

**From:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_LegislativeHearings](#)  
**To:** [Greg Weiner](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Discrimination 683 Kansas property  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 8, 2026 3:51:19 PM

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**From:** AMBE MCKENZIE <ambemckenzie1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 08 July 2026 15:48:57  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Discrimination 683 Kansas property

## To: Saint Paul City Council

**Council President:** Rebecca Noecker (Ward 2) **Council Members:** Nelsie Yang (Council Vice President, Ward 6), Anika Bowie (Ward 1), Saura Jost (Ward 3), Molly Coleman (Ward 4), HwaJeong Kim (Ward 5), Cheniqua Johnson (Ward 7) **From:** Ambe McKenzie, On Behalf of the Residents of Vista Village **Date:** July 8, 2026

**Subject:** Demand for Accountability and Action: Addressing the Multi-Million Dollar Deferred Maintenance Crisis at Vista Village and the Systemic Failure of Property Solutions & Services

### I. Purpose of Statement

I am writing to you not as a business entity, but simply as a resident of Saint Paul, standardizing the voice of my family and my community at **Vista Village** (422 Concord St.). This council must answer for a severe, multi-million dollar crisis of hazardous neglect, failure of code enforcement, and direct tenant civil rights violations being actively executed by **Property Solutions & Services**.

Let me be entirely clear: this is not a new briefing for this chamber, nor is it the first time this crisis has been brought to your attention. Council President Rebecca Noecker, Vista Village is in your ward. You came out to this property yourself last year. You stood alongside former Mayor Melvin Carter, former DSI Director Angie Wiese, former City Attorney Lyndsey Olson, and U.S. Senator Tina Smith. You looked directly at the \$3.8 million backlog of crumbling infrastructure, broken boilers, active water leaks, and structural damage.

You knew about this crisis then, and you know about it now. Yet, after the federal funding pipeline through HUD was frozen, the city leadership walked away, leaving a heavily concentrated, vulnerable, low-income population to absorb the health, safety, and financial consequences of systemic decay. The former administration officials have moved on, but the legal and moral responsibility to hold this management company accountable remains firmly in your hands. You cannot allow this deliberate blind spot to continue in your own district.

## II. The Timeline of Total Operational Failure (April 2025 – April 2026)

We are holding this city and this management team accountable for a documented timeline of absolute negligence. This was a full year of active, permitted deterioration before the courts were ever involved:

- **April 2025 (The Inspection & Witnessed Abuse):** Council President Noecker and city officials came directly to Vista Village, witnessed the \$3.8 million in structural damages, and publicly acknowledged the crisis. Management was put on direct notice of the severe remediation required.
- **May 2025 – March 2026 (11 Months of Documented Inaction):** For nearly a full year following that visit, no meaningful, code-compliant structural restoration took place. Instead, tenants were left to endure ongoing utility failures, active internal water leaks, and structural decay while management continued to collect rent and public subsidies.
- **April 2026 (The Legal Breaking Point):** After enduring exactly 12 months of unaddressed health hazards, illegal entries, and patchwork maintenance, I was forced to formally file legal actions—including my Rent Escrow and Emergency Tenant Remedies Action (ETRA)—to legally compel the compliance that the city failed to enforce.

## III. Community-Wide Code Violations & Unlicensed Patchwork

The maintenance operations under Property Solutions & Services have completely abandoned code-compliant, professional standards, forcing residents throughout Vista Village to endure identical, sub-standard living conditions:

- **Toxic Mold Cover-ups:** Across multiple units, active, growing mold—caused by structural water leaks that have soaked the drywall for a year—is simply being painted and sprayed over. It continues to grow through the paint, creating immediate respiratory hazards.
- **Unlicensed Trade Work:** Just yesterday, electrical outlets in unit number three were serviced by individuals who are not licensed electricians. Management routinely utilizes unlicensed personnel to complete code-enforced hazardous repairs. When residents object or voice safety concerns, maintenance staff weaponize their positions, filing fabricated complaints against the tenant to trigger lease violations.
- **Unfinished Infrastructure and Neglect:** Maintenance consistently leaves severe structural gaps, abandoning mudded walls unsanded for weeks until forced by a legal order. They leave old appliances and scrap equipment cluttering the spaces and force the administrative burden onto the tenants to continuously call in work orders for basic job completions.
- **Ongoing Utility Failures:** The community has been subjected to ongoing heating and hot water disruptions dating back over a year, forcing families to exhaustively track maintenance logs while their basic rights to habitability are ignored.

## IV. Active Family Trauma and Judicial Failure

The human cost of this multi-layered neglect resulted in an active crisis on this property on June 23rd:

- During a live Zoom housing court hearing, an emergency occurred on-site. My 13-year-

old daughter, Anijah McKenzie, was physically injured. The presiding judge had to call the fire department to the scene due to an active fire hazard and subsequently dispatched an ambulance to treat my daughter's injuries.

- Following this trauma, I suffered a light stroke at the hospital. Despite strict medical orders to maintain my health, the housing court refused to grant a necessary medical recess. Operating through malfunctioning communication equipment and a broken phone line during the Zoom stream, my physical distress was completely misconstrued, and my housing case was dismissed with prejudice.
- I am currently processing transcripts and fee waivers to file an immediate appeal, yet Property Solutions & Services is leveraging this technical dismissal to aggressively pursue a retaliatory eviction notice scheduled after July 10th. They are citing "nine entries" to the property as a reason for non-renewal—entries that were explicitly made to enforce my legal right to place my rent money into court escrow due to their lack of repairs.

## V. Formal Demands for Council Action

Why are HUD and local municipal agencies allowing this property to actively solicit and move new families into a pipeline of immediate housing instability and severe code violations? We demand that this Council stop treating our homes like a patchwork containment zone and enforce the law:

1. **Enact a Retaliation Freeze on Evictions:** Direct the City Attorney to review the imminent July 10th eviction threat against my household, identifying it as clear, illegal retaliation under 504B.441 for executing Rent Escrow and Emergency Tenant Remedies Actions (ETRA).
2. **Appoint a Licensed Court Administrator (Receivership):** Initiate immediate legal steps to place Vista Village into a third-party receivership. We request that the court appoint a licensed administrator to oversee the property, stripping operational control away from Property Solutions & Services to ensure all multi-million dollar deferred structural, plumbing, and electrical issues are fixed to code by certified professionals.
3. **Execute a Strict DSI Forensic Audit:** Order the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) to audit the licensing credentials of all current maintenance personnel working on this property and cite the owner for every instance of painted-over mold, hidden water leakage, and unlicensed electrical work.
4. **Halt Public Funding and New HUD Placements:** Demand a freeze on all active housing choice vouchers and municipal funding streams to this management group until the entire property is brought into verifiable compliance with building and health safety codes.

Council President Noecker, you have known about these conditions for over a year. The residents of your ward are done waiting. We expect this City Council to stand behind the rules of engagement, protect our children, and halt the systemic displacement of the residents of Vista Village.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ambe McKenzie** Saint Paul Resident & Community Advocate

This video provides an on the scene look at the exact federal funding freeze affecting the residents of Vista Village in St Paul. Feel free to review [How a funding freeze is affecting](#)

[some residents in St Paul](#) to see the broadcast detailing the public statements made by local city officials regarding the property's structural conditions.