

From: **Shari Blindt** sharb@us.commonhope.org
Subject: 898 Linwood
Date: May 31, 2014 at 3:15 PM
To: robert.humphrey@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Cc: mont898@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Humphrey,

I spoke with my neighbor, Mary, last night and I understand that the city has concerns about her driveway and property maintenance. We've lived next door for more than 20 years, and the transformation of her property since she moved in has been nothing but positive. The house was empty for several years when we moved in in 1991, and was progressively more dilapidated. Mary has brought life back to her home, and repaired and restored the property beautifully. There was a broken apart strip driveway, and Mary replaced it when she moved in with a gravel drive that fits her landscaping and restored home so well. As her next door neighbor I have no issues with it being gravel - in fact, environmentally, it's better than more concrete or asphalt in the city.

There seem to be plenty of problem properties in the city with far greater need.

Sincerely,
Shari Blindt
902 Linwood Av
St. Paul, MN 55105

Sent from my iPhone

899 Linwood Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

June 2, 2014

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write on behalf of Mary Montgomery. My husband and I have lived directly across the street from Mary for about 13 years and I am the co-leader of our block. In every way, Mary has proven herself to be an exemplary neighbor. Harassing her with these frivolous allegations is a shameful waste of the city's time and money.

As block leader, I have heard absolutely no complaints about Mary's conduct or her property. On the contrary, I hear only compliments. Several neighbors have commented on the wisdom of using gravel for her driveway as it is very attractive and also environmentally friendly by reducing run-off. Any issue with cars is absolutely ludicrous. Many residents do not have a garage and plenty of cars line our streets and driveways. It is part of our urban environment.

When Mary moved into her house, it had been vacant for a decade so was an eyesore and a safety concern. Presently, it would not be a stretch to say that Mary's place is the best kept on the block. She has a knack for landscaping and takes great care with consistent upkeep and maintenance. Through much time and effort, her beautiful home now exemplifies the old-world charm for which we in St. Paul are so proud.

There is absolutely no reason why Mary should be required to defend herself or the changes she has made to her property. She is a model citizen. We sincerely hope those in authority over this will see these allegations for what they are: at best frivolous and at worst a form of workplace bullying.

Thank you,



Anne Zielske
Teacher, Harding High School
St. Paul



Reverend Jonathan M. Zielske
Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church
St. Paul

June 2, 1014

City of Saint Paul
Saint Paul MN

To whom it may concern.

We are neighbors of Mary Montgomery and are writing to express our gratitude to and support of her.

She moved into the neighborhood, taking over a condemned house that the absentee owner had permitted to fall into dangerous disrepair.

She transformed that house into one of the best looking on the block.

And that includes her landscaping. Bushes, trees, flowers all grow as if there is a full time gardener attending them.

Also, we want to point out that her driveway is very agreeable to us.


The driveway shows a good use of space and appropriate materials.

It is harmonious and tasteful.

And we like it very much.

Mary should receive a commendation from the city for her positive impact and uplifting of our share of St. Paul.

Sincerely yours,


Bryan and Juliann Kirby
893 Linwood Ave.
Saint Paul MN 55105

651.291.8044

June 2, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in regards to the house at 898 Linwood owned by Mary Montgomery. I own the house at 916 Linwood Ave, just down the street from Mary, and have lived here since 1997.

She told me that she was having an issue with her driveway, as a result of an anonymous complaint. I was surprised to hear this, as her house is one of the nicest in the neighborhood. She explained that the complainant felt her driveway was too wide, and had a problem that it was gravel. I hadn't noticed that it was particularly wide, despite having walked by it many times, so I went and looked again. I still couldn't see any reason someone would complain, as it looks basically like a yard.

I do know that before she purchased the house it was a condemned house, a wreck, and the eyesore of the neighborhood. After she bought it she transformed it into one of the nicest houses in the neighborhood, and continues to maintain it on a regular basis. Her garden and the landscaping is gorgeous... someone should be sending a photo of it to HGTV, not complaining about it! I can't imagine why anyone would complain, but as it was anonymous perhaps there was some other motivation? I really don't know.

