RLH SAO 20-33	
APPLICATION FOR APPEAL Saint Paul City Council – Legislative Hearings *Received by e-mail 9-24-20 310 City Hall, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd. Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102 Telephone: (651) 266-8585	
	Telephone: (651) 266-8585
We need the following to process your appeal:	
 \$25 filing fee (non-refundable) (payable to the City of Saint Paul (if cash: receipt number Mailing in check) Copy of the City-issued orders/letter being appealed 	II) HEARING DATE & TIME (provided by Legislative Hearing Office) Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020
O Attachments you may wish to include O This appeal form completed	<i>Time</i> 11:00 a.m.
O Walk-In OR O'Mail-In	Location of Hearing:
for abatement orders only: ØEmail OR OFax	-Room-330 City Hall/Courthouse=
Address Being Appealed: *Hearing office will call between 11:00 and 12:30 p.m.	
Number & Street: 50 Fairview Ave N City: SaintPaul State: MN Zip:55104	
Appellant/Applicant: Hamony Nerl E	mail happyepsilon@gmail.com
Phone Numbers: Business Residence	Cell <u>217-721-8630</u>
Signature: Hannon Me	Date: 912412020
Name of Owner (if other than Appellant): <u>Scott Koke</u>	
Mailing Address if Not Appellant's: <u>30 Wexford Dr.</u>	, New Brighton, MN 55112
Phone Numbers: Business Residence	Cell 6/2-309-0093
What Is Being Appealed and Why?Attachments Are AcceptableVacate Order/Condemnation/ Bevocation of Fire C of OComments:Ø Summary/Vehicle AbatementAttached :Ø Fire C of O Deficiency List/CorrectionJpage lefterØ Code Enforcement Correction NoticeJpage of LefterØ Vacant Building RegistrationIb pages of Comment; SyportØ Other (Fence Variance, Code Compliance, etc.)Ib pages of Comment; Syport	

Dear Legislative Hearing Officer,

I am appealing the Summary Abatement Order I received on Saturday, September 19th. Because of the global pandemic, I planted Giving Gardens in the boulevards around my rented property. I planted fresh herbs, tomatoes, peppers, watermelon, corn, beans, sugar pie pumpkins, cantaloupe, cucumbers, lettuce, spinach, edible flowers, and flowers for pollinators. Anyone is allowed and encouraged to harvest food from the gardens. I also harvest ripe items and put them in the Take Food/Leave Food cabinet that became a part of this community resource. Many neighbors have extra garden and CSA food, so they bring their excess and other people take it. People also drop off other food that people take.

We are feeding hungry people during a pandemic. We are also simply taking care of each other. Many people come by to get fresh herbs so they aren't wasting herbs that are too expensive and perish quickly when purchased at the store. We are doing the right thing, and I do not understand why the Giving Gardens keep coming under attack.

The Giving Gardens were one of this year's winners in the *Star Tribune's* annual Beautiful Gardens Contest. I have personally spoken to over 300 people who love the gardens, either simply for the beauty, or for the beauty and the nutrition. Some enjoy the opportunity to see food grow for the first times in their lives. Multiple people have told me they come to the Gardens when they need rest and respite. The Gardens nourish them, mind, body, and soul during these extremely difficult times.

One neighbor confided in me that she is the victim of domestic violence, and is often not allowed to eat. Without the Gardens and the Take Food/Leave Food cabinet, she would go hungry. She also said the Gardens are simply her safe place to come to when things are very bad for her.

The Gardens are a monumental good, despite being a small corner garden. They are wellbeloved by the vast majority of people, and I am sorry one or a few people hate them for whatever reason those individuals have to hate gardens.

I've been assured by my neighbors that the Gardens cause ZERO visibility issues at the intersection of Fairview & Hague.

The only potential issue with the Gardens, is that I got confused about what flower seeds I was putting down, so the fire hydrant isn't completely visible from all sides. That is a mistake, which I have plans to remedy next year so that the hydrant remains clearly visible from all sides during the entire growing season.

I really don't understand why I am being harassed about feeding people and pollinators. This has been on-going since August, but I was told, "Your property is in compliance" when I previously filed an appeal, which was returned to me. Otis Warner approved the gardens and assured me they were fine. But now Richard Kedrowski is saying they are not and elevated the threat level.

When I first received a Notice to Cut Tall Grass/Weeds in August, I did everything I was supposed to do and more. I contacted my city councilperson Mitra Jahali, who's legal aid wrote back to say that City Council is aware that the ordinances are a problem, and that they support gardens, and my inspector should be able to clear the gardens. Again, my original inspector did clear the gardens. So I don't understand why another inspector is now sending a Summary Abatement Order about gardens that have already been approved.

