

Zimny, Joanna (CI-StPaul)

From: Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 7:55 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings
Subject: Appeal of 1696 Juliet Ave Summary Abatement Order
Attachments: 1696 Juliet Ave Appeal.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Inspector Rcihard Kedrowski,

The Summary Abatement Order we received states:

"Please remove and properly dispose of all industrial goods including large plastic tanks and black steel barrels, and remove child's car seat, scrap wood, pile of dirt, tarps and miscellaneous debris from the side of the house, entire rear yard and driveway area."

This complaint is addressing a temporary situation. We are adding gardens to our alley, and that's a pretty big job- hence, the reason why it is not done in a day. *Particularly* since doing any kind of project with two young kids can take 10 times as long.

To address the specifics listed the complaint:

large plastic tanks--> there is one tank. It is a rain barrel. The contractor hired to connect it will be coming mid June.

black steel barrels--> these are rabbit-free garden beds, which can be easily assessed by the fact that there are vegetables growing in them. I bought *and* installed those last year from another resident in St Paul, so I'm surprised to hear that they violate any ordenances, and, when I read Chapter 45 I did not find anything that sounds as though they do.

child's car seat--> is gone. When on the curb it was labeled with a "free" sign, an indication that it was not a delinquent and careless scattering of trash.

Pile of "dirt"--> this is garden soil, delivered by Gertens and being used to fill aforementioned garden beds. I have been extremely careful to ensure that it blocks neither sidewalk nor street- it is located entirely in *our driveway*.

Tarp and boards--> these were both quite clearly being used to protect the garden soil we paid for from being washed away in one of the many storms that St Paul appears to get at regular intervals. We removed them after receiving this notice, which is unfortunate as they were serving a purpose.

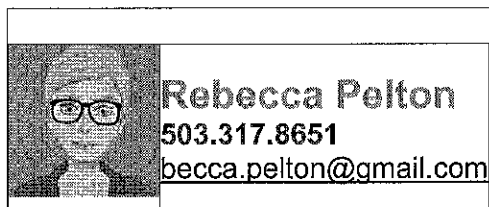
There is no "miscellaneous debris" around our home, only what is obviously the project of newcomers who are working on their yard. Incidentally, yard improvement adds value to a neighborhood *and* is beneficial to the local environment, which we have been considering actively the entire time-- thus, why we are planting butterfly-friendly plants and collecting rainwater!

We received the Summary Abatement notice today, May 25, the same day that it says on the face of the document we are required to comply. I called you twice today but received no response, and believe that under city ordinance we are entitled at least 10 days to respond or appeal, according to your appeals website, which does not appear to be possible under the notice we received, which is dated May 18.

Is this how St Paul welcomes new people? What a disappointment. We are taxpayers and voters here, and I hope the situation improves.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Pelton



Zimny, Joanna (CI-StPaul)

From: Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 1:36 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings
Subject: Re: Appeal of 1696 Juliet Ave Summary Abatement Order

I find it pretty disturbing that no one can have a phone conversation about this, despite every effort on my part to correct the issue on the city's timeline. I have called multiple times in response to a letter informing me that our gardening set up that we paid for is going to be confiscated by the city of St Paul- it is completely unacceptable to send threatening letters and make no attempt at real-time communication. Is this a Kafka novel? How is this in ANY WAY viewed as a responsible or respectful use of tax dollars?? Instead of harassing and threatening my family with theft and asking for money, please call me.

On Thu, May 26, 2022, 13:30 Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Joanna can I talk to you on the phone? I'm not sure a hearing is necessary if my email is read by the inspector.

I already pay taxes, and I see no reason why I should pay \$25 have my tax dollars used to be targeted and harassed. Is the city going to reimburse me for the time and emotional toll that this has caused on my end, for the act of creating a garden in our new yard?? What is wrong with this place??

On Thu, May 26, 2022, 13:08 *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

I am SO sorry, I see what you mean now! I have it and I will enter it this afternoon. Please bring cash or check down, or drop the appeal fee in the mail as soon as possible, as we won't formally schedule until that fee is received.

Thanks!

Joanna

From: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 1:08 PM
To: Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com>; *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Appeal of 1696 Juliet Ave Summary Abatement Order

Hi Rebecca,

I received 3 emails including this one. The second one had the appeal form attached, but it was blank.

