

Statement of George C. Holdgrafer

I, George C. Holdgrafer, appellant, age 63, reside at 841 Marion Street, St. Paul, Minnesota. I appeal for a reasonable extension of time until January 5, 2015, to comply with the Correction Notice, dated October 22, 2014, File No. 14-339474. I also appeal for a reasonable stay until January 5, 2015, of the Notice of Condemnation as Unfit for Human Habitation and Order to Vacate, dated October 27, 2014.

I understand that the two issues in this matter are the following: first, access to the alleged defective water meter by St. Paul Regional Water Services (which was installed only several years ago on February 12, 2012); and second, current lack of water service.

I admit that I was unfortunately remiss in not contacting St. Paul Regional Water Services when it mailed me Requests for Meter Access, dated September 4, 2014; September 17, 2014; and October 1, 2014; nor did I contact St. Paul Regional Water Services when water was shut off on October 13, 2014. I sincerely apologize for it.

On October 27, 2014, by phone I contacted Code Enforcement Officer Ed Smith, who referred me to Saint Paul Regional Water Services. On October 28, 2014, I visited Saint Paul Regional Water Services in person, where I met with Justina in Customer Service and spoke by phone to Connie in Meter Operations, but was unable to resolve the matter. Thus, I had no choice but to file an appeal with the City Clerk.

For several important reasons caused by severe time constraints, I have been unable to deal with this situation. First, since late December 2013, I have been the only personal care attendant in residence evenings and weekends at the Minneapolis domicile of my best friend of 31 years, Bernard W. Gatzke, who is severely diabetic and in need of continual assistance; he just has no one else to care for him. Second, at Saint Paul College in St. Paul, where Fall Semester began on August 25, 2014, I am a year-round student and work as a tutor for other students at The Writing Center there. I even tutor some students with special problems outside of my normal work hours. Helping others is a major part of who I am. These commitments occupy all my time.

Even if I had the time, which regretfully I absolutely do not, given the foregoing time constraints, another major impediment is that I presently am simply unable to give St. Paul Regional Water Services access to the water meter in the basement. As soon as Fall Semester at Saint Paul College ended in mid-December 2013, I had to move many boxes that had belonged to my late parents (I am an only child) from where I had stored them in my hometown of 100 miles away, and the only place I could put them in my house was in the basement, where they block access to the water meter. To move them again immediately would require a great deal of time and a place to relocate them, neither of which I presently have.

I emphasize that I very much want to comply with the Correction Notice and the Notice of Condemnation as Unfit for Human Habitation and Order to Vacate, but I need an extension of time and a stay until January 5, 2015, by which time I promise to do so. I have requested that date because at Saint Paul College, the last day of Fall Semester is December 19, 2014; and Spring Semester begins on January 12, 2015. In addition, my friend, Bernard W. Gatzke, will be staying out of town with his family for a few days during the Christmas and New Year holidays. During that period, I will have time available. I desperately hope for the reasonable extension of time and stay to allow me to continue to occupy my beloved home of 18 years in my old age.