I've also been keeping Kim Palmer, the *Star Tribune* reporter who wrote the original article about the winning gardens this year, and a specific article about the Giving Gardens that is forthcoming, apprised of the notices I've been receiving from the city.

The following is from my original appeal, which again, was sent back to me with a note that my property is in compliance:

"Everyone I've spoken to about the Notice is shocked, outraged, and upset that this is happening to us. My neighbors across the street on Hague asked to be included in this letter as staunch supporters of the gardens who attest that the gardens cause zero problems with visibility or anything else: Rachel Richardson and Michael Deppe 651-641-1670. My upstairs neighbors who rent in the same building as me would also like to be included as supporters of the gardens: Virginia Dillon 419-419-9107 and Samuel Welk 414-640-4051. Virginia particularly wanted me to inform you that "she is very fired up."

"I also immediately contacted my landlord, Scott Koke 612-309-0093, since he owns this property and has a right to know what's happening. He too was outraged and stunned by the complaint and notice. He loves what I've done on the property and figures government officials have enough on their plate without adding in something as ridiculous as this complaint. I agree.

"People have their friends and relatives visit from around the cities to see these gardens. So again, why am I writing this letter right now? Why is this happening? I have zero recourse when other people spray known toxins on their lawns. Those pesticides and weed killers kill birds and pollinators and cause cancer and other diseases in human beings. Those poisons go into our shared water. And I have zero recourse when people poison me and everyone else who lives here, but I dare grow organic, pesticide-free food for people and pollinators, and I'm the one in the hot seat?"

I've attached the article from the Star Tribune about the Giving Gardens being a winner of this year's contest. If you have access to the Star Tribune, here is the link: https://www.startribune.com/a-crop-of-gardeners-who-give-generously/572042282/

I'm also attaching photocopies of comments from people who stop by. Once neighbors kept asking if there was anything to sign, I put out a composition notebook where people could say anything they want about the gardens. Unfortunately, comments written in a light blue ink did not photocopy clearly. The notebook has also unfortunately been rained on. Early on, someone did write a really hateful comment that included racial and disability slurs, so I tore out that page since nothing else was on that page. People can say anything they want, but that doesn't mean I have to leave hate speech in place. It makes me wonder whether or not it's the hate speech person launching these complaints. The Giving Gardens themselves have a cabinet with garden information, snips and paper sacks for harvesting, and hand sanitizer for safety. The Take Food/Leave Food cabinet likewise has bags, sanitizer, pens and post-its, and the Say Anything You Want notebook. Both have signage acknowledging that we are on Dakota and Ojibwe land, that Black Lives Matter, and an acknowledgement that the Giving Gardens were inspired by Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass*, and that the Take Food/Leave Food cabinet was inspired by the Black Panthers, who fed their communities first and foremost. I've always wondered if someone doesn't have a problem with the signage more than the gardens themselves.

Fortunately, the removed hate speech was the only negative comment ever left. The rest are overwhelmingly positive.

My neighbors are in the process of writing supportive letters and a petition. The timeline of this Abatement Order and appeal process is difficult with its swiftness. When I received the notice on Saturday, I immediately called and left a message with Richard Kedrowski and also Otis Warner, who had approved the Gardens previously. I received a message from Kedrowski Monday morning, but before I had a chance to return his call, Otis Warner called me back and said he'd speak to Kedrowski directly and should be able to work it out and call me back. I still haven't heard back, and the deadline is here, so I am filing this official appeal.

It's really disheartening to be harassed and threatened for planting gardens and feeding people and pollinators and bringing joy to my neighborhood. The Giving Gardens are community aid and a gift economy at their finest. I've been saving seeds from the gardens and made a seed box so other people can get free seeds and bring seeds to share. These are the things I'm doing to make my neighborhood and the world a better place. When the pandemic started, I contacted the Saint Paul City Council, Mayor Carter, and Governor Walz to suggest that we all start planting food anywhere it will grow. There were so many people like myself who were laid off, who could have grown food to help people, and we still should make it a priority to grown more food for ourselves, our neighbors, and all of our nonhuman relations. Everything is on fire. It shouldn't be illegal to plant food. We all know lawns and turf grass are ecological nightmares. It's time to change things to be for life instead of against it.

