



Meeting Minutes - Action Only

Legislative Hearings

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer
Mai Vang, Hearing Coordinator
Joanna Zimny, Executive Assistant
legislativehearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us
651-266-8585

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

9:00 AM

Room 330 City Hall & Court House/Remote

9 [SR 23-155](#)

Review Request of Stella Nwaiwu for the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for Property at 931 and 933 UNIVERSITY AVENUE WEST. (File No. J2318A, Assessment No. 238518). (Adopted by Council June 7, 2023).

Sponsors: Balenger

Reduce assessment from \$322 to \$161. (CPH 8/9)

Stella Nwaiwu, owner, appeared via phone

Moermond: looks like this has already been levied for your property here. [Moermond gives background of appeals process]

Stella Nwaiwu: I just want to say thank you for hearing my side of this.

Staff report by Supervisor Lisa Martin: orders to remove snow and ice January 9, rechecked January 12, it was not done. A small section by the door was shoveled but the rest of the sidewalk wasn't done. Work order was sent and work was done by Parks January 23. Total assessment of \$322.

Stella Nwaiwu: we have a service who does this. We got a letter last year saying we didn't shovel so the mailman couldn't deliver. I called 266-8989 and told her I got a letter to remove the snow, but it is removed. If she would like me to Facetime her. She said no way to do that. We are in the middle of two buildings together. I said we remove our own, but if they don't remove theirs the wind blows the snow right back. She said just remove your own and don't worry about theirs. We have a snow removal person who takes care of it. If it's a small snow we do it with a shovel.

I was told to talk to Department of Safety & Inspections and they told me I should call and talk to the City Clerk office if I want to appeal. I talked to Racquel and I demanded from her to see the video. She said someone Stacy would call me back. I waited for some time, I finally called again and she referred me to Mai who sent me the videos. When I reviewed it coupled with our cameras, I saw the snow came from our neighbor and that is why it is like that. We have been in this building for 20 years. We have never had an issue with any bills.

Moermond: my assessment after reviewing orders, photos, and video is there was an order issued. the situation for the 931 storefront had a greater snow accumulation in the sidewalk and that was a common problem moving up the street there. There was almost no passageway through. When I watched the video of the cleanup I could see a different angle and by the time the crew showed up, much of the snow on the 931 side was removed. It was also partly on the 933 side; however, it is all one parcel.

One bill. Effort was made to remove snow, but it still remained and was compact and iced over. I understand you pay someone, so I'm not sure how the bump out mid-property accumulated it as much as it did. I'll recommend it is reduced by half for a good-faith effort. I won't recommend full deletion; you are welcome to talk to the Council about it. We'll put this in front of them for consideration August 9.

Stella Nwaiwu: can I say something? I will not be available. I have a need to be away in august. Let me pay the half and get it over with. I don't want this to linger. We don't want to get into any argument with our neighbors.

Moermond: how you manage that relationship is up to you. After August 9 you will receive a new invoice in the mail with instructions about how to pay it.

Received and Filed