

SAFE CITY PROJECT

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Saint Paul City Council
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July 30, 2019

RE: Opportunity to purchase and restore home at 489 Sherburne Ave

To the City Counsel of the City of Saint Paul,

We are writing to ask for special consideration by the city to assist Mr. William Stuff and to purchase and restore the home located at 489 Sherburne. We are grateful for the relationships that we have been able to build with the City of Saint Paul teams over the past 9 years that we have been in Frogtown. We deeply appreciate the great support and service that you have provided us in our efforts for Community Transformation in this neighborhood. There is a new opportunity that would allow us to take over the responsibility of another Cat 2/3 property in Frogtown and to begin working on it with our SafeCity Community Project network.

We have the resources and the contractors available to work on as well as supervise this as a volunteer based project. We are able to assist the current owner into a healthy solution that adds value to him, to make the property code compliant and to make this house a healthy home in our community.

This will be the 10th property we've worked on successfully in Saint Paul like this.

Some of those projects are 305 Edmund Ave, 561 Edmund Ave, 522 Charles Ave, 537 Charles Ave and most recently 741 Pierce Butler Rte.

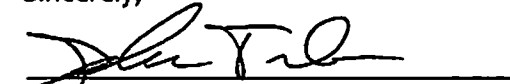
We have recommendations available that can vouch for us as a viable candidate for completion of this project and that can give assurance of our capability to work with DSI office and the City of Saint Paul to resolve the renovation issues around this property.

Our plan is:

- to complete the contract for sale of the property in a way that provides for Mr. Stuff in a legitimate way
- clean up the lot/property at 489 Sherburne Ave
- have our architect draw a new floorplan
- attain building permit
- replace roof on building
- gut interior of building
- renovate interior

Thank you, we look forward to the opportunity in working with the City of Saint Paul to provide a healthy solution to this property.

Sincerely,



John R Tolo
Executive Director - Koinonia MN
SafeCity Community Project
www.SafeCityProject.com

John R Tolo

From: Axtell, Todd D (CI-StPaul) <todd.d.axtell@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 3:48 PM
To: John Tolo; Seeger, Jim (CI-StPaul)
Cc: Soley, Reid (CI-StPaul); Bryn A Knatterud; Thao, Dai (CI-StPaul); Anthony Schmitz; Iovino, Paul (CI-StPaul); *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings
Subject: RE: 489 Sherburne Ave - SafeCity Community Project Partnership Opportunity

John, thanks for your message. Thank you for everything you do in our community – we support your efforts.

Respectfully,

Todd Axtell



Todd Axtell
Chief of Police

Saint Paul Police Department
367 Grove Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101
P: 651-266-5503
F: 651-266-5542
todd.d.axtell@ci.stpaul.mn.us



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From: John Tolo <johntolo@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 1:12 PM
To: Seeger, Jim (CI-StPaul) <jim.seeger@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Soley, Reid (CI-StPaul) <reid.soley@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Bryn A Knatterud <bknatterud@gmail.com>; Thao, Dai (CI-StPaul) <dai.thao@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Anthony Schmitz <apbschmitz@gmail.com>; Iovino, Paul (CI-StPaul) <paul.iovino@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Axtell, Todd D (CI-StPaul) <todd.d.axtell@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: 489 Sherburne Ave - SafeCity Community Project Partnership Opportunity

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization

Good Afternoon Jim Seeger (and Reid Soley) -

We are so grateful for the City of Saint Paul DSI team and deeply appreciate the great support and service that you have provided us in our efforts for Community Transformation in Frogtown.

There's a new opportunity that's opened up to us to take over the responsibility for another Cat 2/3 property in Frogtown and to begin working on it with our SafeCity Community Project network.

We have the resources and the contractors available to us to work on this and supervise this as a volunteer based project.

We are able to assist the current owner into a healthy solution that adds value to him, to make the property code compliant and a healthy home in our community.

SAFE CITY PROJECT



SafeCity Mission

The SafeCity Project is an initiative begun in 2011 as a part of the Frogtown Community House & Garden Project to build relationships between police, individuals, businesses and community groups in the Frogtown neighborhood.

About Us

The SafeCity Project is the next phase of the Frogtown Community House and Gardens Initiative. The best way to build healthy communities is for individuals to be integrated into a community. This removes isolation that often leads to crime and addiction. We meet people where they are and empower and provide help for some immediate needs, while building relationships that support goals of becoming healthy and responsible citizens. We help at-risk young adults and families.

Many of those we help become committed volunteers that begin helping others that were in similar situations. Volunteers are directly involved in helping to:

- Connect at-risk individuals with lifestyles of addiction, homelessness, or sex trafficking, with support services and housing
- Direct people to the resources they need for mental, physical, emotional and family health
- Provide skills, training and leads to transition unemployed participants into employment through community partners
- Prepare people for the transition from treatment to community
- Hold safe-sober events that build and strengthen relationships within the community
- Actively available for mentorship roles with peers, youth and children



"On behalf of the Western District, I really want to thank you. Your generosity does not go unnoticed and affirms our partnership, which I look forward to growing. We are grateful to have you in the district and that we are partners in our continued efforts to make living in the City a better place."

Commander Paul Iovino
Senior Commander Western District
Saint Paul Police Dept

**Frogtown Neighborhood
CRIME REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP**

www.SafeCityProject.com

History

Koinonia is a 501c3 organization that was established in 2006 in the State of Minnesota and operates primarily in the Twin Cities. It is a community building organization that establishes and funds safe-sober environments, projects and events for young adults. Its first project was a free coffee shop that ran in Dinkytown for three years called "the Hot Spot." The vision and success of this groundbreaking effort led other organizations to set up similar safe-sober community activities and events at the University of Minnesota. When others came forward to continue the vision of the community coffee shop, we moved to the Frogtown neighborhood in St. Paul.

The initial vision for Frogtown was to purchase a foreclosed house in one of the many decaying neighborhoods and transform it into an efficient "green" house. We added community gardens that served as a natural magnet for outreach, bringing hope to area residents. The three-year renovation project and annual community gardens have created daily opportunities for people in Frogtown to connect with volunteers and build relationships. It is sustainable project with a holistic community approach.

Since our beginnings we have worked in collaboration with over 20 properties and dozens of smaller projects in our Saint Paul Community Frogtown, the East Side, around the State and most recently globally.

Community

Among the most culturally diverse neighborhoods in St. Paul, Frogtown is located north of Hwy 94 a mile from the state capital building. The area had been hit very hard economically and this has lent itself to many abandoned lots and homes, which can be a breeding ground for crime, homelessness, and dysfunctional community. We have been able to provide solutions and support in:

- Broken families
- Substance Abuse and Drug Trafficking
- High Crime Rate
- Homelessness
- Human Trafficking
- Poor Nutrition and Hunger
- Lack of Healthy Green Spaces
- High Unemployment