

From: [Alex](#)
To: [Kedrowski, Richard \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Cc: [Martin, Lisa \(CI-StPaul\)](#); [Zimny, Joanna \(CI-StPaul\)](#); [Magner, Steve \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Re: Richard Kedrowski training - inquiry | Appealed tax assessment for 1437 Sheldon St.
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 9:18:54 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

Hi Richard,

I received notice of another complaint issued for the public sidewalk in front of 1437 Sheldon St, St Paul, MN 55108 (File#23-0003452)

Please do not send out a crew for snow removal. The sidewalk in front of 1437 Sheldon St is no different than hundreds of other property addresses in the neighborhood regarding snow and ice accumulation on public sidewalk in front of home. In fact, the sidewalk in front of 1437 Sheldon St is more safe with traction on pathway from sand sprinkled by homeowner (which is not being done by many households in the neighborhood). Today, there are many households on my street with a full sheet of ice completely covering the public sidewalk. To me, it seems like a bigger concern for a city official in the "Department of Safety" to try to mitigate ice sheets on public sidewalks than issue notices from filed complaints. Why was File#23-003452 opened for 1437 Sheldon St which doesn't have an ice sheet on the public sidewalk today? I believe it's because a neighbor with personal reasons and bookmark for web address to file a complaints keeps submitting for 1437 Sheldon St regardless of address being maintained at the same standard or better than households in the neighborhood. In fact, 1437 Sheldon St snow removal standard includes cleared snow for utility trucks to pick up recycling and garbage.

I'm not interested in wasting taxpayer money and getting into a complaint retaliatory back-and-forth with this neighbor on Saint Paul city website.

For public safety, I'm trying to maintain a public pathway for pedestrians to walk safely across the sidewalk in front of 1437 Sheldon St. I don't own a snow blower to remove full width of snow accumulated on the public sidewalk (like some neighbors). Personally, I think snow blower users are making sidewalks more dangerous to walk on (especially with leashed dogs) because they remove all but a thin layer of snow from the sidewalk. During the afternoon heat, this leftover thin layer of snow melts and water accumulates. Then the water freezes overnight and creates an ice sheet the next morning where the snow blower cleared the path. If snow blower users were better trained to use the machine, they would create outflow channels for water drainage so water didn't accumulate on public sidewalks (similar to trail maintenance techniques). However, neighborhood snow blowers will go up and down the streets clearing snow for neighbors while leaving a thin layer of snow to melt and freeze overnight and create a safety hazard.

I believe File#23-0003452 was issued in error and instead of following up the Department of Safety should redirect their focus to clear snow at public school bus stop locations so students don't have to stand on top of a plowed ice sheet mound to make sure their driver sees them.

Regards,
-Alex

On Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 6:50 AM Kedrowski, Richard (CI-StPaul) <Richard.Kedrowski@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Alex,

You are entitled to your perspective, but I will not debate this issue by email.

I will continue to enforce the violation until it is brought into compliance.

You can file an Appeal if you do not agree with my assessment.

Thanks,

Richard

From: Alex <amclane8@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 1, 2023 12:18 PM
To: Kedrowski, Richard (CI-StPaul) <Richard.Kedrowski@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Martin, Lisa (CI-StPaul) <lisa.martin@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Zimny, Joanna (CI-StPaul) <joanna.zimny@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Richard Kedrowski training - inquiry | Appealed tax assessment for 1437 Sheldon St.

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Hi Richard,

Can you provide any training or professional certifications you have received that provides guidelines in how you are assessing 1437 Sheldon St, St Paul, MN 55108?

Based on your previous responses, it seems you are whimsically choosing to apply city code and fine homeowners with no clear justification in your assessments (and you can't seem to provide evidence)

From my perspective, you are continuing to waste time and taxpayer money by opening an assessment on 1437 Sheldon St, St Paul, MN 55108. This property is in a much better and safer condition now compared to when I took ownership OCT2020.

-Alex

On Mon, Dec 19, 2022 at 6:12 AM Kedrowski, Richard (CI-StPaul) <Richard.Kedrowski@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Alex,

There was no error. As I stated before, I will continue to enforce until the dirt pile in the rear yard is removed to the original grade of the yard. At that time, the remaining items will be extended to June 1, 2023 due to Winter Weather Conditions. All additional items will need to be addressed by that time or the

Excessive Consumption Notices would resume.

Thanks,

Richard

From: Alex <amclane8@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 18, 2022 9:27 PM
To: Kedrowski, Richard (CI-StPaul) <Richard.Kedrowski@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Martin, Lisa (CI-StPaul) <lisa.martin@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Zimny, Joanna (CI-StPaul) <joanna.zimny@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Re: Appealed tax assessment for 1437 Sheldon St.