Please resend,

Thanks,

Joanna

From: Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 11:16 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Re: Appeal of 1696 Juliet Ave Summary Abatement Order

Sorry, I attached the wrong file in the last email. Please open the attachment in my original email that I sent last night and which you replied to this morning, it is there. I just opened it. Please let me know that you have received it and have the information you need. Thank you.

On Thu, May 26, 2022, 11:02 Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com> wrote:

I am attaching it again.

On Thu, May 26, 2022, 11:02 Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi, thank you for your response- my appeal is attached to the original email. Would you please call if you don't see it? 503-317-8651

Thank you.

On Thu, May 26, 2022, 10:58 *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Hi Rebecca,

I'm so sorry to hear about your frustrations. I would encourage you to file an appeal ASAP. Once an appeal is filed enforcement is stayed while your appeal is pending.

I've attached an appeal form. I would encourage you to come down today to process it, if possible (it is \$25 cash or check), but at minimum please fill it out and email it back to me, and drop a check in the mail ASAP.

Thank you,

Joanna

From: Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 7:55 PM
To: *Cl-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Appeal of 1696 Juliet Ave Summary Abatement Order

Dear Inspector Rcihard Kedrowski,

The Summary Abatement Order we received states:

"Please remove and properly dispose of all industrial goods including large plastic tanks and black steel barrels, and remove child's car seat, scrap wood, pile of dirt, tarps and miscellaneous debris from the side of the house, entire rear yard and driveway area."

This complaint is addressing a temporary situation. We are adding gardens to our alley, and that's a pretty big job- hence, the reason why it is not done in a day. *Particularly* since doing any kind of project with two young kids can take 10 times as long.

To address the specifics listed the complaint:

large plastic tanks--> there is one tank. It is a rain barrel. The contractor hired to connect it will be coming mid June.

black steel barrels--> these are rabbit-free garden beds, which can be easily assessed by the fact that there are vegetables growing in them. I bought *and* installed those last year from another resident in St Paul, so I'm surprised to hear that they violate any ordenances, and, when I read Chapter 45 I did not find anything that sounds as though they do.

child's car seat--> is gone. When on the curb it was labeled with a "free" sign, an indication that it was not a delinquent and careless scattering of trash.

Pile of "dirt"--> this is garden soil, delivered by Gertens and being used to fill aforementioned garden beds. I have been extremely careful to ensure that it blocks neither sidewalk nor street- it is located entirely in *our driveway*.

Tarp and boards--> these were both quite clearly being used to protect the garden soil we paid for from being washed away in one of the many storms that St Paul appears to get at regular intervals. We removed them after receiving this notice, which is unfortunate as they were serving a purpose.

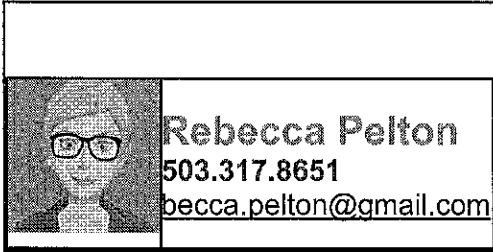
There is no "miscellaneous debris" around our home, only what is obviously the project of newcomers who are working on their yard. Incidentally, yard improvement adds value to a neighborhood *and* is beneficial to the local environment, which we have been considering actively the entire time-- thus, why we are planting butterfly-friendly plants and collecting rainwater!

We received the Summary Abatement notice today, May 25, the same day that it says on the face of the document we are required to comply. I called you twice today but received no response, and believe that under city ordinance we are entitled at least 10 days to respond or appeal, according to your appeals website, which does not appear to be possible under the notice we received, which is dated May 18.

Is this how St Paul welcomes new people? What a disappointment. We are taxpayers and voters here, and I hope the situation improves.

Sincerely,

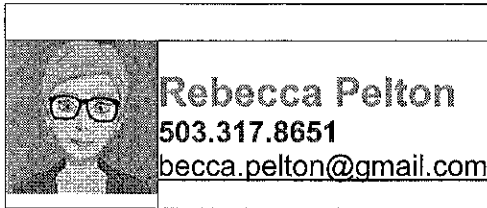
Rebecca Pelton



Zimny, Joanna (CI-StPaul)

From: Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 3:12 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings
Subject: Re: Appeal of 1696 Juliet Ave Summary Abatement Order

It is the city's responsibility to train its inspectors how to differentiate between urban blight and a young family building a garden, not mine, and I'm not going to pay the city to desist from harassing my family- it's already wasting my tax dollars and my time. Please contact me directly by phone.



