

Vang, Mai (CI-StPaul)

From: MFMcGovern <MFMcGovern@protonmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:46 PM
To: Assessments (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Ratification of Assessment

Saint Paul City Council

I live across the street from what was, the **Conway Recreation Center** on the Eastside of St. Paul. Some years ago, the center and its property, was leased to **The Sanneh Foundation**. Soon after, the residents in the area were notified of the future construction of a sports field with removeable dome.

Construction began in the summer of 2020. For several months, heavy construction vehicles were removing and delivering tons of dirt, sand, and other construction materials. Large earth movers, plowed through the old field, removing imbedded concrete pillars which had been buried for years.

In one instance, directly across the street from my home, a large piece of equipment, after digging out concrete pillars fifteen feet in length and five-six feet in diameter, would pick one pillar up high in the air and drop it on another laying on the ground, in an effort to breakup the larger pieces into smaller pieces, to enable them to be loaded on trucks. Each time one of the larger pieces was dropped, our house would tremble and shake. This went on for a couple of days.

Every day, for weeks on end, large, flatbed trucks and street cleaning equipment traveled the streets in the neighborhood, which again, included the street thirty feet from my front door and those of my neighbors.

Several weeks into the construction, I was told a video of the sewer main, running down the middle of Ruth Street, located a leak where our sewer and that of our neighbors to the west, connected with the main sewer. We were instructed to have the connection repaired at our expense. The repairs were over \$6,000 for each of us.

During conversations with St. Paul City employees, as I was taking steps to comply with the order to have the repairs completed, I was told the damage was, "*without a doubt*" created as a result of the construction.

Both houses, side-by side, were the only houses on the entire block to incur similar damage requiring the same repairs for the same amount of money.

Since we didn't have the \$6000.00 needed to complete the repairs, we agreed to have the amount added to our mortgage, which will eventually increase our monthly mortgage payments for as long as we own the home. At seventy-four, my wife and I are living on Social Security with a small income from a part-time job. She has heart disease and I have cancer and as our medical expenses continue to mount, there is little room for increases in our monthly payments.

I requested bids from three companies capable of making the repairs, chose the least expensive and joined with my neighbor in contracting them to make the repairs. The City of St. Paul then invoiced the company we chose to make the repairs and added the assessment to our property.

While the sewers were being repaired, I spoke with the workmen making the repairs. Although none could state positively that the damage had been done as a result of the construction, their suspicions left little doubt in my mind.

While I couldn't prove the damage had been done as a result of the construction, I wasn't given any proof it hadn't been and common sense would lead most people, especially those in this neighborhood at that time, to reach the same conclusion.

The coincidence of only two homes, side-by-side, of vastly differing ages, both incurring the same damage, when the only common denominator was massive construction project taking place mere yards from their front doors, leave little to the imagination when considering cause and effect.

I would like to see relief from the **Sanneh Foundation**. \$12,000.00 (*the total paid by both families*) in a budget of millions, seems not too much to ask, especially when one considers the issues we have yet to face as a community once the construction is completed and the field is "open for business". We'll have no choice but to endure increased traffic, parking issues, crowds, and clutter, which will forever change our quiet community, while leaving us few options short of leaving.

We chose to live in this area. That others are choosing to come to this area is understandable. However, having to spend \$6000.00 as the result of others having made the decision to become neighbors and members of our community, especially when they're spending millions to change the community to which they're moving, isn't something I or my next-door neighbors understand.

I hope the Council will approach the **Sanneh Foundation** and suggest that they, not a hardworking couple and two elderly citizens, pay these costs as an addition expense incurred as a result of their construction.

I will be happy, as will my neighbor, to provide the invoices we received as a result of repairing these damages.

Please advise.

Michael McGovern

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