

I am appalled at the hazard(s) that exists at 705 Summit. Perhaps, more appalling is the lack of attention given to this issue by our representatives at city hall. There are two issues that need attention – immediately. First, the building is a fire trap, and that has been the case for years. We all know that fact from the building’s history. But, nothing seems to be done about this hazard. Why? If there is some concern about property rights, we do have laws to address this problem in favor of common safety and city expenses. This condition depresses the worth of all our properties. We should all understand that here is no private wealth without common wealth – that which we own together: our material and ethical infrastructures. Let’s do to the right thing here for the good of the city.

Second, the 705 location is, and has been, a drug exchange site for some time now (years). You know that. We know that. This hazard has been clear and present. Recall the shooting at the location earlier the year.

These hazards are, of course, related. Maintaining property and having a concern for the health and aesthetics of the community is our common work. And in this case, the 705 property is an historical treasure. Like it or not, our history and its attending artifacts belong to all of us. And the owners of these treasures have a stewardship responsibility. Buildings like this have value far beyond the price of the structure.

Please consider your stewardship responsibility and act for the good of the city of St. Paul.