

November 30, 2020

Saint Paul City Council
Legislative Hearing Officer of the City Council
15 West Kellogg Boulevard, Suite 330
Saint Paul, MN 55102
RE: 1313 Seminary Ave

Dear sir or madam:

Thank you for hearing me today. My name is Lisa Allred and my property is located at 1313 Seminary Ave, St Paul, MN 55104. I wish to appeal this summary abatement order and contest the need for this hearing as I was not given a chance to be compliant to the order. I also do not believe procedures were followed by the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) according to DSI's own website.

I checked on my property on October 7, 2020 and found a notice secured to the front door that advised the property was subject to demolition. This was the only notice I received. Nothing was received from DSI ordering corrections to the property with notice for possible penalties for non-compliance. This is their procedure according to their own website. This was not done. DSI's website states after non-compliance of the first order, they will then issue a citation or will perform a summary abatement of the nuisance. Again, I was not given a correction order. The summary abatement was the first order received.

The summary abatement order was received in the mail and included my 4 expired code compliance lists only. No other issues were listed on this abatement order. This implies nothing had changed with the property nor were there any immediate problems that needed to be addressed or they would have been listed on the abatement order. The expired code compliance lists were the only things included with a deadline to comply by November 5, 2020.

I responded verbally to Joe Yannarely on October 19, 2020 weeks before the deadline and advised everything listed on the abatement order was already completed and I would like someone to come out to inspect so I could get a certificate of occupancy. I explained the circumstances to DSI and Joe discovered while on the phone with me that the plumbing list was indeed shown as completed and was actually signed off on according to their records and therefore should not have been included.

I also explained how we were ready to sign off on everything and then hit a snag with the electricity in the garage. The garage electrical box by the door had already been inspected with just a blank needed. The inspection to the garage was impossible as my mothers estate filled the garage from wall to ceiling to wall.

I told Joe that with the last code compliance the DSI electrical inspector made an agreement with the electrician that they would exclude the garage if all the electricity was completely severed to the garage. After much consideration, I agreed to this even though my electrician explained I would incur much greater expenses later. The electrician was to call and set up an appointment to complete the work.

I explained to Joe how the DSI mechanical inspector advised she received the paperwork, everything was in order and she would just need to turn on the central air unit to make sure it works which it does.

And lastly, I explained a building permit was pulled, I am pre-Bostrom and the building list was also completed.

I explained how I was ready to set the appointment for the building and the mechanical lists to be signed off on and then I got a call from the electrician. I explained he advised the deal was off and the DSI inspector now wanted to inspect the outlets.

I explained to Mr Yannarely that it took a considerable amount of time to go through my mothers belongings and my code compliance expired before I could clear the garage outlets and get everything signed off on.

Then COVID 19 hit and I believed that inspections were not being done so I didn't contact DSI in the spring as I had planned. I explained all this in this October 19, 2020 phone call and again asked for an inspection and certificate of occupancy. I was told there was nothing DSI could do but there would be a court date set up and he would see if he could find the date for me to give me a heads up

I was given the court date of December 8th that day October 19, 2020. This was over 2 weeks BEFORE the deadline. According to DSI's rules, a court date would not be set up until the day after non-compliance or November 6, 2020. This did not happen. This court date was set up on or before October 19, 2020. This does not allow for the completion of the abatement order.

This abatement order was also incorrect as DSI was aware or most certainly should have been aware that 3 of the 4 lists were complete. The plumbing list was actually signed off on according to DSI's records but was included anyway.

The abatement order was issued without regard to its accuracy as no inspection was going to be performed anyway before the November 5th date. This is shown by this court date being set up on or before October 19, 2020.

After re-reading the summary abatement order, I decided to respond to this order in writing before the November 5, 2020 deadline as that is what the order told me to do. This abatement order contained no information except for the expired code compliance lists. There were no additional hazards listed implying there was no change in circumstance. There was no additional information added to warrant any escalation. Nothing was listed except for the expired code compliance lists.

I sent a fax to DSI advising all was complete and a lock box was installed at the property for immediate inspection. I received no response and there was no action taken by DSI acknowledging my compliance. No one from DSI came to the property. These actions also show that compliance was not an option.

On November 6, a notice dated that day was stuck in the property's mailbox advising my public hearing/court date was scheduled for December 8, 2020. DSI's website advises the court date would be set up after failure to complete the abatement order. This notice of the court date was issued at least 19 days (from October 19 or before) after the actual court date was set up and one day after the deadline making it look like the court date was set up because I did not comply. I believe I did comply with the summary abatement order as stated.

I purchased a code compliance over 30 days ago and was hoping to have new code compliance lists showing the court that all previous repairs were completed. As of today, no new lists have been sent. These are the reasons I am asking for this hearing to be canceled, this situation to be de-escalated and this abatement order dismissed.

Please keep in mind that if new lists are required and received for the house, I would complete the repairs quickly. I do not need the court to insure its completion nor help from anyone to pay for these repairs as I have the funds available. I would then also be able to secure the certificate of occupancy as soon as possible maybe even this year so I can finally go home to stay. My immediate contact information is listed below. I hope to hear from you soon. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Allred
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phone 651-424-8776