

January 6, 2021

Inho Chang

RE: City Council Public Hearing for 564 Blair Ave

This is my statement submitted to the City Council Public Hearing.

Hi, I am Inho Chang, the owner of the property at 564 Blair Ave.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to submit my statement to the City Council Public Hearing for the assessment of property clean-up at the property at 564 Blair Ave.

Please call me at 315-706-3738 if you need to reach me.

I was present at the legislative hearing, which took place on September 15, 2020 via teleconferencing. In that hearing, I appealed as follows;

The abatement order for clean up the yard was dated May, 27, 2020. I received it May 28 (Thursday) around 5:00 PM. The order stated that it must be complied before June, 1 (Monday, next week). This is such a short window of time frame that I can comply with - I had only one business day (Friday), and 2 weekend days (Saturday and Sunday), which most people do not work.

I called the inspector, Paula Seeley, next day, May 29 (Friday) to ask if I could have extension to comply. She told me to comply before June, 2 and she would give me an extension if I clean up 50% of the trash.

On May 28 evening, immediately after I received the abatement order, I had my maintenance worker to clean up the trash and debris according to the abatement order, the front porch and back yard. He removed the most of them –appliances at front porch, a couch at the back yard, cleaned up the debris, except a mattress and tires. He did this clean up over the weekend and Monday (6/1). This clean-up was definitely more than 50 % of the trash for which the original abatement order called.

The city's public work of clean up property took place on June, 4 (Thursday). I believe the part of the trash that the city's public work cleaned was new trash thrown after we cleaned up the yard. People dump new trash after we clean up, and city comes out a few days later and clean up, thinking that the landlord did not comply to it. This happened before. I could not verify this

at the legislative hearing because it was done by teleconferencing. My maintenance guy also told me that he found new trash that tenants dumped at the back yard after he cleaned up. I have been keeping telling the tenant to discard trash in a proper manner, but they do not listen to me. They know that I cannot exercise eviction on them during this Covid Pandemic.

The outcome of the legislative hearing was that city will reduce a half of the original assessment amount if I do not have the same or similar violence by January, 6 2021.

I would like to, however, request City Council to remove this assessment on the grounds stated as follows:

1. As stated above, I was not given enough time to comply, but I was still able to manage to clean up most of the trash, definitely more than 50%, except mattress and tires.
2. I believe that the part of trash was new trash when the city public work came out to clean up the property on June 4, 2020.
3. I do not have a little power to enforce the trash issues with tenants because I cannot bring eviction action on them during this Covid pandemic period and they know it. Even worse, the tenant at the property had not paid rent for the entire year in 2020. I do not have any rental income from this unit.

Thank you for hearing my appeal.

Inho Chang
Owner of the property at 564 Blair Ave