

DSI Code Enforcement
375 Jackson Street, Suite 220
Saint Paul, MN 55101-9700

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St. Paul, MN 55106-3222
File # J1403B
Assessment #148102

17 November 2013

To Whom This May Concern:

This is what I included in my letter to the City of St. Paul when I filed a complaint against the city:

On 9-26-2013 Curtis Banks broke into my home, damaging my two doors. My neighbors alerted the police, and apprehended the suspect inside my home. An attempt was made to call me, but the officers said they only had my home phone number. (Had they spent two minutes googling me they would have found my work phone quite easily.) So they called for a "board-up" and now I am being assessed for these damages. The police failed to note that they damaged my sitting wall when they attempted to obtain a brick to break down the door of my house. The information I received back from the police department is incorrect as it was stated in an email to me:

"The same officer did note in his report that he took a loose stone from the wall, in speaking to him he told me when he picked it up it was loose and didn't damage the wall."

This information is completely wrong - since the brick that was eventually used, did not match those on my sitting wall, but had been located along the side of my garage, as that was the one I found on the steps when I returned home. However, an attempt to remove a brick from my wall did cause it to break loose as these photos clearly show. I'm sure in the fury of what was taking place it was not noted the damages, but you can see from the attached photos the wall has been moved from its place.

I think what was so upsetting was the fact that I had been victimized first by the thief, but felt mistreated by the police department as well. There is no way a sheet of plywood and those few screws that were supposedly used to secure my property came anywhere near the \$443.90 that I'm being assessed by the city - but what galls me is that I wasn't even given the option. A sheet of plywood as I note costs under \$25.00 from Home Depot, and screw - around \$5.00. And, in fact, it still took no more than fifteen minutes to re-enter my home with a screw-driver. Now, I do understand you were following procedures, doing your best in this situation, but it bothers me that I was not consulted on any of these things, only to come home to wondering what had happened to my home in my absence.

It is very, very difficult for me to take time away from my work and therefore I was told I could provide a written statement in my absence. Taking a day of work would only add just one more insult to my injury as I would stand to lose pay, and it would matter to my students as well. I have been so

disheartened by this process. I DID NOTHING WRONG! AND YET I AM BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR SOMETHING I DIDN'T DO, NOR DID I REQUEST SERVICES FOR! I believe the person who needs to be held responsible for this would be the perpetrator who created all this havoc in my life. That is the person who should be responsible.

However, what I'm asking for is for the City of St. Paul to compromise and deduct \$250.00 from the \$443.90 so that I can hire someone to repair the damages to my sitting wall caused by the police department. I will then agree to pay the rest of the assessment without further appeal. Considering this was an "unauthorized" board-up, and because I was not contacted by the department at all - I think my request is more than a reasonable compromise to the situation at hand.

For my part, I have been a great contributor to the City of St. Paul - volunteering for Habitat of Humanity, Global Volunteers, and do make generous donations to our local food shelves. I give back to my city. Take care of my property, work hard as an educator, giving my best efforts to my job day in and day out. I do believe this is the least my city could do for a victim of a crime!

Sincerely,

JMImholte

