

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 Jean Birkholz, Hearing Secretary legislativehearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us 651-266-8560

Tuesday, February 15, 2011			9:00 AM	Room 330 City Hall & Court House
2	ALH 11-99	Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 149 DELOS STREET EAST for Project #: J1103B, Assessment #: 8008 in Ward 2		
		Sponsors:	Thune	
		Attachments:	Summary Abatement	
		No one appea	red. Approve the assessment.	
		Referred Unde	er Master Resolution	
3	ALH 11-122	Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 1104 Magnolia Ave E for Project #: VB1104 Assessment #: 118003 in Ward #6		
		Sponsors:	Bostrom	
		No one appea	red. Delete the assessment.	
		Referred Unde	er Master Resolution (Delete)	
4	<u>ALH 11-194</u>	Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 1205 REANEY AVENUE for Project #: J1104B, Assessment #: 118026 in Ward [#]		
		Sponsors:	Lantry	
		Attachments:	1205 Reaney Ave invoice 10.8.	<u>10.txt</u>
		No one appea	red. Approve the assessment.	
		Referred Unde	er Master Resolution	
5	ALH 11-189		ecial Tax Assessment for 785 H J1105G, Assessment #: 118013	
		Sponsors:	Bostrom	
		Attachments:	785 Hawthorne Ave E. Hauler.	<u>000</u>
		Approve assessment.		
		Tou Xiong appeared.		
		rou Along app	veareu.	

Inspector Essling reported that 785 Hawthorne Avenue East is for weekly refuse removal provided by the City. The Order was mailed September 22, 2010 with a compliance date of September 27, 2010. There are fifteen (15) weeks of garbage service on file (September 30, 2010 - January 5, 2011). This assessment is for one 2-week period of those fifteen (15) weeks for a total of \$225. The Notice was mailed the owner and occupant at their correct addresses.

Ms. Vang asked Mr. Xiong if he had a trash hauler for this address. Mr. Xiong replied that he currently is out of a job so he stopped the garbage collection service. There hasn't been any garbage to collect so why is the City charging him. Inspector Seeley replied that there had been a complaint and there was a huge amount of garbage near the garage, so she sent the Order in. Mr. Xiong said that Waste Management had been coming. Ms. Seeley said that there was never a container there when she checked. Mr. Essling noted that Waste Management cancelled service because of nonpayment. Ms. Seeley noted that everyone must have a garbage hauler. If not, the City will pick up and also charge. The City only goes out for three (3) months at a time and provides a container. Ms. Seeley noted that she had been out there two (2) weeks ago; still no visible trash container. Mr. Xiong stated that now he has contracted with Coolidge Garbage Hauling. Mr. Essling stated that perhaps three (3) or more assessments will be coming, each for \$225.

Ms. Vang will recommend approving the assessment.

Mr. Xiong will probably attend the City Council Public Hearing on March 2, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Referred Under Master Resolution (approve)

6 <u>ALH 11-190</u>

Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 796 CONCORDIA AVENUE for Project #: J1105G, Assessment #: 118013 in Ward 1

Sponsors: Carter III

Attachments: 796 Concordia Ave SA hauler 7.26.10.DOC

LO for two weeks to March 1, 2011.

Ryan Gandrud, First Commercial Bank appeared.

Inspector Essling reported that 796 Concordia is regarding an assessment for weekly refuse removal provided by the City. The Notice was mailed July 26, 2010 with a compliance date of July 30, 2010. It was re-inspected on August 2, 2010 and found to be non-compliant. A Work Order was sent to Parks and the City provided weedly refuse removal at this property from August 6, 2010 through November 3, 2010 (14 weeks of garbage removal). First Commercial has appeared previously regarding assessments for garbage removal. This assessment of \$225 is for two (2) weeks of refuse removal.

