

1/12/18

Dear City Council and Whom It May Concern,

My husband and I own 445 Mt Ida St in our business named Our Flipping Family. We are taking this registered vacant property and renovating it for resale—in fact, it will be on the market next week! We purchased the property on a contract for repurchase for the state so we received a copy of the Abatement Order from the Tax Forfeited Land Clerk (since the state still owns the property) on August 21. The work to be done was to move a large tree limb from the sidewalk and trim the weeds/grass, and it was to be completed by August 23. There was a wind storm which caused the limb to fall, and understandably it was a safety concern to be addressed. I immediately passed the notice on to my general contractor, who personally spent hours cleaning and trimming the tree and weed wacking the yard to make it less than the city required 8 inches. Since it was short notice, he did not have time to fully mow the lawn yet but did make it meet the requirement and cleaned up as much as possible.

After receiving the notice with the fee, I was confused because we had taken care of it so I contacted the inspector, Tom Friel. In discussing the situation with him we figured out that he must have gone to check on the property earlier in the day on the 23rd before my contractor cleaned it up on the 23rd. He emailed to me the photos he took when he placed the work order and the tree limb was still down and the yard was still in disarray justifying the work order. However when you see the video from the work crew you will see that the tree was cut down and weeds and grass and weeds are significantly shorter. It was not mowed all the way down but was less than city requirements and did not warrant the work or the fees.

We enjoy making the city better by improving homes, especially vacant and very distressed ones. This home specifically we made from a completely dysfunctional and dangerous house into a beautiful home for our city neighbors (see photos below). I understand the need for code enforcement and that these regulations and fines are in place to better our community. We addressed the issues as quickly as we could, with short notice, yet still missed the inspector by a couple hours since he came earlier in the day. But since the work was still completed on the last day of the notice, and before the work crews got there, the work should not have been completed nor us fined. The grass, although not beautifully mowed did meet the city requirements and the limbs removed by the deadline—as well as a full house renovation since then.

Included below is the email that we received the order in, showing that we received it on August 21. A statement by my general contractor explaining the work that he completed was given to the hearing officer in the original hearing, and should be available to you as well. We appreciate your time and consideration and request that the fine be removed from the property.

Sincerely,

Bryndee Barton

General before photos of 445 Mt Ida:



After Photos:



445 Mount Ida Street

BNP Homes X



Votel, Colette <Colette.Votel@co.ramsey.mn.us>
to me ▾

Aug 21 ☆

Bryndee Barton
Enclosed in a summary abatement from the city of Saint Paul, that must be completed by August 23, 2017

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