Sincerely,

Hamor A

Harmony Neal 150 Fairview Ave N Saint Paul, MN 55104 217-721-8630 happyepsilon@gmail.com

HOME & GARDEN

A crop of gardeners who give generously

By Kim Palmer (https://www.startribune.com/kim-palmer/10645576/) Star Tribune AUGUST 7, 2020 – 1:58PM

This has been a year like no other. First, Minnesotans faced the challenges of a global pandemic and stay-at-home order. Then the world was rocked by the killing of George Floyd and the civic unrest and time of reckoning on racial injustice that followed.

In this extraordinary summer, the Star Tribune's annual Beautiful Gardens contest is different, too. This year, we asked readers to nominate gardens that are beautiful in spirit, with a mission that benefits the greater community.

Reader response was overwhelming. We received more than 360 nominations this year. We read deeply touching descriptions of gardens that have impacted people in countless ways. We would like to offer a heartfelt thank-you to all our readers who took the time to nominate a garden this year.

With so many diverse gardens to understand and appreciate, it was challenging to choose just a few winners. A panel of four judges reviewed the submissions, and ultimately narrowed the field to a few gardens that we will highlight in the coming months.

You'll see and read more about these gardens and the people who tend them in upcoming issues of the Sunday Homes section and online at startribune.com.

Kenny Turck, Forest City, Minn.

Turck's home and garden near the farm where he grew up is ground zero for the Dirt Group, a nonprofit he founded to help youths learn, thrive and recover from early trauma by growing food together.

A social worker, Turck is passionate about food access, food security and its importance to health and well-being. In his home, a former church parish, there's a large kitchen in the basement where he teaches canning and food preservation. This year, with the pandemic and limited in-person interaction, the Dirt Group delivered kits to help youths grow food for their households.

Olivia Nienaber, Scandia

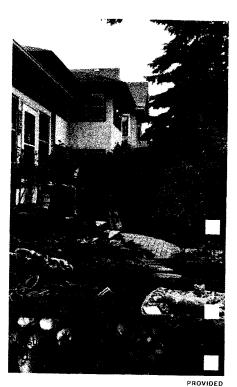
At her family's farm, Nienaber, 17, has created gardens that give back to wildlife. Her goal is to improve the environment for early-migrating birds, as well as create a more diverse habitat. Every plant must provide food, shelter or cover to birds, hummingbirds, bees, butterflies or moths.

She transformed a formerly weed-filled area near the garage into a variety of native wildflowers, grasses and shrubs. With the help of her family, she also revitalized two small ponds to ensure that wildlife had sources of water, has built birdhouses and feeders and helped build brush piles so that birds and small mammals have a place to hide and raise their young.

Bethany Husby, Roseville

Husby tends a large garden and pond at her home, where she divides hundreds of plants every year, recruits volunteers and holds a plant sale to benefit a charitable organization. Inspired by a trip to Tanzania and the people she met there, she and her husband started a nonprofit, Heart to Care, to build a school in Tanzania. This year's sale raised \$54,000 for the school, which is now under construction.

Harmony Neal, St. Paul; 4b. Devin Brown, Minneapolis



The garden of Kenny Turck.



PROVIDED

Olivia Nienaber's garden



Harmony Neal, a writer, teacher and laid-off restaurant server during the pandemic, decided to use their extra time to grow food for the neighborhood. Neal transformed the boulevard in front of their rented triplex on a busy corner into Giving Gardens, where the veggies, fruit, herbs and edible flowers are free to all.

After reading about projected food shortages and the closing of grocery stores damaged during the unrest after the George Floyd killing, Devin Brown was inspired to turn her north Minneapolis yard into a food source for her neighbors. With help from volunteers for Growers Unite Minneapolis, Brown created a vegetable garden on the boulevard and another near the alley, where neighbors can help themselves to fresh produce.

Andy Lapham, Minneapolis

At his home at 36th and Chicago and on the vacant lot next door, Lapham has created a permaculture demonstration site, where he grows and propagates fruit trees and berry vines and also raises chickens. He built a bench next to the sidewalk that has become a community giveaway spot, where people leave food to share with neighbors in need. Lapham also redesigned and tends a community veggie and fruit garden at a nearby school where neighbors are welcome to pick the produce.

Christina and Stephen McHenry, Minneapolis

After the pandemic ended the live music concerts that their family previously enjoyed, the McHenrys began hosting social-distance concerts in their garden, where neighbors can connect, enjoy music and help support musicians who have lost income as a result of the pandemic.

