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APR 04 2012
CITY CLERK

I am writing as a concerned citizen of St. Paul's West Side and a neighbor of 317 Baker St. West.

It is my understanding that on April 10, a hearing will be held to determine whether the condemned house standing at 317 Baker West will be removed by the city.

I would like assure the City Council that the general consensus in the area is that the City of St. Paul should in fact remove this house.

Although for many years the owner of this property, Anne Haney, lived there quietly, beginning in the fall of 2010, 317 Baker St. West became a horrible eye sore and blight upon the neighborhood. This came about when relatives came to live with Mrs. Haney. These new residents of 317 Baker St. West completely filled both the front and back yard with huge piles of junk, issued veiled threats about having firearms to a number of the neighbors, let their small children run wild (endangering these children), and were very slow to remove household trash. There is little doubt that except for the REPEATED intervention of the City of St. Paul and the St. Paul Police, this situation would have persisted to this day.

Although Mrs. Haney lived quietly before the arrival of her relatives, the nearly year-long process to deal with the worst of the above issues also caused the city to investigate the physical condition of 317 Baker West. The upper story of this building was actually declared uninhabitable by the City more than 20 years ago, and the recent city inspections found that nothing has changed for the better upstairs and the lower story of 317 Baker Street West now has major code violations including no heat and no hot water.

The house at 317 Baker St. West is clearly not habitable, and given the long-term neglect it has endured, the City must not let the structure continue as is. Furthermore, it would be irresponsible to allow Anne Haney or anyone else to reside in a house in such a condition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A concerned citizen.
(Name withheld to avoid potential threats and intimidation)