

To Whom It May Concern:

I am unable to attend the hearing today, but it is my hope that my written statement will suffice in my absence.

I am and have been a St. Paul resident for close to 15 years. I take pride in the fact that the city I reside is also the most livable city in America.

In the spring, my family and I experienced something very unfortunate, however. Our home, at 294 Charles Avenue, was burglarized. My daughters and I arrived home after a long day and a late parent meeting to find our back door opened and several items missing.

We left the area immediately and called 911. Frightened and shaken, we also called friends to be with us during this time as well. Due to another incident in the area, officers were unable to respond to the call right away. We waited for over 50 minutes for a response, fearing that someone may be in the house.

After 3 calls to the police, the girl's grandfather, a retired police officer, arrived (and along with their father), swept the house. The police arrived shortly thereafter. The house was cleared again by the officers, but the police dogs we were unable to be utilized due to the above.

I also walked through the house with the officer to identify missing items and fill out the beginning of the required paperwork. After these things took place, it was close to midnight. The back door appeared to be jarred open and the door was unable to be secured without assistance.

The officer called someone to secure the property, and patiently waited with me until they arrived and secured the door. Quite shaken by the incident, I was relieved that my house was somewhat secured, but fearing being there with the girls ( who were scared) , I stayed with a friend.

A few weeks later, I received a bill that referenced a possibly abandoned property and the need for boarding. I was taken aback. As I referenced with the City employee I spoke with, I honestly didn't realize that there was such an expensive charge for this service, and honestly felt violated again. The officer never mentioned the charge, and honestly, I certainly did not ask given the events of the day, the timing and the situation.

Anxious to explain my situation, I returned the card received in the mail and expected to hear back regarding another date. I was made aware that the date was included. The process was not clear to me, but was explained after I called. I asked for a hearing again to ensure that I could share my story.

Although I am unable to attend today, it is my hope to:

Reduce the amount of the charge to a fee more manageable and affordable. I would have asked a friend to perform the same service at a fraction of the cost if I was made aware of the charges that I would incur.

Ask that others are explicitly made aware of these charges prior to services are rendered. I will say that the feeling of violation was revisited by this process.

Relay that I appreciate the offer to mitigate the situation and do not feel it was offered with any mal intent.

The amount charged, for me, is the difference in being able to purchase school supplies, lessons and groceries.

As a hearing officer, I ask that you take these into consideration as you consider my case. Although I am unable to attend in person due to my job, I hope that this gives you a narrative to consider as you hear my case and render a judgement. I am also asking that you place this statement in my file.

Thank you,

Alecia Mobley  
294 Charles Avenue  
Saint Paul