RICH C. NELSON

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On August 19, 2026 I was surprised to open a letter just delivered from St Paul Department of Safety and after reading the letter I was perplexed. I was perplexed because of the tone of the letter, it said I had to comply by Friday the 21st or pay $ 450 an hour for the city for removal. I called the number given in the letter and he said I had to comply by the 21st... (I had just had a heart stent put in the prior week and was told to take it easy and do no lifting.)
I said that it really was a very short notice & maybe I should appeal....he said that that was not a good idea as then I would have to go in front of the city council. I asked if he could come out and show me what to do & he said he was not scheduled until Friday. I work four days a month in Cannon Falls...on Fridays and could not get off on that short of notice and have to pay someone over a hundred dollars if scheduled ahead. I went the next day to City Hall to get a better understanding and talked to the woman in 310/328 and she convinced me to file. I was on the Saint Anthony Park community council for eight years and always treated everyone with respect and answered questions that the general public would ask and tried to work with them.
I am the local go to guy with a truck and trailer for my neighbors when they need help. I arrange the snow removal for the alley in the winter and the snowblowers are waiting for pickup by the repairman. I cart yard waste to the composte site when needed by my over 65 neighbors.

I am 86 years old and have to work for a living and my $ 90,000 mortgage. I have put more than $ 125,000 into the house (built in 1914) which had not been taken care of. It was run down, squirrel infested, Creeping Charlie only growing etc & I have worked hard to make the place liveable.

After reading the letter again I questioned the intent.
The property is maintained in a clean, safe, and sanitary condition with:
1. N**o accumulation of garbage, [redacted] metal bins, rubbish, household items, tires**
2. **No mixed municipal solid waste or vehicle parts, recycling material, in the alley or driveway or boulevard (from the entire Property????)**
3. **No animal feces or refuse other than squirrels, rabbits, turkeys, or racoons**

We do a lot of gardeing, have bags of mulch & dirt for our vegetables and houseplants, the screens are not window screens but garden screens to protect and keep out the critters and protect from hail etc. when it rains we cover. We have a garden bench that we use almost daily mixing dirt, potting etc. The wood has been for repair but have maybe kept too much. Our work is an ongoing process and were going to paint the garage next but maybe replace it.

The coolers belonged to someone who was still moving in and asked me to wash them out and dry them which I did.

The excess garbage containers were from the four garbage services that we have had in the past 15 years that dropped off the new bins but never picked up the old ones. When asked what to do with them I was told to use them.

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