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Hello,

I received another Letter 07DEC - not compliant with a previous order "ground cover has not been restored and dirt pile has not been removed"

There is 6-7 inches of snow covering the ground of entire yard. So I don't believe I am deficient in this regard and this letter was sent out in error.

-Alex

On Fri, Dec 9, 2022 at 7:57 AM Kedrowski, Richard (CI-StPaul) <Richard.Kedrowski@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Alex,

I will continue to enforce the Violations as I, and other Inspectors, interpret the Code.

Please feel free to continue with your Appeal.

Thanks,

Richard

From: Alex <amclane8@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 9:54 PM

To: Kedrowski, Richard (CI-StPaul) <Richard.Kedrowski@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Martin, Lisa (CI-StPaul) <lisa.martin@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Zimny, Joanna (CI-StPaul) <joanna.zimny@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Re: Appealed tax assessment for 1437 Sheldon St.

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Hi Richard,

Regarding Question 1. There are depressions along the front and side walkways, and on the front boulevard that show me that the original grade has not been restored. The location of the depressions also demonstrate to me that a permit was never obtained for alterations to the boulevard, which is required by City Code. - **If dirt or turfgrass are elevated above walkways, water (melted snow) has no place to drain. If water has no place to drain, it pools on the sidewalk creating a puddle and freezes. Ice on public walkways is a severe safety risk. If a resident places a metal fence to protect flowers on the boulevard and the metal fence starts slanting sideways, it becomes a tripping hazard for pedestrians on the walkway. I did not change the boulevard gardens on Arlington Ave. I dug a trench on the near side of sidewalk for water (melted snow) to have an area to drain and not pool on sidewalk - freeze - and become a hazard. I feel issuing an assessment to a homeowner who addressed a city neglected safety concern is reckless and misguided. It continues to put neighbors at risk of slipping and falling due to improperly graded boulevard garden. You are issuing directives to restore the grade to an unsafe level which is why I have chosen not to pay this unjust assessment fine. If walkways in Saint Paul were properly graded with space for water to drain, we would live in a safer city for pedestrians year-round. However, this assessment is an example of reckless city code enforcement which puts Saint Paul residents at unnecessary risk.**

Is there a city code which addresses severe safety risks and hazards over public right-of-ways? Also, what does the city define as an alteration? Christmas Decorations?

Regarding Question 2. St Paul Legislative Code 34.08 addresses most of the issues with the alterations to your yard. The trenches and depressions that resulted from your excavation of the property have altered the drainage of the yard and are directing flow across the Public Right-of-Way on the sidewalks and in the alley. Ground cover, which is required by Code, has been removed over a majority of the yard which destabilizes the soil and causes erosion and excessive runoff. The dirt pile is considered a Raw Material and is covered under the same Code as Stored Materials which are not allowed. The dirt pile will also promote Rodent Harborage and re-directs runoff leading to silt being deposited on the City Right-of-Way.

Your letter stated previously drainage was directed to the public right-of-way. However, this is a confusing directive because the water has never drained on the public right-of-way since my alterations. You are issuing a fine because it must continue to look like water might drain over the public right-of-way from your biased point-of-view. I have neighbors which have runoff dirt pouring over the public right-of-way and remaining there. I believe this would be evidence needed for a city official to issue a fine. However, you don't seem to take an evidence-based approach to your assessments which is why you are issuing a fine to me and not my neighbor. I feel there is internal bias and speculation present in the issuance of this fine/assessment by the city inspector.

Again, I have a professional assessment from a licensed building inspector upon move-in to Sheldon St AUG2020. There was a severe negative slope towards the home foundation (which caused water/melted snow to penetrate, freeze, and crack foundation walls over time). Based on this professional assessment, I have corrected this neglected hazard over a two year period. Part of this correction included dirt pile accumulation. The neglected hazard has been corrected and I no longer live in a house where water and melted snow drain towards my basement floor. I plan to remove the remaining dirt pile as the next step of this project next spring-summer 2023. Also, I'm working with CRWD for boulevard rain gardens on Arlington St which will achieve our shared goal of improved water quality and drainage.

FYI: this issue of negative slope is present in many homes in Saint Paul. Water should never accumulate in the basement of a home if it's properly graded around the perimeter. Why is the city choosing to neglect, put homeowners at risk of a crumbling/cracking foundation, deteriorate property value, and fine homeowners who choose to pro-actively address/correct this hazard?