On Thu, May 26, 2022 at 2:12 PM *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Ms. Pelton,

I understand your frustration, certainly. I don't know why there was such a delay in you receiving your original summary abatement order. That would have definitely given you more flexibility in problem solving this with the inspector. We are happy to take your appeal in spite of being past deadline. I'm certainly happy to speak with you, however please understand that this is under the purview of the Legislative Hearing officer (and City Council) at this point. I do not have any say in how the Department of Safety & Inspections handles their orders or correction notices, nor can I give an extension. It is your choice whether to file the appeal and pay the appeal fee or not, but in order for further enforcement to not happen and give you the ability to talk to the hearing officer about the matter, an appeal does need to be filed. A Supervisor from Code Enforcement will also be present at the hearing.

Thank you,

Joanna

From: Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 1:36 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Re: Appeal of 1696 Juliet Ave Summary Abatement Order

I find it pretty disturbing that no one can have a phone conversation about this, despite every effort on my part to correct the issue on the city's timeline. I have called multiple times in response to a letter informing me that our gardening set up that we paid for is going to be confiscated by the city of St Paul- it is completely unacceptable to send threatening letters and make no attempt at real-time communication. Is this a Kafka novel? How is this in ANY WAY viewed as a responsible or respectful use of tax dollars?? Instead of harassing and threatening my family with theft and asking for money, please call me.

On Thu, May 26, 2022, 13:30 Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Joanna can I talk to you on the phone? I'm not sure a hearing is necessary if my email is read by the inspector.

I already pay taxes, and I see no reason why I should pay \$25 have my tax dollars used to be targeted and harassed. Is the city going to reimburse me for the time and emotional toll that this has caused on my end, for the act of creating a garden in our new yard?? What is wrong with this place??

On Thu, May 26, 2022, 13:08 *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

I am SO sorry, I see what you mean now! I have it and I will enter it this afternoon. Please bring cash or check down, or drop the appeal fee in the mail as soon as possible, as we won't formally schedule until that fee is received.

Thanks!

Joanna

From: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 1:08 PM

To: Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com>; *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings
<LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Appeal of 1696 Juliet Ave Summary Abatement Order

Hi Rebecca,

I received 3 emails including this one. The second one had the appeal form attached, but it was blank.

Please resend,

Thanks,

Joanna

From: Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 11:16 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Re: Appeal of 1696 Juliet Ave Summary Abatement Order

Sorry, I attached the wrong file in the last email. Please open the attachment in my original email that I sent last night and which you replied to this morning, it is there. I just opened it. Please let me know that you have received it and have the information you need. Thank you.

On Thu, May 26, 2022, 11:02 Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com> wrote:

I am attaching it again.

On Thu, May 26, 2022, 11:02 Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi, thank you for your response- my appeal is attached to the original email. Would you please call if you don't see it? 503-317-8651

Thank you.

On Thu, May 26, 2022, 10:58 *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Hi Rebecca,

I'm so sorry to hear about your frustrations. I would encourage you to file an appeal ASAP. Once an appeal is filed enforcement is stayed while your appeal is pending.

I've attached an appeal form. I would encourage you to come down today to process it, if possible (it is \$25 cash or check), but at minimum please fill it out and email it back to me, and drop a check in the mail ASAP.

Thank you,

Joanna

From: Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 7:55 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Appeal of 1696 Juliet Ave Summary Abatement Order

Dear Inspector Rcihard Kedrowski,

The Summary Abatement Order we received states:

"Please remove and properly dispose of all industrial goods including large plastic tanks and black steel barrels, and remove child's car seat, scrap wood, pile of dirt, tarps and miscellaneous debris from the side of the house, entire rear yard and driveway area."

This complaint is addressing a temporary situation. We are adding gardens to our alley, and that's a pretty big job- hence, the reason why it is not done in a day. *Particularly* since doing any kind of project with two young kids can take 10 times as long.

