



City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Minutes - Final

Legislative Hearings

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Tuesday, September 10, 2019

9:00 AM

Room 330 City Hall & Court House

8 [SR 19-97](#)

Request Review of Council File RLH VO 19-19 adopted on June 12, 2019 for Appeal of Judith Hoelzel to a Fire Certificate of Occupancy Revocation and Order to Vacate at 528-530 ORANGE AVENUE WEST.

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Deny the appeal and refer to Vacant Building program, but allow permits to be pulled. Waive VB fee for 90 days. PH September 25, 2019.

Judith Hoelzel, sister of owner, appeared.

Staff report by Supervisor Leanna Shaff: this was in hearings this last spring in May, and you recommended that the Council grant 90 days to get the fire C of O reinstated. August 8, they requested additional time to come into compliance with repairs, repairs were to be done by September 3, 2019. As of Franquiz's inspection on September 4, there are 15 items remaining. Inspector Franquiz has told me the property owner isn't capable of making decisions for herself, the house is unoccupied and her sister has stepped in with plans to sell.

Ms. Moermond: so 15 items remain, and you are Judith?

Ms. Hoelzel: yes. No one lives there, I thought she'd keep it for a year or two, no one has lived there for 15 years.

Ms. Moermond: you asked for an extension of the certificate, why?

Ms. Hoelzel: I do 24-hour care for my sister up until Sept 1, I didn't realize when I was down here, because she went in hospital with broken wrist May 17. May 20 I got her out and was down here on the 28, I had been through and no realization that this was a multiple generation hoard. We have had a dumpster for construction in there, household goods, I sent a 22' trailer off to auction with furniture. The brother and sister in law tired out after a couple weeks, and then didn't appear again, so each day she had to go to her little house to feed her cat.

Ms. Moermond: right now no one is living there, it isn't safe to live there, there is accumulation of things there.

Ms. Hoelzel: there's nothing in there.

Ms. Shaff: damaged guardrail, window screens, retaining wall, door window, carbon

monoxide alarms, smoke alarms, toilets don't work, water meter, jumping cable, cracks in ceiling, there is an issue with the plumbing that requires a permit.

Ms. Moermond: right now it's not ready to be lived in, and this order in place says you can't have anyone be there until a Certificate of Occupancy is reinstated, to keep you out of the Vacant Building program, but we don't have a foreseeable conclusion, so I recommend the Council deny your request for an extension. I'm happy to recommend a 90 day fee waiver.

Ms. Shaff: there are two open plumbing permits, and a building permit. Can you make it as a Cat 1?

Ms. Moermond: the issue is filing it as a Cat 1 in the program it means someone could move in tomorrow.

Ms. Hoelzel: no one is going to.

Ms. Moermond: which I understand. I ask that this is sent to the VB program and allow permits to be pulled.

Ms. Hoelzel: that is a lie that there aren't smoke or CO2 alarms aren't there. He was supposed to mail me a list, it still hasn't come. I called yesterday.

Ms. Moermond: here are the most recent set of orders. I'm going to send this to Council September 25, you can ask them for an extension, but my recommendation is the C of O needs to be reinstated and it go to VB program.

Ms. Hoelzel: when an inspector goes into the house and there are clear orders, why on Earth was this not reported to adult protection, and he knew something wasn't right.

Ms. Moermond: that actually is private information, you and I have no way of knowing.

Ms. Shaff: we are also not mandated reporters.

Received and Filed