



City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Minutes - Final

Legislative Hearings

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer
Mai Vang, Hearing Coordinator
Joanna Zimny, Executive Assistant
legislativehearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us
651-266-8585

Friday, November 18, 2022

9:00 AM

Room 330 City Hall & Court House

9:00 a.m. Hearings

Orders To Vacate - Fire Certificate of Occupancy

- 1 [RLH VO 22-33](#) Appeal of Tiffany Lee to a Correction Notice-ReInspection Complaint (which includes vacate order) at 955 ALBEMARLE STREET.

Sponsors: Balenger

Deny the appeal, noting is now in compliance

Tiffany Lee, tenant, appeared
Leanna Shaff, DSI Fire Inspection Supervisor

Moermond: There was a three day lay over so that we could figure out viable alternatives between getting back to the house and getting the vacate order lifted, or hopefully getting into the new address. Ms. Shaff, do you have some inspection results?

Shaff: On 955 Albemarle, I received an email from property manager Carolyn Brown yesterday afternoon. She stated that it was all cleaned up. Inspector Toeller met Carolyn and Ms. Lee at the property. It wasn't quite done but they were able to finish it pretty quickly. There were some puddles on the floor from the cleaning. We lifted the condemnation.

Moermond: So, it's cleaned and sanitized, and the drain coverage replaced?

Shaff: I understand that the drain coverage is in place.

Moermond: But that isn't enough to condemn?

Shaff: Correct, I told Ms. Lee and everybody they can stay at the house.

Lee: I have some concerns still.

Moermond: Let's talk about some of those first. We have the immediate hazard taken care of, but you will be moving in a few weeks to the new place. You have a lot of possessions that are "soft" that absorbed in the smell. You will have some deep cleaning issues. Can you tell me a little bit about that, and if you had a conversation

with Lauren about getting some assistance from the Saint Paul Foundation?

Lee: I talked to her after Tuesday's hearing. We did the paperwork and she said she would get back to me in 2-3 days. Lauren mentioned that before she can issue the money, she has to see a money order for the difference, which is \$575. I told her I can do that. I know I am going to be moving out of the house, but the place is still rentable. There is an issue with the pipe. It is cracked. One of the workers put a camera down there and saw the crack. He said it's not the city's, problem but more of the owner's problem.

Moermond: Do you happen to have the company name?

Lee: There were so many companies coming in and out. I wouldn't know what to tell you. They mentioned there was a crack in the main line and the cost to repair it would be around \$10,000. They also mentioned that if the pipe is not replaced then every month you will be having the same problem.

Moermond: When a pipe is cracked, it is almost never caused by the user of the home. The fact that things age it is not a particular person's fault. Pipes need a periodic replacement because after several decades of use. There are some kinds of fixes that would be less than \$10,000. There are programs that can help homeowners with these situations. I don't know if you need to be a homeowner or home occupant to qualify for some of the City's programs, but they will help finance the replacement of the sewer line between the city line and the house. We can send Carolyn Brown some information in fixing the sewer line. Tell me about more about the other issues.

Lee: I have not heard back from my new landlord. My Section 8 has not gotten back to me. The 1st of December is around the corner.

Moermond: What are you looking to hear from your Section 8 worker?

Lee: When can I be moving or when is the other reinspection going to happen. I called her last Friday, and she has not reached out. I also reached out to the new landlord if it was possible for me to move in early, but she has not called me back.

Shaff: Do you know where the offices of Quality Residences are located? You should stop by.

Lee: Yes, however, Kelly is usually not in and everybody else doesn't seem to know too much.

Shaff: What else can we do?

Moermond: We have a couple numbers, but it's Friday. Next week is Thanksgiving week and people are out of town. We have your phone number, and we can call PHA and see if they can get an inspector out there sooner. We have the same experience getting a hold of your worker. The other people we try to reach were out of the office earlier last week. We can make a couple calls and see if we can get some response. I am glad things are working out with Lauren. Do you have access to organizations that can help you replace some of the items, that need replacement?

Lee: No.

Moermond: This is the brochure for House Calls, which is the program Lauren runs. It

has a list of organizations that can help you. This may be of assistance to you. You should give them a call.

Shaff: I am a bit more worried on the stuff that can't get clean. Have mice have not gotten inside the boxes?

Lee: They have been climbing on top of them.

Moermond: There is a page in here about clothing and furniture. I know Bridging Inc can help with this. Ask Lauren for the referral. She can help you with that.

Moermond: The other thing I would say is contact the VLN (Volunteer Lawyer Network). There is a number in here for Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services. I am guessing you talked to them. Your household income is likely just above poverty line, but they partner with the VLN which don't charge. They are attorneys that do work pro-bono and they may be available to provide some assistance in recouping some of your loss. This would mean that you would need some documentation.

Lee: I have the documents.

Moermond: Do you have any other thoughts, Ms. Shaff?

Shaff: No. Lauren is a great contact.

Moermond: Lauren works with people with different situations. She works with different companies that help with organizing and cleaning. Maybe that type of company can help you with your moving.

Shaff: I would lean on Lauren.

Moermond: I will see if I can reach out to PHA and see what they say.

Shaff: You have my number.

Referred to the City Council due back on 12/7/2022