There are numerous violations that could be cited on the Excessive Consumption Notices that are being issued against your property. The most obvious are being named in the Notices since any item that is not In Compliance is sufficient grounds for an Excessive Consumption Notice.

I have spoken to you on at least a couple of occasions and explained the issues with your property. You were made aware of the of the violations that your excavation was causing.

I will continue to issue Excessive Consumption Notices until the dirt pile at the rear of the property is reduced to the original grade of the rear yard. When the dirt pile is completely removed, I will extend the remaining items to June 1, 2023 due to Winter Weather Conditions. All additional items will need to be addressed by that time or the Excessive Consumption Notices would resume.

Please feel free to call or email if you have any additional questions.

Thanks,

Richard

Richard Kedrowski

Supervisor

DSI Inspector III
Department of Safety & Inspections
375 Jackson Street, Suite 220
Saint Paul, MN 55101

P: 651-266-9141 Fax: 651-266-1919

richard.kedrowski@ci.stpaul.mn.us

On Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 9:39 AM Kedrowski, Richard (CI-StPaul)
<Richard.Kedrowski@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Hi Alex,

I have been asked to respond to your questions and concerns regarding 1437 Sheldon St.

Regarding Question 1. There are depressions along the front and side walkways, and on the front boulevard that show me that the original grade has not been restored. The location of the depressions also demonstrate to me that a permit was never obtained for alterations to the boulevard, which is required by City Code.

Regarding Question 2. St Paul Legislative Code 34.08 addresses most of the issues with the alterations to your yard. The trenches and depressions that resulted from your excavation of the property have altered the drainage of the yard and are directing flow across the Public Right-of-Way on the sidewalks and in the alley. Ground cover, which is required by Code, has been removed over a majority of the yard which destabilizes the soil and causes erosion and excessive runoff. The dirt pile is considered a Raw Material and is covered under the same Code as Stored Materials which are not allowed. The dirt pile will also promote Rodent Harborage and re-directs runoff leading to silt being deposited on the City Right-of-Way.

There are numerous violations that could be cited on the Excessive Consumption Notices that are being issued against your property. The most obvious are being named in the Notices since any item that is not In Compliance is sufficient grounds for an Excessive Consumption Notice.

I have spoken to you on at least a couple of occasions and explained the issues with your property. You were made aware of the of the violations that your excavation was causing.

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Please feel free to call or email if you have any additional questions.

Thanks,

Richard

Richard Kedrowski



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

Supervisor

DSI Inspector III
Department of Safety & Inspections
375 Jackson Street, Suite 220
Saint Paul, MN 55101

P: 651-266-9141 Fax: 651-266-1919

richard.kedrowski@ci.stpaul.mn.us



From: Alex <amclane8@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 9:20 PM
To: Zimny, Joanna (CI-StPaul) <joanna.zimny@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Re: Appealed tax assessment for 1437 Sheldon St.

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Hi Joanna,

I just received another letter 28NOV regarding Deficiency: Ground cover has not been restored and dirt pile has not been removed.

Question 1: snow is covering all ground on my property. How can the inspector properly assess ground cover has not been restored when ground is covered by 6 inches of snow?

Question 2: what city code violation is related to the deficiency "dirt pile has not been removed"?

FYI: Thousands of dollars of dirt have been removed after the original notice to 1437 Sheldon St homeowner.

How many more thousands of dollars of dirt excavation is needed before the city inspector is satisfied and will assess dirt pile has been removed?

Clarification on asserted deficiencies from Richard Kedrowski seem appropriate. I imagine city inspectors like Richard have more important deficiencies to investigate and follow up on which might even be causing safety concerns for Saint Paul residents.

-Alex

On Thu, Nov 17, 2022 at 10:51 AM Zimny, Joanna (CI-StPaul) <joanna.zimny@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Mr. McLane,

Just to clarify in my original email, it should read **Should you wish to address Council directly by phone but not appear in person, you must register in person by noon on Tuesday, January 17, 2023** (not 2022).

Again, as noted, the ways to contest Ms. Moermond's recommendations are outlined in my original email, I will also attach your email to the record.

Joanna



**SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA**

Joanna Zimny

Legislative Hearing Executive Assistant
Legislative Hearing Office

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Saint Paul City Hall

Suite 310
15 W. Kellogg Blvd.

Saint Paul, MN 55102

P: 651-266-8585

joanna.zimny@ci.stpaul.mn.us

www.StPaul.gov

 Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 7:48 AM

To: Alex <amclane8@gmail.com>; *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Zimny, Joanna (CI-StPaul)

[<joanna.zimny@ci.stpaul.mn.us>](mailto:joanna.zimny@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

Subject: RE: Appealed tax assessment for 1437 Sheldon St.