I know I don't have a problem with the extra width of the driveway or that it is gravel. It actually is so much prettier than most of the other driveways that are solid concrete. I have also never been bothered by the cars parked on it, since the rest of the landscape is so pretty I hardly ever noticed them.

It is quite strange that someone decided to pick on one of the nicest houses of the neighborhood. There are some houses in the neighborhood that might warrant a complaint or two but Mary's house and driveway certainly is not among them.

Sincerely,

Marietta LeMieux
916 Linwood Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105
Tel: 651-298-9925
e-mail: marietta@blueroompottery.com



To: City of Saint Paul
From: 891 Linwood Residents
Date: June 2, 2014
Subject: 898 Linwood Property

We have been residents of 891 Linwood for the last 5 years. We have known Mary Montgomery, owner of 898 Linwood, since we moved in. We are concerned to hear there are questions being raised in regard to the appearance of her property; specifically the gravel driveway, width of the driveway apron, and the number of vehicles parked in the driveway. We have observed and witnessed nothing but care given to the property and impeccable upkeep of the home and grounds. As neighbors, we have no concern of conduct or presentation. We have nothing but warm regards for the family and appreciate living across the street from a beautiful home and wonderful neighbors.

It is our hope that you would take into consideration our feelings in regards to any prior concerns or complaints with the property.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Corby and Kari Lewis in cursive script.

Corby and Kari Lewis
891 Linwood Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105

From: Connie Davis <conniejdavis@comcast.net>
Date: June 1, 2014 at 10:25:52 AM CDT
To: robert.humphrey@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Cc: mont898@gmail.com
Subject: 898 Linwood

I recently spoke with my neighbor, Mary Montgomery, regarding a supposed issue with her driveway.

I have lived at 907 Linwood Avenue for 22 years. When we moved in to our home in 1992, the maintenance and care of the property at 898 had been ignored for many years. The yard was rarely mowed, and the house, garage and driveway were in complete disrepair.

Since the purchase of the property by Mary, the house, garage, yard and driveway are some of the best maintained in the neighborhood.

Her driveway used to be a crumbled strip driveway, and Mary replaced it with a gravel driveway that fits very nicely with her beautiful landscaping. I appreciate the more natural look of gravel as opposed to the vast amounts of concrete and blacktop currently covering our city.

It amazes me that the City of St Paul has nothing better to do than to harass a property owner who has done nothing but improve their property and our neighborhood!

Connie Davis
iPhone: 651-399-7723
conniejdavis@comcast.net

June 2, 2014

To Whom it may concern,

Mary Montgomery, our neighbor at 898 Linwood Avenue, was a welcome addition to this block when she moved here and renovated not only her house, but all the landscaping around her home.

Mary's aesthetic sense for landscaping is inspiring. Her gravel driveway adds a welcome relief to all the concrete areas and makes good environmental sense for rain water soaking into the ground rather than running into storm sewers. The apron width on her driveway is appropriate in shape & scale to her home and flows perfectly for the entire scope of her property.

We walk many evenings and always delight in passing Mary's house to admire her hardwork and attention to detail. Everything about her property is appealing. From our front porch, we look at Mary's home everyday and enjoy the picturesque view in all seasons.

Our neighborhood is filled with people who talk to each other, help each other, and appreciate each other as we refurbish our older homes. We know it all takes time and hard work.

Just tonight, a former neighbor (who grew up here next door) stopped by to say hello. She commented, as she looked down the block, how happy she was that Mary made the house at 898 so beautiful. It had been neglected for over 10 years before Mary became the owner.

In conclusion, please know that Mary is always there to help a neighbor in need. She is the kind of person who should be commended for being a wonderful, caring neighbor. We need more Mary's in our St Paul neighborhoods.

Kind regards,

Ann Bucher

Daniel Bucher

915 Linwood Ave (651-442-0122)