



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
310 CITY HALL  
15 WEST KELLOGG BOULEVARD  
SAINT PAUL, MN 55102-1615  
Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer  
EMAIL: [legislativehearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:legislativehearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us)  
PHONE: (651) 266-8585 FAX: (651) 266-8574

September 30, 2021

Thomas Semple  
1380 Desoto Street  
Saint Paul MN 55130-3555

VIA US MAIL

Re: Water Appeal for Property at 1380 DESOTO STREET

Dear Mr. Semple:

At the Legislative Hearing on August 24, 2021, you appealed the \$1,000 fine for illegal operation of a hydrant, per Saint Paul Legislative Code Chapter 90, Section 8 regarding Illegal Use of Hydrants:

*Except for use by personnel of the fire department and water utility, hydrants may only be used by permit issued by the utility, and all water taken from a hydrant must be metered. Anyone found using water from a hydrant without having first obtained a proper permit shall be subject to the following:*

- 1. A one thousand dollar (\$1,000) fine.*
- 2. Water utility will confiscate any and all hydrant nozzle adaptors and appurtenances and such confiscated adaptors and appurtenances will become the property of the water utility.*

*This section shall also apply to unmetered private hydrants.*

The fine was issued July 7, 2021 in a letter detailing the findings of Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) staff. You did not dispute the facts leading to the issuance of the fine. Your appeal was to have the fine reduced, in consideration of your current financial circumstances, the impact of Covid-19 on your job situation, and the circumstances surrounding your accessing the hydrant – namely to provide water for the neighborhood children to play in. You indicated in the hearing that prior to accessing the hydrant you were aware that such access is a violation of local codes. When requested by SPRWS at the scene, you turned over 2 of the 3 pieces of equipment you used to access water from the hydrant. The third item, an adaptor, was turned over to SPRWS this week.

Given that there is no dispute of the facts of this case, I am recommending the SPRWS Board deny your appeal for a reduction in the \$1,000 fine level. **However**, I am also recommending that \$250, plus the cost of the water be levied at this time, allowing SPRWS to establish a payment plan. The



\$750 remaining fine should be stayed. If there are *no* further violations within the next 5 years, the \$750 would be forgiven.

Should you wish to appeal this matter further, it will be scheduled for consideration by the SPRWS Board of Commissioners on **October 12, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 330 City Hall**. Please contact Mai Vang at 651-266-8563 or [mai.vang@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:mai.vang@ci.stpaul.mn.us) if you plan on attending this meeting.

Sincerely,

*Marcia Moermond*

Marcia Moermond  
Legislative Hearing Officer

c: Patrick Shea, SPRWS  
Dolly Ludden, SPRWS Business Manager  
Derek Olson, Senior Customer Service Representative