do not know. Now I know that you know how to do some things that someone else does not know and that person needs your help. Now you go and find that person and help him like I helped you."

I hope these stories give you an idea of what I do. I do these things and many others. I have repaired houses after break-ins free of charge. I install window air conditioners for people who can no longer lift them etc. etc.

Though I do receive money from things I sell, I give all profits and much more to various charities. Last year our income tax records show that my wife and I gave more than 50% of our total earning from all sources to various non-profit charitable institutions.

I have been doing these things since 2003 and many people depend on me to help them. Some of my customers have heard that the City has asked me to stop what I am doing. They are very upset and have even volunteered to come with me in making this appeal. I have not suggested that they come with me. I only ask that you carefully consider if I am really doing wrong or if I am actually doing what more people should be doing.

Thank you very much for considering my appeal. I am open to suggestions as to how I can still meet the needs of these people without harming anyone in our beautiful city.

Yours truly,

Richard Varberg