The couple and their children also have an organic vegetable garden and keep chickens, sharing the veggies and the eggs with their neighbors in the Lynn-Lake neighborhood.

Kim Palmer is editor/reporter for the Homes section of the Star Tribune. Previous coverage areas include city government, real estate and arts and entertainment

kim.palmer@startribune.com 612-673-4784 StribKimPalmer

RENEE JONES SCHNEIDER (LEFT) AND PRO' Bethany Husby's garden/pond in Roseville. Devin Brown, left, and Harmony Neal.

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Comp 100 Gardens Say Anything West! 100 Sheets • 200 Pages Wide Ruled NORCOM 93/2 x 71/2 in. MADE IN USA

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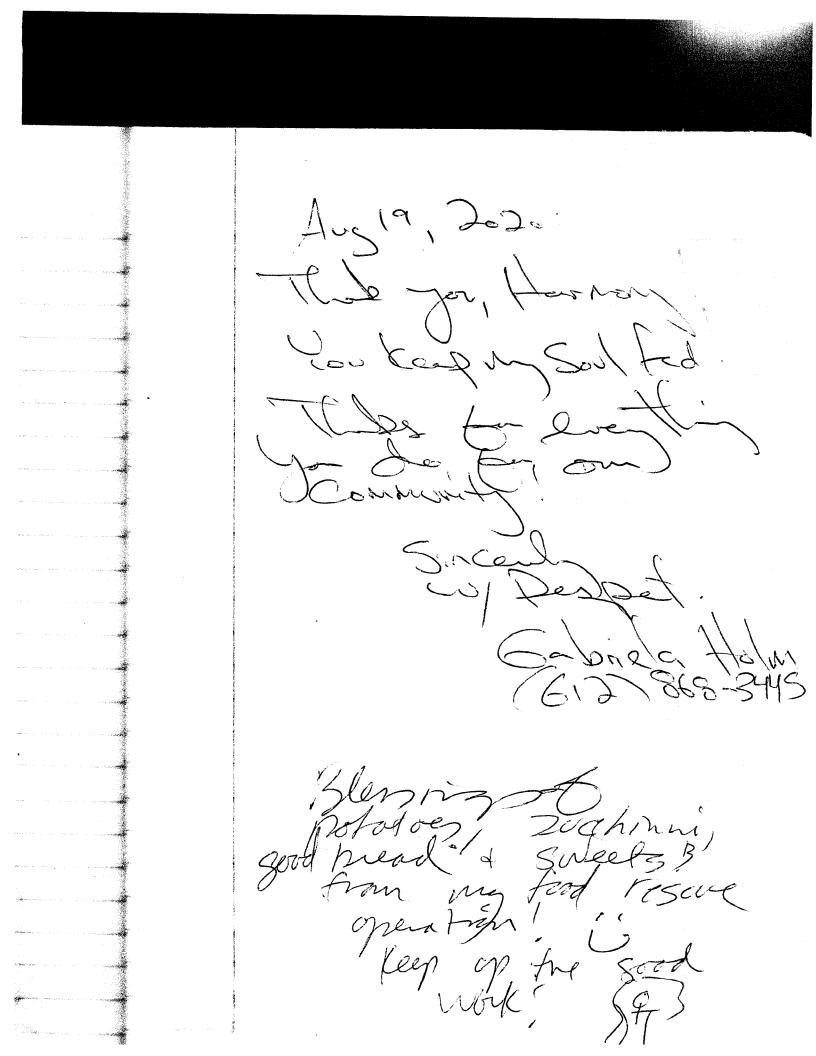
98.06.2020 Glad I started this and natived you'd call; greatly appeared are all the strong voices that pay attention & day day < glad to be alive and well folk. org > ~ Need be are the gave the slow to onger well sware and susre of well; all the love great by, sun shing god serser; hepelessly endowed Niko Optix 8-6-20 GREAT [DEA!] hust stopped by to check it but. Let me know if you want rhubarb. 451-983-9850 (text) -Jeborah McLaren

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Thanks for the special pumpkin! Love it! M tleg! this is awefore. I'll make sure to stop over sometime you're out -1 live at 115 Fairview Cover there. - I just started a compost - am making abunch of raised beds for the alley next spring. I'd love to get some ideas! - Sean Thanks for creating this a mazing community resource!

Thence you so very much, Got Lass - Come Villiam 7 (ORY Cange

March you !!

Thank you so much for having this garden. It's such a great thing to have in our community. We have personally enjaged the Veggees here. You are doing such a plat serice for families!

9/14.