Hello Alex.

I am not sure if you registered to testify by phone. If not, you may appear in person to 15 W. Kellogg Blvd, Rm 300 Council Chambers, Third Floor.

Mai Vang

Pronouns: She/Her

City Council Offices – Legislative Hearings

15 W Kellogg Blvd, 310 City Hall

Saint Paul, MN 55102

M: (651) 266-8585 | D: (651) 266-8563

Legislative Hearing Appeals – www.stpaul.gov/legislative-hearings



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

From: Alex [<amclane8@gmail.com>](mailto:amclane8@gmail.com)

Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 8:41 AM

To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings [<LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>](mailto:LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

Subject: Re: Appealed tax assessment for 1437 Sheldon St.

Hi Joanna,

I will be appealing Ms. Moermond recommendation for assessment approval. . .

I think this city pursuit assessment and fine to the owner of 1437 Sheldon St, St Paul, MN 55108 is a farce and waste of taxpayer money.

Regards,

On Wed, Nov 9, 2022 at 9:52 AM *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings [<LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>](mailto:LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us) wrote:

Good morning,

This email is to confirm that on Tuesday, November 1 at the Legislative Hearing for the appealed tax assessment for property at 1374 ARLINGTON AVENUE WEST/ 1437 SHELDON STREET. (File No. J2034A, Assessment No. 238503) Ms. Moermond's recommendation is that the City Council approve the assessment.

As directed in the letter notifying you of the Legislative Hearing, this matter will go before the City Council at Public Hearing on **Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 3:30 pm. in room 300 City Hall.** If you are contesting Ms. Moermond's recommendation you may appear in person (*please check in with staff when you arrive*) or send written testimony to be added to the record to legislativehearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us or by voicemail at 651-266-6805. **Should you wish to address Council directly by phone but not appear in person, you must register in person by noon on Tuesday, January 17, 2022 here: <https://www.stpaul.gov/department/city-council/city-council-public-hearing-live-testimony>.** If you don't wish to contest, no further action is needed and the Council will proceed with Ms. Moermond's recommendation above.

As discussed in the hearing, should you wish to discuss any necessary permits for your excavation project, you can call 651-266-8989 or call Senior Building Inspector Nathan Bruhn directly at +1-651-266-9033. Please note inspectors have office hours between 7:30 and 9 am.

Thank you,

Joanna



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

Joanna Zimny

Legislative Hearing Executive Assistant
Legislative Hearing Office

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Saint Paul City Hall

Suite 310
15 W. Kellogg Blvd.

Saint Paul, MN 55102

P: 651-266-8585

joanna.zimny@ci.stpaul.mn.us

www.StPaul.gov

 Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 1:47 PM
To: Alex <amclane8@gmail.com>
Cc: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Appealed tax assessment for 1437 Sheldon St.

Mr. McLane,

This email is to confirm your appealed tax assessment for 1437 Sheldon St has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 1, 2022 via phone between 10 am and 12 pm. We will call you at the number noted below.

A few minutes earlier you should have received a separate email from Mail Express with copies of the cleanup videos related to this appeal. Note that they expire November 1, 2022 1:20:41 PM CDT.

Note that the incoming number from the City shows up as **612-315-7905 so please make sure to answer.**

You also mentioned the ordinance(s). Ordinance 45.03 Nuisance: (7) *Grass and weeds*. Grass which has grown upon any property to a height of eight (8) or more inches or weeds. You also mentioned the orders you received for the “dirt pile”. While those orders are not in front of the hearing officer, your correction notice did reference SPLC 34.08 (2) **DRAINAGE**. I would encourage you to reach out to DSI directly at 651-266-8989 if you have questions related to those orders or section of the SPLC.

Thank you,

Joanna



**SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA**

Joanna Zimny

Legislative Hearing Executive Assistant
Legislative Hearing Office

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Saint Paul City Hall

Suite 310
15 W. Kellogg Blvd.

Saint Paul, MN 55102

P: 651-266-8585

joanna.zimny@ci.stpaul.mn.us

www.StPaul.gov



Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Alex <amclane8@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 3:23 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Re: Assessment # 238503 / File # J2304A | contesting - notification

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Regards,

Alex S. McLane

Saint Paul, MN USA

amclane8@gmail.com

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Regards,

Alex S. McLane

Saint Paul, MN USA

amclane8@gmail.com