

Mai Vang

From: Mai Vang
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 3:10 PM
To: Julie Walters lee
Subject: RE: 2130 Ivy Avenue East

Hi Ms. Walters-Lee,

I talked to the Legislative Hearing Officer. Unfortunately, she will not be able to reduce your assessment until the hearing on November 5 and the Council votes. You will have to pay the \$5077 at closing. If the fee is prorated at the hearing, you will get a refund for the difference. You are scheduled for **November 5, 2024 via telephone hearing between 9:00 and 11 AM. Our caller ID will show as 612-315-7905.**

Mai Vang

(She, her)

Legislative Hearing Coordinator | St Paul City Council

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

310 City Hall, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd, St Paul, MN 55102



From: Julie Walters lee <numbnails@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 2:54 PM
To: Mai Vang <mai.vang@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Fwd: 2130 Ivy Avenue East

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

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Julie Walters lee <numbnails@gmail.com>
Date: September 19, 2024 at 8:48:25 AM CDT
To: angie.wiese@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Subject: 2130 Ivy Avenue East

Hi Angie,

My husband and I are the current owners of 2130 Ivy Avenue East. We were supposed to purchase the Ivy house at the end of January 2024, but due to issues that the VA had, we did not close until 6/3/24.

Prior to agreeing to purchase the Ivy house, I reached out to the Saint Paul City Council - Legislative Hearings and received a 90 Day Waiver regarding the Vacant Building fee that was not technically our responsibility but the VA was not going to pay it.

That 90 Day Waiver came and went and we still were not the owners.

The VA Attorney and the St. Paul Attorney worked together and received another 90 Day Waiver which expired on 6/29/24, the Legislation Text noting this 90 Day Waiver also had other items mentioned.

Since we bought the house on 6/3/24 and I had already had discussions with the Saint Paul City Council who had told me I could request another 90 Day Waiver, I told my husband that I would do another Application for Appeal regarding the Vacant Building Fee.

When my husband went down to the Saint Paul Department of Safety and Inspections to pull the initial permit for the Ivy house he was told not to get the Legislature involved, he was told they would only make things more complicated. My husband was told that if he was able to get all contractor permits pulled by 6/29/24 that the Vacant Building Fee would be waived.

We got the last permit pulled on 6/28/24, my husband called and left a message letting DSI know that all permits were pulled.

My husband received a call back on 7/1/24 letting him know that the information that he received was incorrect (i.e. pull all permits by 6/29 and the VB Fee would be waived).

I then went to the Saint Paul City Council - Legislative Hearings Office to appeal/request another 90 Day Waiver.

At first, all was well, but then I got a call that said I had nothing to appeal, I still don't actually understand that statement.

Then a few weeks later I received a letter in the mail titled: Saint Paul City Council Public Hearing Notice Ratification of Assessment.

The letter was stamped PAID and it showed that the Vacant Building Fee was \$0.00. I was very happy!

I went online to make sure that the City of Saint Paul Assessments Lookup matched the letter.

It did not and it still does not match.

When I first received the stamped "PAID" letter in mid/late July, I made some phone calls and pointed out the City of Saint Paul Legislation Text and what it said versus what was showing on the Assessments page.

I was pretty much shut down and told that I would have to appeal once the Appeal Letter was sent.

I still have not received that Appeal Letter, but we did receive the Certificate of Code Compliance on 9/12/24.

Last week, I called the Assessments Office and explained the situation and said that I would like to pay the fee in accordance with the City of Saint Paul Signature Copy Resolution LH Vacant Building Registration: RLH VBR 24-25 signed by Shari Moore on 4/17/24 and Melvin Carter III on 4/18/24.

According to the Legislative Text that I received and the City of Saint Paul Signature Copy Resolution LH Vacant Building Registration: RLH VBR 24-25 both letters state the same resolution, the fee should currently be \$2,815.23.

However, since we received the Code Compliance Certificate prior to 9/29/24 and I am appealing, the fee is to be reduced by 50% which would be \$1,407.62 (Per the Resolution).

Calculation:

Vacant Building Renewal Fee = \$4,918

$\$4,918 / 365 = \$13.47 / \text{Day}$

Purchase Date: June 3, 2024

Jun 3 - 30 (Per Resolution) 28 Days

July 31 Days

Aug 31 Days

Sept 30 Days

Oct 31 Days

Nov 30 Days

Dec 1 - 28 (Per Resolution) 28 Days

Total Days = 209

$209 \times \$13.47 = \$2,815.23$

$\$2,815.23 / 2 = \$1,407.62$

While talking to the Assessments Office I let her know that I would like to resolve this fee as soon as possible so that we can put the house on the market and not have this issue still outstanding.

She said that I would need to go to a hearing, I asked when the next one was and was told early October.

Last week I received info that Marcia Moermond will not look at my assessment until it gets a hearing.

I asked when the hearing is scheduled and was told on 11/5/24.

I asked if I could get the earlier hearing (early October) and was told no.

I asked why and was told, "Because the file has already been set up and can not be changed."

I was also told that I may have to set up an escrow account for the Vacant Building Fee and as you know escrow accounts are not free.

As you can see we have been given incorrect information and other information has been entered into the system incorrectly.

My hope has always been that we would not have to pay the Vacant Building Fee. If we had to pay some of the fee, I went to extensive measures to make sure that we had proper precautions set in place (which we do) so that we did not get billed for the entire Vacant Building Fee.

I am hoping that you can assist me in either: 1) Waiving the Vacant Building Fee completely or 2) Instructing the Assessment Office to enter the Assessment correctly on the website and other places that it is noted (the correct amount being \$2,815.23) and hopefully getting our hearing moved to the October hearing date or 3) Accepting a check for \$1,407.62 so that the issue can be resolved and we can all move forward.

The Letters referenced above are included in the attachment.

Thank you for your time and help!

Julie Walters-Lee
612.240.8939