



**ANDERSON LAW GROUP PLLC
1010 DALE ST. N., ST. PAUL, MN 55117**

Ms. Marcia Moermond
Legislative Hearing Officer
City Council Legislative Hearings
15 W. Kellogg Blvd - Suite 310
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: 1904 Princeton Street, St. Paul, MN 55105
Mary and John Kattar
April 1, 2020 Hearing Regarding Order to Abate (Agenda Item 37)
REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE

March 23, 2020

Ms. Moermond.

Our law firm represents Mary and John Kattar in the above entitled matter regarding he Kattar's property at 1904 Princeton Street. The action appears as item 37 on the City Council 3:30 Agenda defined as:

Ordering the rehabilitation or razing and removal of the structures at 1904 PRINCETON AVENUE within fifteen (15) days after the December 18, 2019 City Council public hearing. (Public hearing continued from December 18)

The matter is a based on a letter the Kattars received from your office dated February 28, 2020. The letter stated:

At the Legislative Hearing on February 25, 2020 regarding the above-referenced matter, the Legislative Hearing Officer, Marcia Moermond, recommended granting an extension to March 3, 2020 **to have a signed contract with a clean-out company, stipulating the work will be completed no later than March 30, 2020.** If this condition is not met the **Legislative Hearing officer will not recommend continuing the matter and will recommend the property is removed within 15 days with no option for repair.** (emphasis added).

The City Council Public Hearing will be on April 1, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 300 City Hall. If the condition is met, she will ask the City Council to continue the matter for further discussion and additional conditions to be met.

Since receiving the letter, the Kattars have made some progress cleaning out the house by themselves, but the house is not empty by any means. The Kattars have also received bids for cleaning and a bid from the

Minnesota Homes Guys for immediate sale of the house “as is” for \$160,000.00. However, the Kattars will not have a signed contract by March 30, 2020 as mandated above. I realize this particular matter has been open for several years and that a condemnation and order to vacate was issued in April 7, 2007. The situation today, however, is complicated beyond my client’s battle with hoarder disorder.

As you know, COVID-19 is an unprecedented global pandemic, projected to infect up to 80 percent of the population of Minnesota. The Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Anthony Fauci, M.D., informed the public that this pandemic is likely to last well into 2021. The entire State of Minnesota is under Governor issued emergency orders severely restricting business and personal interactions. As a result, since my involvement with the matter, I have not made the progress I had hoped to accomplish toward getting my clients compliant with the February 28, 2020 Letter. Although Mary Kattar has started the process of diagnosing and treating issues underlying her hoarder disorder to help her make decisions in the process, the sessions were suspended mid-March pending the outcome of the COVID-19. I have also been unable to confirm the bids made prior to the COVID-19 crisis.

Based on the above, I am requesting that:

- The hearing scheduled for April 1, 2020 be continued until June 2020 and that no decisions be made to raze or remove of the house on the property.
- The March 30, 2020 date requiring a signed contract be extended to the end of May 2020.

Finally, the idea of conducting a “public hearing” on the phone raises procedural issues. At this point, my preliminary research suggests such a process would deny the public a “reasonable opportunity to be heard.”

Thank you.



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cc: Mary and John Kattar
Rachel Tierney