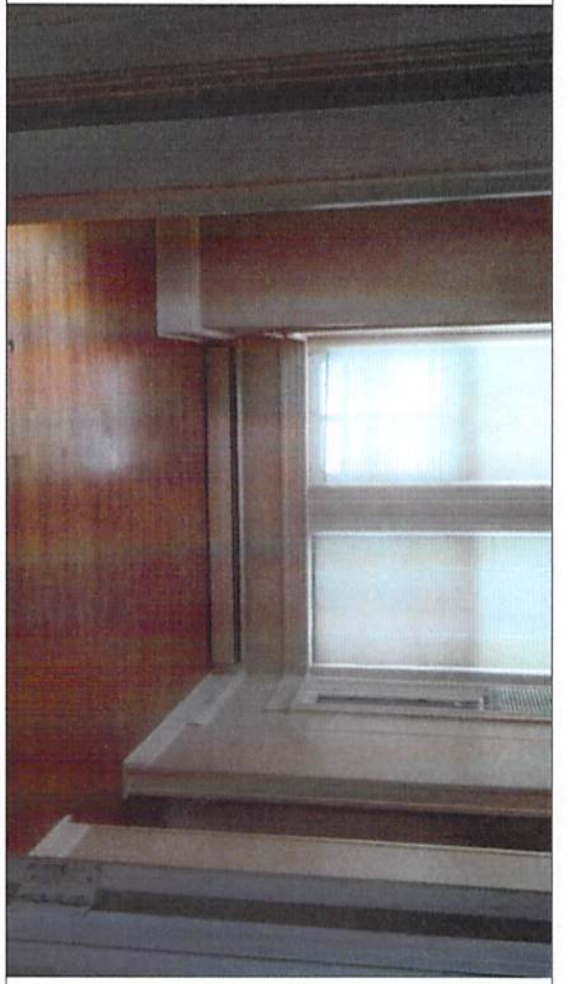
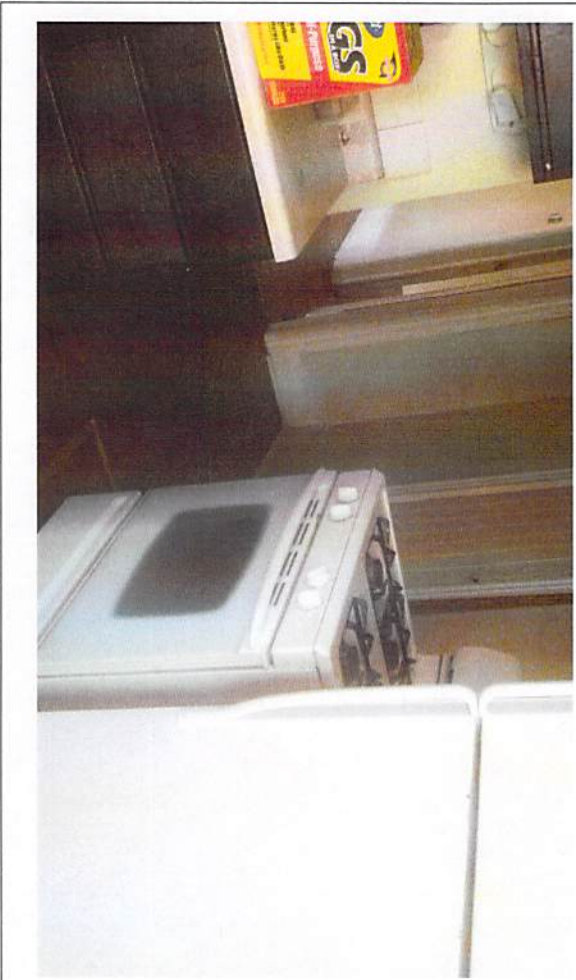


Pictures from March 29, 2014









BURN-O-MATIC
MOONEY AND RIDLER

Plumbing and Heating
2925 Garfield Ave South
Minneapolis, MN 55408
(612) 827-2825
Fax (612) 827-4465

April 11, 2014

Marcia Moermond
Legislative Hearing Officer
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd., West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

To Marcia:

I manage the heating department at Burnomatic. We have a good reputation in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Our technicians have performed hundreds of Fuel Burn Tests in the City of St. Paul in the last few years.

EIG contacted me about March 6 to conduct a fuel burn test of the heating units at the property 703 Bedford St. The technician that I sent there is a very experienced technician and very qualified. He worked here for several years. He then worked somewhere else for the last 5 years. We hired him back recently and unfortunately, he let his license in St. Paul lapse by accident.