To address the specifics listed the complaint:

large plastic tanks--> there is one tank. It is a rain barrel. The contractor hired to connect it will be coming mid June.

black steel barrels--> these are rabbit-free garden beds, which can be easily assessed by the fact that there are vegetables growing in them. I bought *and* installed those last year from another resident in St Paul, so I'm surprised to hear that they violate any ordenances, and, when I read Chapter 45 I did not find anything that sounds as though they do.

child's car seat--> is gone. When on the curb it was labeled with a "free" sign, an indication that it was not a delinquent and careless scattering of trash.

Pile of "dirt"--> this is garden soil, delivered by Gertens and being used to fill aforementioned garden beds. I have been extremely careful to ensure that it blocks neither sidewalk nor street- it is located entirely in *our driveway*.

Tarp and boards--> these were both quite clearly being used to protect the garden soil we paid for from being washed away in one of the many storms that St Paul appears to get at regular intervals. We removed them after receiving this notice, which is unfortunate as they were serving a purpose.

There is no "miscellaneous debris" around our home, only what is obviously the project of newcomers who are working on their yard. Incidentally, yard improvement adds value to a neighborhood *and* is beneficial to the local environment, which we have been considering actively the entire time-- thus, why we are planting butterfly-friendly plants and collecting rainwater!



We received the Summary Abatement notice today, May 25, the same day that it says on the face of the document we are required to comply. I called you twice today but received no

response, and believe that under city ordinance we are entitled at least 10 days to respond or appeal, according to your appeals website, which does not appear to be possible under the notice we received, which is dated May 18.

Is this how St Paul welcomes new people? What a disappointment. We are taxpayers and voters here, and I hope the situation improves.

Sincerely,

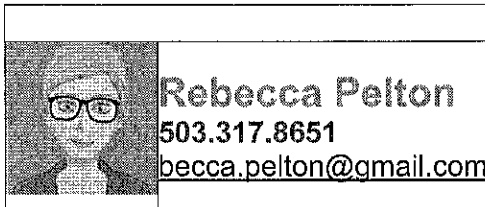
Rebecca Pelton

	
	<p>Rebecca Pelton 503.317.8651 becca.pelton@gmail.com</p>

Zimny, Joanna (CI-StPaul)

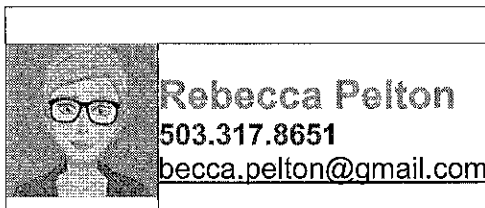
From: Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 3:14 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings
Subject: Re: Appeal of 1696 Juliet Ave Summary Abatement Order

I have called the inspections officer 4 times with no response which is completely unacceptable. Are you telling me that I need to *pay money* to talk to someone in person? If so, please give me someone that I can talk to about municipal extortion, phone numbers will be much appreciated.



On Thu, May 26, 2022 at 3:11 PM Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com> wrote:

It is the city's responsibility to train its inspectors how to differentiate between urban blight and a young family building a garden, not mine, and I'm not going to pay the city to desist from harassing my family- it's already wasting my tax dollars and my time. Please contact me directly by phone.



On Thu, May 26, 2022 at 2:12 PM *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Ms. Pelton,

I understand your frustration, certainly. I don't know why there was such a delay in you receiving your original summary abatement order. That would have definitely given you more flexibility in problem solving this with the inspector. We are happy to take your appeal in spite of being past deadline. I'm certainly happy to speak with you, however please understand that this is under the purview of the Legislative Hearing officer (and City Council) at this point. I do not have any say in how the Department of Safety & Inspections handles their orders or correction notices, nor can I give an extension. It is your choice whether to file the appeal and pay the appeal fee or not, but in order for further enforcement to not happen and give you the ability to talk to the hearing officer about the matter, an appeal does need to be filed. A Supervisor from Code Enforcement will also be present at the hearing.

Thank you,

Joanna

From: Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 1:36 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Re: Appeal of 1696 Juliet Ave Summary Abatement Order

I find it pretty disturbing that no one can have a phone conversation about this, despite every effort on my part to correct the issue on the city's timeline. I have called multiple times in response to a letter informing me that our gardening set up that we paid for is going to be confiscated by the city of St Paul- it is completely unacceptable to send threatening letters and make no attempt at real-time communication. Is this a Kafka novel? How is this in ANY WAY viewed as a responsible or respectful use of tax dollars?? Instead of harassing and threatening my family with theft and asking for money, please call me.

