

## **Moermond, Marcia (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Zimny, Joanna (CI-StPaul)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2019 1:55 PM  
**To:** Xiong, Mai Chong (CI-StPaul); Thao, Dai (CI-StPaul); Moermond, Marcia (CI-StPaul); Vang, Mai (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** FW: Legislative Hearing 5/14

I honestly don't know how I got included in this but forwarding as an FYI.

Thanks

Jo

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**From:** Bistodeau, Travis (CI-StPaul)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2019 1:25 PM  
**To:** Michael Roessle <michael.roessle@gmail.com>; Tinchler, Jaime (CI-StPaul) <Jaime.Tinchler@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Rider, Chris (CI-StPaul) <chris.rider@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Cc:** Kelly Convery <kellymconvery@gmail.com>; Lori Brostrom <lbrostrom@comcast.net>; Justin Windschitl <jmwindschitl@gmail.com>; Michael Hartoonian <michaelhartoonian@comcast.net>; Patricia M. Thornton <pthornto@cord.edu>; Douglas D. Strandness <doug.strandness@gmail.com>; Cervantes, Ricardo (CI-StPaul) <ricardo.cervantes@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Wiese, Angie (CI-StPaul) <angie.wiese@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Zimny, Joanna (CI-StPaul) <joanna.zimny@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Legislative Hearing 5/14

Michael,  
I sincerely apologize for the slow response.

While I don't want to sound defensive, I do believe we've reached an impasse. I've personally reviewed the photos and discussed conditions with the Fire Inspector and his supervisor as part of the current inspection. The orders and timelines are in alignment with our long standing protocols which we use to safely certify thousands of properties annually within the city. We will hold the owner accountable for the deficiencies identified during the most recent inspection and as part of the current certification process. If you wish to engage an outside entity or elected official to review this case, you are free to do so and we can provide you any public records that may assist in that review.

Everyone at DSI who has been involved with this property is dedicated to ensure that this property meets the minimum standards spelled out in the Fire Code and the city's property maintenance code. I would recommend we work through the current inspection cycle and see if we can bring this property into voluntary compliance before you or neighbors take any further action.

Thank you,

**Travis Bistodeau**  
***Deputy Director***  
Department of Safety and Inspections  
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**DSI's Mission: To preserve and improve the quality of life in Saint Paul by protecting and promoting public health and safety for all.**

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**From:** Michael Roessle [<mailto:michael.roessle@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2019 6:58 PM

**To:** Bistodeau, Travis (CI-StPaul) <[Travis.Bistodeau@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Travis.Bistodeau@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Tincher, Jaime (CI-StPaul) <[Jaime.Tincher@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Jaime.Tincher@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Rider, Chris (CI-StPaul) <[chris.rider@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:chris.rider@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Cc:** Kelly Convery <[kellymconvery@gmail.com](mailto:kellymconvery@gmail.com)>; Lori Brostrom <[lbrostrom@comcast.net](mailto:lbrostrom@comcast.net)>; Justin Windschitl <[jmwindschitl@gmail.com](mailto:jmwindschitl@gmail.com)>; Michael Hartoonian <[michaelhartoonian@comcast.net](mailto:michaelhartoonian@comcast.net)>; Patricia M. Thornton <[pthornto@cord.edu](mailto:pthornto@cord.edu)>; Douglas D. Strandness <[doug.strandness@gmail.com](mailto:doug.strandness@gmail.com)>; Cervantes, Ricardo (CI-StPaul) <[ricardo.cervantes@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:ricardo.cervantes@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Wiese, Angie (CI-StPaul) <[angie.wiese@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:angie.wiese@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Zimny, Joanna (CI-StPaul) <[joanna.zimny@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:joanna.zimny@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Subject:** Re: Legislative Hearing 5/14

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

Travis,

Lori Brostrom and myself attended this afternoon's Legislative Hearing regarding 705 Summit Ave. I was concerned by a few things that I wanted to reach out to you about.

After thoroughly reviewing the inspection report and related photos, I strongly disagreed with Inspector Shaff's assertions that none of the issues presented immediate concern to human safety, or that none of the deficiencies were overly critical.

In speaking with and reviewing the report and photos with a retired 40 year employee of the MN State Department of Health, the conclusions were the same as I had. The extensive use of extension cords and multi-plug adapters means the electrical system is in a state of great disrepair, where the few functioning sockets are overloaded. It is a serious danger to human safety. The severe cracks put some interior walls in danger of collapsing within the units. The lack of functional egress windows in case of another electrical fire at the property is a threat to human safety. These are just to name a few.

At our meeting at the Mayor's office, you mentioned all but 1 unit was occupied. Inspector Shaff today stated at least 3 units were vacant. I don't believe that to be true. She also stated that the deficiencies in the units she believed were vacant were of minor concern and shouldn't greatly impact decisions on the C of O. I couldn't disagree more. First, I believe they are occupied. Second, the city has no idea who is living there at any given time so these deficiencies can be allowed to persist when they are occupied between your inspections.

It was also mentioned the inspectors were not granted access to all parts of the units, and nothing was scheduled to inspect those areas ahead of re-inspection. In my understanding, that would make the inspection incomplete, with likely additional deficiencies present.

The 7th mailbox for the 6-unit complex was also coincidentally removed just before the inspection. Based on our visual and security camera observations, there are 6 individual households residing there currently. While not impossible, it seems reasonably unlikely that complete sets of strangers would be sharing the same apartment with each other. This goes back to my overhearing the property manager referring to unit 6 and 6A.

The property manager for 705 also referenced ongoing roof leaks today that they have permits to repair, yet no mention of those or the roof deterioration was mentioned in the inspection report. Again, seemingly another human safety issue.

I do appreciate your transparency in our meetings regarding this property, so thank you for that and your continuing cooperation.

I am however confused and dismayed that while you seem to have serious concerns about the reprehensible conditions that persist at this building, nobody else at DSI seems to share those concerns. A thought I had at the meeting is "would any of the city representatives here feel comfortable with their son or daughter and small grandchildren living in the conditions at 705 Summit". I suspect the honest answer would be "no". The answer shouldn't be, "no, but it's good enough for the tenants there."

Many of the items in the 2019 report would've taken far longer than a year and a half to crop up, which leads me to think the 2017 inspection wasn't overly thorough since they weren't noted then.

Additionally, I compared the 2017 report 29 deficiencies to the 2019 report with 60 deficiencies and found that nearly 20 of the same deficiencies from the 2017 report were on the 2019 report. They haven't been corrected in nearly two years, but no action was taken by DSI. I submitted that comparison of reports at the Legislative Hearing today for the public record.

I'd prefer not to have to take this to State representatives for oversight or pay an engineer and architect out of my own pocket to review the reports and photos and attest that the living conditions are in fact dangerous and the report incomplete.

I'm interested in your thoughts.

Respectfully,

Michael Roessle