

Re: 37 Jessamine Ave W.

December 2, 2017

To Whom It May Concern at the City of St. Paul:

I am writing this letter in regard to the mattresses that were dumped in the alley between Geranium Avenue, Jessamine Avenue, Sylvan Street, and Park Street behind Mr. Martens' house.

In the morning of the day the mattresses appeared, I observed that they were dumped in such a fashion as to prevent vehicular traffic from entering or leaving the alley. When I returned home later in the day and drove by that location, I observed that the mattresses had been removed from the alleyway and were now leaning against Mr. Martens' retaining wall. I assumed that Mr. Martens had removed them from the alleyway and most likely had called the City to come and pick them up. I based this assumption on the countless other times I have observed garbage, trash, broken furniture, auto parts, tires, wheels, and broken bottles dumped in the same location as the mattresses and knowing that on those previous instances, Mr. Martens had either cleaned up the mess and hauled it away himself or called the City to notify them of the problem.

I personally have notified the City of various household and auto-related items that have been dumped or left on City property, streets, and alleyways. I too have moved some of those items out of the roadway in order to save some unsuspecting motorist from damaging their vehicle or getting into an accident. When making such a report to the City, I am asked what address the items are located at. When giving an address, I would never expect that the City would turn around and fine the property owner for removing the items that were dumped by other parties. In many cases, I'm sure the property owner might have never known that anything was dumped in the first place or that someone called it in to the City to report it.

I suspect that Mr. Martens would not have given his address to the City if he thought for one minute that he would receive a bill to pick up trash on City property that was left behind his house by parties unknown. It is ridiculous for the City of St. Paul to fine citizens who report the illegal dumping of trash and if it chooses to do so, perhaps we should follow the example of Mr. Mishke who cleaned up the trash and garbage left by homeless people near the First Baptist Church and deposited it on the doorstep of City Hall.



John Jungwirth
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St. Paul, MN 55117

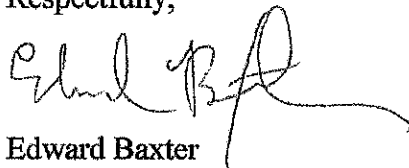
54 Geranium Avenue West
St Paul MN 55117
December 4, 2017

To Whom It May Concern (St. Paul City Government):

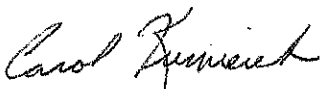
A couple of months ago, while going along our alley to take our dogs for a walk, we passed by several mattresses that had apparently been dumped right in the roadway. They were about 20' or so from the Sylvan Street entrance to the alley, near, but not in front of the garage of Jeff and Leann Maartens. A while later, we noted that the mattresses had been removed from the roadway and were piled against the Maartens' retaining wall. We assumed--apparently correctly--that Jeff had acted, as he always does, responsibly and had picked up the mattresses to get them out of the roadway. We noted a day or so later that the mattresses were gone.

Although this particular case is somewhat unusual in the amount of trash involved and its being left in the roadway and not off to the side, such dumping of trash in our alley--especially of such things as mattresses, sofas, tires, tv's and much more--has reached the point of being just about weekly in frequency--and in spring and fall almost everyday. We can hope that the changes in trash pickup about to come into effect help to ameliorate the situation with regard to the irresponsibility of many absentee landlords and short-term tenants. Until then and probably to some extent thereafter, it will be the actions of responsible citizens working with a cooperative city government to maintain a safe and healthful North End and St. Paul in general.

Respectfully,



Edward Baxter



Carol Kusnierek

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December 3, 2017

To Whom It May Concern at The City of Saint Paul:

I wish to go on record that, while I was taking a walk, I personally witnessed the mattresses at issue strewn along the alley right-of-way west of Sylvan Street between West Geranium Avenue and West Jessamine Avenue. Much later that same day, I saw that the mattresses had been cleared from the alleyway and stacked against the retaining wall behind Mr. Martens' property, ultimately clearing the right-of-way.

While the City may expect Mr. Martens to produce physical evidence to prove he was not the person who threw those mattresses in the alley, the City itself does not have any physical evidence proving that he was the person that threw them in the alley. There are however, people from the neighborhood that saw the mattresses scattered along the alley before he dragged them out of the right-of-way and leaned them against his retaining wall so traffic, emergency vehicles, and bicycles could safely maneuver the alleyway. My assumption was that Mr. Martens also reported this incident to the City as most neighbors normally would do.

This particular alley bound by Sylvan Street, Park Street, West Geranium Avenue and West Jessamine Avenue is an ongoing problem spot for dumping. Mattresses, furniture, garbage, tires, and general junk are regularly strewn along this alley. Neighbors also contend with "anonymous" bags of garbage stuffed into their trash containers. There are multiple problem properties along this alley. Whether this dumping is left behind when residents move or if landlords are unwilling to pay to dispose of items left behind when tenants change is yet to be proven. However, some residents have their suspicions based on where the problems tend to be historically located.

Unfortunately, the City's action against Mr. Martens has sent a clear message to the other neighbors that we should turn a blind eye and not get involved.



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