I take full responsibility for this mix-up. I have gone the property 703 Bedford myself to conduct the test. My test results matched those of the original test results. I find that all three hot water boilers to meet safety standards. The space heater failed the test and was operating below minimum safety standards.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Romain
Project Engineer
Burn-O-Matic Mooney and Ridler Mechanical Contractors



LETTER FOR 703 BEDFORD ST.

Robert and Rebecca Sitzmann <rsitz@hotmial.com>
To: Alex Eaton <alex@sigpm.com>

SITZMANN ELECTRIC
3234 ROLLING HILLS DR.
EAGAN, MN 55121
ROBERT SITZMANN OWNER
CONTRACTOR # EA004177
4/12/14

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN,

I WAS CONTACTED BY EIG MANAGEMENT ON 3/31/14, AND HIRED TO INSTALL THREE BASEBOARD HEATING UNITS IN A SECOND FLOOR APTMT. @ 703 BEDFORD ST. ST PAUL. THEY TOLD ME THAT THE HEATERS WHERE NEEDED BECAUSE THE EXISTING GAS HEATING UNIT THAT WAS IN THE APARTMENT WAS FAULTY AND POSED A DANGER, I AGREED TO DO THE WORK THE NEXT MORNING ON 4/1/14. I ATTEMPTED TO FILE FOR THE ELECTRICAL PERMIT ON LINE THAT MORNING BY WAS UNABLE TO BECAUSE THE PROPERTY HAD VIOLATIONS, I HAD RAN CROSS THIS BEFORE IN ST. PAUL, AND THOUGHT THAT IF I APPLIED IN PERSON AT TOWN HALL THAT A PERMIT WOULD BE ISSUED AS IT HAD IN THE PAST. BUT EVEN THEN I WAS TOLD THAT NO PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED UNTIL BACK FEES WHERE PAID.
SINCERELY, ROBERT SITZMANN



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
of Minnesota

April 14, 2014

Marcia Moermond
Legislative Hearing Officer
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Ms. Moermond,

I am writing this letter at the request of EIG property management company with regard to the property located at 703 Bedford Street in St. Paul. They have explained to us that the building is in jeopardy of being torn down as the result of incidents that took place in February and March of this year with four Somali families who were tenants in the Bedford property. EIG has also explained to us that the city inspector insinuated that EIG should not rent to Somali families because they do not speak the same language. Our concerns are as follows:

- Approximately 70 Somali refugees are resettled in Minnesota each month -- we call them primary arrivals. These refugees are assisted by the International Institute or a similar non-profit agency during their resettlement period. These programs are funded and mandated by the Department of State and are limited to 90 days of support. These services include but are not limited to a community orientation about life in the United States and housing support. *One of the families in the Bedford property was a primary arrival.*
- An estimated additional 70 Somali refugees move to Minnesota after being resettled in another state -- we call them secondary arrivals. There are minimal support services for those refugees once they arrive as they have left behind their resettlement services in the original state of resettlement. Resettlement agencies, volunteers, and community members try to assist with what little resources are available. *Three of the families in the Bedford property were secondary arrivals.*
- Very few landlords have access to Somali interpretation. Many use community volunteers, family and friends of the tenants, and resettlement agencies like the International Institute. EIG knows the resources we have to offer and works with our agency to ensure communication is interpreted.
- Affordable housing is often not available for these families. They are expected to find work as soon as possible upon arrival to Minnesota as public assistance amounts are not

enough to support these families. There are many refugee employment counselors in the Twin Cities metro area and many refugees are able to find jobs, if the job seeker is active and cooperative in the process.

- EIG's properties are very reasonably priced, and we value the flexibility that EIG's properties have to offer.
- When there were maintenance requests by the tenants, EIG responded and communicated well with both the families and the International Institute.

In our opinion, the chain of events that took place at the 703 Bedford property were not in the best interest of the Somali families involved. When the heat went out, only one of the four units was affected. However, all four families were removed from the home, put on a city bus, and then put in a hotel. No follow up arrangements were made with the families by the parties involved once they were removed. The families called our agency on a Friday morning to say they were being kicked out of the hotel and could not go back to the apartment. The City and the Red Cross were no longer involved. Our agency had to pay for additional nights' hotel stay while we helped the families search for new apartments. This was unfunded and unexpected staff time for our agency, but there was no other option.

Please do not condemn another affordable property in St. Paul. I know EIG can make improvements on the property to keep it in good repair, and it will make a nice home for other families.

Sincerely,



Amanda Smith

Director of Refugee Services
International Institute of Minnesota
(651) 647-0191 x338
Fax: (651) 647-9268
www.iimn.org