

LegislativeHearings - File #J1110A; Assessment 118034 for 1595 Edmund Ave

From: Lucas Goring
To: "legislativehearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us"
Date: 3/2/2011 9:48 AM
Subject: File #J1110A; Assessment 118034 for 1595 Edmund Ave
CC: Lucas Goring

Good morning –

After speaking with Mai Vang last week, I was told I could submit my response via email instead of taking a morning off of work to contest the assessment at 1595 Edmund Ave.

This home is a rental house after being my primary residence for over six years. I periodically check on the home, specifically for snow, and throughout the early months of the season, the home was well shoveled.

I received two letters in early January (the first was dated Jan 3, the second around Jan 10) regarding snow and ice. The problem was fixed the night I received each letter through shoveling and sanding. My renters shoveled the walk the first time and I brought over the sand / salt the second time – at which time I was satisfied with the result.

After speaking with Tonya in the assessment office, she stated the work the city did was completed on Jan 20. Per the initial letter I received, “If the snow and / or ice has not been removed by this date [48 hours from postmark], the enforcement officer will schedule to City work crew to immediately do the work. The cost of snow removal is \$160 per hour with a ½ hour minimum; sand and salt is \$80 per hour with a ½ hour minimum.”

My two points of contention are this:

- The work that was completed on January 20 does not correlate with the letters dated Jan 3 & Jan 10. The snow / ice problems the letters described were handled Jan 4 & Jan 11.
- Per Tonya, the work order stated there were “ice ruts” but little else in the notes. I would be foolish to believe the sidewalks were 100% cleared but from the notes, it sounds as if the snow was removed but the sidewalk was icy. I do not have an accounting of the services performed, as they weren’t clearly documented. However, the sidewalk in question is 40 feet in length. Per the letter, “sand and salt is \$80 per hour with a ½ hour minimum.” For a \$300 fine, this job must have taken approximately 3 hours and 45 minutes to sand 40 feet. I understand there are administrative fees that go along with this but if common sense says 40 feet of sanding takes ½ hour, that would be a \$40 assessment plus \$260 in administrative fees, which seems very excessive.

I propose an assessment of \$100 – which accounts for half an hour of sanding and an additional \$60 administrative fee.

Thank you for your time-

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