

**From:** [Nicholas Fasano](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_LegislativeHearings](#)  
**Subject:** Contesting Vacant Building and Additional Fees - 705 Magnolia Ave E  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 5, 2021 8:36:43 PM

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Hello,

Over COVID, while I was away visiting family for health reasons, violent criminals moved in to my house to squat and I was unable to get them out. The courts were closed, eviction moratoriums, and the St. Paul police kept saying they had squatter's rights even after being called there multiple times a week. I had tried every possible way I could to get them out, speaking with lawyers, councils, the department of safety and inspections even, but no one could seem to do anything. Being that they were violent criminals, I couldn't endanger myself or my family to get them out myself. I have records of all communications surrounding this dating back to almost a year ago now, this headache has been continuing.

Eventually, the police went over there with the department of safety and inspections, with my permission they walked through the house (which I had called and requested something be done earlier, which wasn't) and they this time decided to trespass the criminals and condemned my house because of the extensive damage they caused.

Due to COVID again, it has been a very long process of dealing with insurance, contractors, and adjusters to get the house back to the condition it was in. I have been working with all three to move things as fast as I can, which I have records of once again, but we are still working on getting everything we need.

I don't believe that I should be responsible for all these condemnation, vacant building fees, assessments etc due to the fact I exhausted every possible resource to get these people out. This included contacting every city department I could think of with little assistance. Finally the police got them out after 20+ calls from myself and neighbors but at this point the damage was done. If they were not supposed to be there, then why had it gone on so long without any action?

This process has been extremely detrimental to my financial, mental, emotional, and even physical health and to be fined for all of it when the reason for the vacancy is due to "squatters rights" by showing up at my house and destroying it while I was away for health reasons is a very troubling notion.

These fees and assessments may seem fit for someone that just leaves their property for a long time abandoned, but I had it watched, being taken care of, etc., and the police didn't help with taking these people out even after they were just there for a brief amount of time. I hardly think that it was just a "civil issue" when people break into your home and try to set up residency there. I have records of all communications like I said, and on behalf of all this disaster I've had to take care of, have legal counsel as well. I've been trying to get everything fixed and sold, which was the plan before these criminals decided (and were allowed to) set up camp in my house, and the plan is still to sell it. These fines and assessments may make that difficult if not impossible.

I am willing to provide records of anything I discussed and willing to contest these fees and assessments however possible.

Thanks for your consideration.

Nick Fasano