

Moermond, Marcia (CI-StPaul)

From: Shaff, Leanna (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2014 8:36 AM
To: Vang, Mai (CI-StPaul); Moermond, Marcia (CI-StPaul)
Subject: FW: 374 Cherokee Ave

Thought you might want to add to appeal papers.

Leanna Shaff
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Making Saint Paul the Most Livable City in America

-----Original Message-----

From: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2014 8:13 AM
To: Shaff, Leanna (CI-StPaul)
Subject: FW: 374 Cherokee Ave

FYI

From: Faye Sparks [Faye.Sparks@senate.mn]
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2014 5:14 PM
To: Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Re: 374 Cherokee Ave

Hi, Sean, I just wanted to let you know that I ended up filing an appeal and I am scheduled for a hearing next Tuesday. Please know that this is nothing against you because I assume you are just following the inspection rules that your superiors hand you. I just wanted a chance to appeal to whoever makes those decisions about the length and cost implications of trying to fix up a house that was built in 1926. I won't ever get my money back on an investment to repair the stucco on this building - after all, it's nearly one hundred years old and the ground settles so there will be cracks I am sure, even if I repair them now. I don't think the cracks are affecting the "health and safety" of my renters. The same is true of the retaining walls. I can't afford to replace those concrete steps or walls and I would never get that investment of money back on the place. Replace the roof? really? These are all such costly requests that I would have to budget for such extensive work or get a loan.

I don't make any money on this rental house at all. I don't know if you recall or not, but I ended up being a landlord by accident. I didn't plan on being in the "business." Any repairs come out of my pocket. I bought the house before the housing bubble for my elderly father and bachelor brother to live in after my dad had been diagnosed with Alzheimers. They lived on a farm 85 miles away and I needed them to be closer to me so I could help take care of him. Unfortunately, he died not long afterward and housing prices had plummeted so I had no choice but to rent the house. I put a lot of work into fixing that old house up - mostly "grunt" work on my own. I have had renters in there that trashed the place or left me with unpaid bills and rent. I have continued to lose money or finally break even - until now.

Anyway I am telling you all of this, because I think you are a fair person and you had inspected my property before - and not made any note of any of these items, even though the house stucco was cracked when I bought it. The retaining walls and foundation haven't changed, but now I am being asked to "repair or replace" many parts of this house. I am hopeful that "repair" will be adequate. I have had a person working over there to make these repairs for several weeks. I am trying to do as much of the work as I can, on my own.

In closing, I want to get back to the purpose of this email. I don't want you to think I am making an appeal because I think you did something wrong. I am hoping to get some leniency or at least more time (as in several months or more) to budget for or find the financing for any major repairs or replacements that are going to need to be done.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. Faye Sparks

>>> "Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul)" <sean.westenhofer@ci.stpaul.mn.us> 6/24/2014 8:25 AM >>>
Faye,

Here is the letter. It seems like a lot of orders, but it is manageable. I did speak with the tenant and they were telling me that they had water issues in the basement as of late. Apparently, back in southeast corner when the storage room is, is where the water got into. From what they told me they don't go into that storage closet and stated it was yours. Like I told them they live there so they should be informing you of any and all water issues in or outside of the property.

I am around for a couple of weeks. July 16th – 23rd I will be on vacation. I did extend you until August 15th because I know that you are busy and lining up people to come in do the work is going to take some time. Hopefully this all works. Talk to you soon.

Sean