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CITY OF SAINT PAUL DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND INSPECTIONS DIVISION OF CODE ENFORCEMENT 375 Jackson Street, Suite 220 Saint Paul, MN 55101-1806 SUMMARY ABATEMENT ORDER

Yog hais tias koj tsis to taub tsab ntawv no, hu rau tus txhais lus ntawm (651) 266-8989. Nws yuav pab dawb xwb. Si necessita un traductor, por favor llamanos al (651)266-8989. No costo.

OCCUPANT 150 FAIRVIEW AVE N ST PAUL MN 55104-6027

As owner or person(s) responsible for : 150 FAIRVIEW AVE N you are hereby ordered to eliminate all nuisance conditions which are in violation of Chapter 45 of Saint Paul Legislative Code.

1. SPLC 105 BOULEVARD PLANTING: Cut/trim or remove and properly dispose of any plantings in violation of Chapter 105. (Additional requirements in Chapter 45)

1) Plantings must be maintained in such a way that there is no overhang or encroachment onto the sidewalk, curb or street area.

- 2) Plantings may not exceed thirty-six (36) inches in height.
- 3) Plantings within thirty (30) feet of any intersection may not exceed eighteen (18) inches.
- 4) Plantings within five (5) feet of any alley or driveway may not exceed eighteen (18) inches.

5) Plantings within ten (10) feet of street sections that do not have parking lanes may not exceed eighteen (18) inches.

6) Plantings within ten (10) feet of street sections where rush hour or 24 hour no parking restrictions apply may not exceed eighteen (18) inches.

PLEASE CUT AND REMOVE ALL NON-COMPLIANT BOULEVARD PLANTINGS ON THE FRONT AND SIDE OF THE PROPERTY TO A HEIGHT THAT COMPLIES WITH THE CITY CODE . THANK YOU. Comply before September 24, 2020

If you do not correct the nuisance or file an appeal before September 24, 2020, the City will correct the nuisance and charge all costs, including boarding costs, against the property as a special assessment to be collected in the same way as property taxes.

<u>Charges</u>: If the City corrects the nuisance, the charges will include the cost of correction, inspection, travel time, equipments, etc. The rate will be approximately \$260 per hour plus expensed for abatement.

You must maintain the premises in a clean condition and provide proper and adequate refuse storage at all times FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY RESULT IN A CRIMINAL CITATION

Issued by: Richard Kedrowski Badge: 320 Phone Number: 651-266-9141 If you have any questions about this order, the requirements or the deadline, you should contact the Inspector listed above, Monday through Friday.

Also Sent To:

Scott J Koke/Leslie A Skelly 30 Wexford Heights Dr New Brighton MN 55112-3151

Scott Koke 30 Wexford Heights Drive New Brighton, MN 55112

<u>APPEALS:</u> You may appeal this order and obtain a hearing before the City Council by completing an appeal application with the City Clerk before the appeal deadline noted above or seven (7) days after the date mailed, which ever comes first. <u>No</u> appeals may be filed after that date. You may obtain an appeal application from the City Clerk's Office, Room 310 in City Hall, 15 W Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102. The telephone number is (651) 266-8688. You must submit a copy of this Summary Abatement Notice with your appeal application.

<u>*WARNING</u> Code inspection and enforcement trips cost the taxpayers money. If the violations are not corrected within the time period required in this notice, the city's costs in conducting a reinspection after the due date for compliance will be collected from the owner rather than being paid by the taxpayers of the city. If additional new violations are discovered within the next following 12 months, the city's costs in conducting additional inspections at this same location within said 12 months will be collected from the owner rather than being paid by the taxpayers of the city. Any such future costs will be collected by assessment against the real property and are in addition to any other fines or assessments which may be levied against you and your property.



CITY OF SAINT PAUL DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND INSPECTIONS DIVISION OF CODE ENFORCEMENT 375 Jackson Street, Suite 220 Saint Paul, MN 55101-1806 SUMMARY ABATEMENT ORDER

Yog hais tias koj tsis to taub tsab ntawv no, hu rau tus txhais lus ntawm (651) 266-8989. Nws yuav pab dawb xwb. Si necessita un traductor, por favor llamanos al (651)266-8989. No costo.

SCOTT J KOKE 30 WEXFORD HEIGHTS DR NEW BRIGHTON MN 55112-3151

As owner or person(s) responsible for : 150 FAIRVIEW AVE N you are hereby ordered to eliminate all nuisance conditions which are in violation of Chapter 45 of Saint Paul Legislative Code.

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