

Vang, Mai (CI-StPaul)

From: Kirsten Jamsen <kirstenjamsen@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 1:10 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings
Subject: response to July 30, 2018 hearing on 522/524 Otis Ave; please add to the record for Aug 28, 2018 hearing

Dear Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer, and Steve Magner, Manager of Code Enforcement, City of St. Paul,

Thank you for listening to the many concerns raised by my Desnoyer Park neighbors about Jay Olson's 522/524 Otis Ave property during the July 30th hearing. With Anton Jachim, I reside at 506 Otis Ave, three doors down from this property and directly behind Mr. Olson's 521/523 Desnoyer property, which was the subject of an earlier hearing and current rehabilitation. Having learned much from your analysis of the situation and listened to Mr. Olson's testimony at the hearing, I am struck by the fact that a single property owner can have such a profoundly negative influence on a neighborhood and its residents, both homeowners and renters.

For me, the hearing, including testimony of witnesses on behalf Mr. Olson, revealed a wealth of evidence that Mr. Olson simply does not care about his properties nor his tenants, and that he disregards the safety codes of the City of St. Paul. Despite having been through this process already with 521/523 Desnoyer, Mr. Olson waited until the afternoon prior to the hearing to apply for code compliance on a property that has been vacant since Sept 19, 2017. He also failed to present the appropriate documents to demonstrate a plan to rehabilitate the property. As you noted, the order to abate a nuisance building is the city's biggest tool in motivating corrective action, and even that tool does not appear to motivate Mr. Olson to take responsibility, despite the fact he has ample equity and resources to do so.

In addition, despite Mr. Olson's own knowledge of multiple abatement notices and orders to vacate his unsafe properties, he continues to rent to unsuspecting tenants, leaving them surprised to discover eviction notices. When asked about the situation at 501/503 Desnoyer, he said the property was unsafe due to a neighbor's tree falling on the garage, revealing that he refuses to take any responsibility for the deplorable conditions of his rental units. Having observed close hand the steady deterioration of 522/524 Otis, particularly the rotting away of the tarp-covered roof, I find his statements in the hearing unconscionable.

Like many of my neighbors who love and care about our community, I may have have "enabled" Mr. Olson's neglect of 522/524 Otis by regularly shoveling the walk, picking up trash, and failing to call DSI over the past 15 years, but now I see how much Mr. Olson has threatened the strong social fabric of Desnoyer Park by shirking his responsibilities, blaming others, and actively pitting renters vs. homeowners to protect his own interests. People in our community are and will continue to be seriously harmed because of the actions of a single individual, and I ask the City of St. Paul to take all possible steps to remedy this problem.

respectfully,
—Kirsten Jamsen
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