

Notes for Appeal

1. When we purchased this property in St Paul 27 years ago, the building had been vacant for several years. We only were able to afford it because of its age and poor condition.
2. Because of the size of our building we appear to be a larger business than we are.
3. Original permits allowed us to occupy and perform our necessary business functions without restrictions.
4. We have paid property taxes over these 27 years in excess of \$1,000,000 currently at the rate \$45,500 annually.
5. We are a small DBE (Disadvantage Business Enterprise). My wife owns 99% of our company.
6. We employ 33 people of which 24 are minorities.
7. Wages paid to employees 1999 to 2015, \$13,599,480, currently at an annual rate of \$855,000.
8. Just under \$900,000 in new debt to continue business in last 10 years
9. The majority of our employees are laborers, living in our community, many with criminal backgrounds (trying to get reestablished) and overcoming substance abuse issues.

RECENT BUSINESS HISTORY

10. I'm requesting more time today in light of these following items.
11. Changed Management after 30 years burned out
12. New Office Manager left after 5 months without notice
13. Next Office Manager Embezzled \$85000.00 after 6 months, we had insurance. However, she and her accomplice managed to leave us with our financial records in a disaster, which required months of time from an accountant, the cost which was not covered by insurance. I also left us without good financial data in order to manage our company
14. Insurance carrier dropped our insurance last year after embezzlement.
15. Key Office person, 23-year-old, Venessa Died End of Feb 2015 Our key office person did not show up for work. She was found deceased.
16. Key Office person #2 hired to replace previous employee, Jose.... Died July 16th 2015. He went home sick on Thursday and died over the weekend. He was HIV positive but had been successfully managing it for some years. He died from Bacterial Meningitis because of his compromised immune system.

SAFETY FIRST

- 17. Original permits allowed us to occupy and perform our necessary business functions without restrictions. It took me about 5 years to find this building (30 years ago).**
- 18. In 1991, 3 years after we owned and operated in this building the Fire Marshall changed the "Ground Rules".**
- 19. We need to find an affordable workable solution, however if that does not come about we probably will be forced to find another city for our business to locate too.**
- 20. Fire Marshall has known since 1991 that the City of St Paul Water Department does not have the volume or pressure available to us at our location, that the Fire Marshall is requiring us to have.**
- 21. Sprinkling Companies have all told us they have never seen such a severe restriction.**
- 22. I've requested the Fire Marshall's support for working "with" us to help come to a better solution, they have not responded to those requests.**
- 23. One of the previous inspectors actually came into my building by crawling under an overhead door. Then they found my production manager in our factory and proceeded to Scream and Swear at him in the middle of our production area. (I was later informed that this inspector was "in training".) Up until this time he had only inspected Residential properties. He also was not accompanied by an experienced Industrial Inspector. I only point this out to support the premise that we have not experienced proactive support in our mutual desire to provide a safer environment.**