



1968 BERKELEY AVENUE
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**PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS
INCORPORATED**

November 6, 2020

Brian Karpen, City of Saint Paul Structural Engineer
Steve Ubl, Building Official, City of St. Paul
310 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55102-1615

Project: 1025 Selby Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55104
PEC #5645

Dear Messrs. Karpen and Ubl:

You addressed communication to Mr. Dennis Gudim and to myself regarding additional information pertaining to the property at 1025 Selby Ave., St. Paul, MN. The request was made by Joanna Zimny, Executive Legislative Assistant. The letter from the City states the Building Official and the Structural Engineer request additional information. That is most interesting because the City Building Inspection Department inspected the structural work at 1025 Selby Ave. at the time this work was performed and have definitive records as to where the footings for the 1025 building were installed. When you have this information on file, why are you now asking for definitive information at this time?

Anticipating your questions outlined in your letter, I returned to the property and hand-dug immediately to the rear of the 1025 structure to find the footing information. A test hole was excavated immediately next to the foundation wall. I encountered 7 courses of concrete block with full cement mortar head and bed joints, at which point I discontinued excavation work. The lowest floor of the 1025 building was at approximately the same elevation as the existing exterior grade. The exterior walls of the 1025 building were found to be in good condition with no indication of structural distress.

The soils encountered at the exterior test pit consisted of both brown and black silty soils in a light condition with an indicated angle of repose of 30. Being on the north side of the structure, the ground cover consisted of thick weeds and moss with no indication of erosion and no grass – all of the slope in a very stable condition. My excavation to a point of 7 courses below exterior grade took me 3.5 hours at the site. The exterior grade

at the 1025 wall was about 49" above the grass at the neighbor structure at a point approximately 6' north of the 1025 foundation wall. Along the rear wall of the 1025 structure, there is presently no wall loading from earth materials, either inward or outward.

I am confused as to what gives you the authority wherein you need to be given all this information by the "close of business day, November 9, 2020". Both of you gentlemen work for me. I am telling you that the 1025 building was probably constructed 3' away from the property line, and not 2' away from the property line, because it was determined by some intelligent person that one should stay away from the residential garages so as not to interfere with those illegal foundations and the common foundation walls and retaining walls which existed as common walls along the rear property lines.

I cannot put words in Mr. Gudim's mouth, but it does appear to me that he is trying to be a good neighbor to the Dayton property owners. At this point, we will have to see if Mr. Gudim pays a certain additional invoice to me, at which point we will all have to see if I am as charitable as Mr. Gudim has apparently been so far. I will certainly review all of our work performance to date.

Respectfully,
Professional Engineering Consultants, Inc.



Brian R. Dobie, P.E.
President

I hereby certify that this plan, specification, or report was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and that I am a duly Registered Professional Engineer under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

Brian R. Dobie, P.E. 

Date 11-10-20 Reg. No. 9798