City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Minutes - Final

Legislative Hearings

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Tuesday, September 13, 2016 | **9:00 AM** | **Room 330 City Hall & Court House**

10 SR 16-86

Review Council File No. RLH VO 16-38 adopted by Council on September 7, 2016 to an Appeal of Winston Nguyen, representing Dianna Dong Thi Bui, to a Notice of Condemnation as Unfit for Human Habitation and Order to Vacate at 850 UNIVERSITY AVENUE WEST.

Sponsors: Thao

Winston Nguyen and Dianna Dong Thu Bui, owners; Washington Nguyen, son; Heather Meyers, SMRLS; and Lauren Lightner, House Calls; appeared.

Ms. Moermond:
-additional things were identified when Inspector Lisa Martin went back out
-this is an extreme accumulation case; there is also a special needs son living at home with autism spectrum, who wants to run away at times; so, we've been talking about the locks; bars on windows and how to manage the safety of their son

Washington Nguyen:
-and there were other things like attempted break-ins; someone's knocking on the door at 2 am; the neighborhood has changed but some of the locks, bars on windows were for security purposes, too

Winston Nguyen:
-we compiled a list with Ms. Martin; we took everything off the windows and doors

Washington:
-I have photos and the bars have been removed
-had Fire Dept come thru to double check smoke/CO alarms and they had no issues

Winston:
-we had the furnace checked; he wrote a letter to show it had been tested

Washington:
-there were 33 items initially on the list; now, we've off all but 7 items
-an electrician is in progress - checking existing electricity in the house
-the city inspector said that according to the MN code, the owner-occupant can do the work; we had them check over the work; and had people look at the gas line hook-up; they said it was all good; they couldn't make it any more safe

Winston:
-Lauren gave us 3 big dumpsters; we filled them up; we cleaned out the garage-looks brand new with lots of room now; thank you very much for your help

Washington:
-last time we were here, you said that 50% of the items should be removed; when Lisa arrived, she said that well over 50% had been removed (photos of house and garage)

Ms. Moermond:
-now, we have to work on getting the rest of the work done and more clean out
-it had been discussed that Lisa wanted a professional electrician to be brought in; she is concerned that the electrical work is done correctly under permit and inspected promptly because in the past, there has been electrical work done in the home that wasn't done correctly and it hasn't been done under permit

Washington:
-we feel that way too; we have applied for programs that will assist with the cost; one called Neighbor Works; they will come to assess the electrical work

Ms. Moermond:
-Neighbor Works will want professionals to come in to do the work

Winston:
-we gave 100% of the items to charity

Ms. Meyers:
-many doors have been removed

Washington:
-the walls were professionally repaired (photos)

Ms. Moermond:
-you will need more dumpsters (Lauren can provide more)
-you need to finish up the loan process and get the work done
-how much time do you think you'll need?

Washington:
-we removed most of the items
-when we've tried to connect with contractors, they are not immediately available; (2 weeks + just to get an electrician out); we tell them that we want to comply with city codes

Ms. Meyers:
-we could agree on a timeline for the things that is in their control, like finishing dumping stuff
-Neighbor Works is another issue

Ms. Moermond:
-I will give you until Jan 1, 2017 and I will call Becky Errigo
-secondly, I want to protect Abraham; have you gotten resources on where to get a sale place for him to sleep...? Is there anything that we can do to help you connect?

Ms. Meyers:
-Abraham does have a social worker

Washington:
-Abraham is doing quite well; we removed a lot of clutter from his room & he's really happy about that
-he has a communication issue; it's hard for him to explain things to us

Winston:
-Abraham is really hard to understand; he really felt sad when we moved all of his stuff and gave it away; I explained that we had to comply with the city's Orders
-I worry that he can leave the house at night; he never looks at the street before he crosses
-he kind of accepts it

Washington:
-we had the heating system certified; (entered & scanned)

Ms. Meyers:
-I will be in touch with Ms. Errigo, too

Ms. Moermond:
-I will call Ms. Errigo
-you will be done by Jan 1, 2017

File No. RLH VO 16-38 in error did not get referred back to Legislative Hearing on September 13. This file is created and will draft new resolution to amend VO 16-38 to grant an extension for owners to come into compliance by January 1, 2017.

Received and Filed