On Thu, May 26, 2022, 13:30 Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Joanna can I talk to you on the phone? I'm not sure a hearing is necessary if my email is read by the inspector.

I already pay taxes, and I see no reason why I should pay \$25 have my tax dollars used to be targeted and harassed. Is the city going to reimburse me for the time and emotional toll that this has caused on my end, for the act of creating a garden in our new yard?? What is wrong with this place??

On Thu, May 26, 2022, 13:08 *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

I am SO sorry, I see what you mean now! I have it and I will enter it this afternoon. Please bring cash or check down, or drop the appeal fee in the mail as soon as possible, as we won't formally schedule until that fee is received.

Thanks!

Joanna

From: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 1:08 PM
To: Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com>; *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Appeal of 1696 Juliet Ave Summary Abatement Order

Hi Rebecca,

I received 3 emails including this one. The second one had the appeal form attached, but it was blank.

Please resend,

Thanks,

Joanna

From: Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 11:16 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Re: Appeal of 1696 Juliet Ave Summary Abatement Order

Sorry, I attached the wrong file in the last email. Please open the attachment in my original email that I sent last night and which you replied to this morning, it is there. I just opened it. Please let me know that you have received it and have the information you need. Thank you.

On Thu, May 26, 2022, 11:02 Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com> wrote:

I am attaching it again.

On Thu, May 26, 2022, 11:02 Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi, thank you for your response- my appeal is attached to the original email. Would you please call if you don't see it? 503-317-8651

Thank you.

On Thu, May 26, 2022, 10:58 *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Hi Rebecca,

I'm so sorry to hear about your frustrations. I would encourage you to file an appeal ASAP. Once an appeal is filed enforcement is stayed while your appeal is pending.

I've attached an appeal form. I would encourage you to come down today to process it, if possible (it is \$25 cash or check), but at minimum please fill it out and email it back to me, and drop a check in the mail ASAP.

Thank you,

Joanna

From: Rebecca Pelton <becca.pelton@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 7:55 PM

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

Subject: Appeal of 1696 Juliet Ave Summary Abatement Order

Dear Inspector Rcihard Kedrowski,

The Summary Abatement Order we received states:

"Please remove and properly dispose of all industrial goods including large plastic tanks and black steel barrels, and remove child's car seat, scrap wood, pile of dirt, tarps and miscellaneous debris from the side of the house, entire rear yard and driveway area."

This complaint is addressing a temporary situation. We are adding gardens to our alley, and that's a pretty big job- hence, the reason why it is not done in a day. *Particularly* since doing any kind of project with two young kids can take 10 times as long.

To address the specifics listed the complaint:

large plastic tanks--> there is one tank. It is a rain barrel. The contractor hired to connect it will be coming mid June.

black steel barrels--> these are rabbit-free garden beds, which can be easily assessed by the fact that there are vegetables growing in them. I bought *and* installed those last year from another resident in St Paul, so I'm surprised to hear that they violate any ordenances, and, when I read Chapter 45 I did not find anything that sounds as though they do.

child's car seat--> is gone. When on the curb it was labeled with a "free" sign, an indication that it was not a delinquent and careless scattering of trash.

Pile of "dirt"--> this is garden soil, delivered by Gertens and being used to fill aforementioned garden beds. I have been extremely careful to ensure that it blocks neither sidewalk nor street- it is located entirely in *our driveway*.

Tarp and boards--> these were both quite clearly being used to protect the garden soil we paid for from being washed away in one of the many storms that St Paul appears to get at regular intervals. We removed them after receiving this notice, which is unfortunate as they were serving a purpose.

There is no "miscellaneous debris" around our home, only what is obviously the project of newcomers who are working on their yard. Incidentally, yard improvement adds value to a neighborhood *and* is beneficial to the local environment, which we have been considering actively the entire time-- thus, why we are planting butterfly-friendly plants and collecting rainwater!

We received the Summary Abatement notice today, May 25, the same day that it says on the face of the document we are required to comply. I called you twice today but received no response, and believe that under city ordinance we are entitled at least 10 days to respond or appeal, according to your appeals website, which does not appear to be possible under the notice we received, which is dated May 18.

Is this how St Paul welcomes new people? What a disappointment. We are taxpayers and voters here, and I hope the situation improves.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Pelton

