

PAYNE PHALEN DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

STRONG  SAFE  WELCOMING  CONNECTED  NEIGHBORHOODS

October 12, 2015

Ms. Marcia Moermond
Legislative Hearing Officer
Room 300, City Hall
35 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Re: – Remove or Repair of the buildings at 719 Payne Avenue

Dear Marcia Moermond:

The Payne-Phalen District Five Planning Council's Community Planning & Economic Development Committee (CPED) met with the property owner Mr. Abdi Wai Ali at the regular monthly meeting held October 6, 2015 at the Arlington Hills Community Center. Mr. Ali has worked to reach out to the District Five Planning Council Committees that offer advisory input to the City on development matters.

The owner expressed a strong commitment to fulfill the Inspection Order and make all required repairs. After deliberation and discussion, CPED passed the following motion by unanimous vote. **CPED respectfully requests that the City of Saint Paul allow a reasonable extension of time to permit this new property owner, Mr. Ali, to complete all required repairs at 719 Payne in order to comply fully with City code and property standards.**

Mr. Ali described his plans for the site and CPED members responded favorably to his vision for a business on the site that combines a small convenience store and coffee shop. CPED members expressed appreciation for the outreach efforts Mr. Ali has made to District Five. Mr. Ali introduced his family who were present at the CPED meeting to show support of his business development plan for 719 Payne. CPED positively noted this extended support network for this entrepreneurial effort. . Mr. Ali stated he resides near the business. He is a resident of District Five with plans to run a successful, locally owned business at 719 Payne. District Five supports locally owned businesses which positively contribute to the neighborhood's redevelopment. District Five will recommend to Mr. Ali various resources or programs which may support small business development.

The CPED motion referenced above will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the Board of Directors at the October 27, 2015 meeting. Mr. Ali has committed to attend the Railroad Island Task Force meeting to be held on October 22nd, 2015. The Railroad Island Task Force will likely make a recommendation to the District Five Board following hearing from Mr. Ali.

District Five's Railroad Island Task Force and CPED Committee alike have long advocated for strong enforcement measures to mitigate the blighting effect of 719 Payne in its current condition. The building has been a nuisance in the neighborhood and has remained vacant for some time. The building has been unkempt, untended, and has attracted graffiti. The neighborhood has worked with City representatives to remedy this nuisance. The new owner stated he believed he was purchasing a Category 2 property. CPED is interested to obtain any additional information regarding the designation of Category 3 status to this property and how the timing of this designation may or may not correlate with the property sale.

At this point in time, District Five respectfully requests that more time and opportunity be allowed so that this committed new owner can reasonably fulfill the standards of code and succeed with his locally owned business.

We thank you for your consideration of this community input as you make your recommendations.

On behalf of the District Five CPED - Land Use Committee,



Leslie McMurray

Executive Director – Organizer

Payne-Phalen District 5 Planning Council

Ph: 651-774-5234 d5-director@visi.com

CC: Payne-Phalen District Five Planning Council (CPED, Railroad Island Task Force, Board of Directors)
Ward 7 – City Council Office
Ward 6 - City Council Office
Ward 5 – City Council Office
Mr. Abdi Wali Ali – Property owner at 719 Payne Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55130
Steve Magner, Manager of Code Enforcement – City of Saint Paul