Mr. Gandrud asked when did the City notify Commercial Bank. Mr. Essling responded that the Bank was not notified; the previous owner, What's It Enterprises, was notified. As soon as the redemption period ended and the Bank took control of the property, then the City immediately stopped their garbage service. Mr. Gandrud asked why Commercial Bank is responsible for paying the assessment. Mr. Essling replied that the assessments go with the property and the City notified the owner at the time that the Notice was issued (July 26, 2010). The City is required to send the Notice to the owner listed with Ramsey County Tax Records. The City did take some steps to identify the lender through the tenants but were unsuccessful. Mr. Gandrud

noted that the redemption date was September 25, 2010. Mr. Essling thought that Ms. Moermond, in a previous Legislative Hearing, had recommended deleting the assessments after the redemption period, but he needs to check on that.

Mai Vang reviewed the LH files and reported that Ms. Moermond had, at the last Legislative Hearing, recommended approving the first three (3) assessments and deleting the third assessment, which was \$540 plus the \$458 for removing mattresses on 10-18-10. The first three (3) were: 1) \$225; 2) \$425; 3) \$525 for a total of \$1.175.

Mr. Essling noted that he wouldn't feel comfortable recommending deleting the assessments. Will need to talk with Ms. Moermond to see which assessments she would have recommended deleting before and see which ones are left. We could recommend deleting any assessments after the redemption period. Mr. Gandrud asked the amount of the total assessments. Mr. Essling replied that it is close to \$2,000 but Ms. Moermond had recommended after the redemption period but he thinks Ms. Moermond had recommended deleting some of them. DSI would recommend deleting the assessments after the redemption period but he thinks Ms. Moermond may have already done that.

Ms. Vang will recommend laying this matter over to March 1, 2011. Ms. Moermond may call, email or write.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 3/1/2011

7 ALH 11-193 Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 590 COOK AVENUE EAST for Project #: J1104B, Assessment #: 118026 in Ward 6

Sponsors: Bostrom

Attachments: 590 cook ave e. Invoice.txt

No one appeared. Approve the assessment.

Referred Under Master Resolution

Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 577 FRONT AVENUE for Project #: VB1103, Assessment #: 8004 in Ward 5

Sponsors: Helgen

Delete assessment.

Referred Under Master Resolution (Delete)

9 ALH 11-235 Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 81 JESSAMINE AVENUE EAST for Project #: J1104B, Assessment #: 118026 in Ward 5

<u>Sponsors:</u> Helgen

Attachments: 81 Jessamine Boarding invoice.pdf

No one appeared. Delete the assessment per DSI.

Referred Under Master Resolution (Delete per DSI)

10 ALH 11-238

Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 138 KING ST W for Project #:

J1108A, Assessment #: 118015 in Ward 2

Sponsors: Thune

Attachments: 138 King St W. SA.DOC

No one appeared. Approve the assessment.

Referred Under Master Resolution (was approved on 2/16/11 Public Hearing)

11 ALH 11-253

Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 275 WESTERN AVENUE NORTH for Project #: J1104B, Assessment #: 118026 in Ward 6

Sponsors: Bostrom

Delete the assessment per DSI.

Francis Ellis and Ms. Bueve appeared.

Inspector Essling reported that 275 Western is for an Emergency Boarding requested by the Fire Department. Ms. Ellis interjected that a Boarding was never done. Mr. Essling said that DSI is recommending that the assessment be deleted. This property has approximately 35 addresses and DSI does not exactly know at which address the Boarding was done. The cost is 9.95.

Ms. Vang will recommend deleting the assessment.

Referred Under Master Resolution (Delete per DSI)

12 ALH 11-254

Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 513-515 PORTLAND AVENUE for Project #: CRT1103, Assessment #: 118012 in Ward 1

Sponsors: Carter III

Attachments: 513-515 Portland Ave 1st.pdf

513-515 Portland Ave Final.pdf

513-515 Portland Ave People Screen.doc 513-515 Portland Ave Prior CO Payment.doc

513-515 Portland Ave Billing Paid by Assessment.doc

No one appeared. Approve the assessment.

2/22/11--PO called, missed hearing, wants to reschedule. Rescheduled to March 1, 2011 LH.

Rescheduled Legislative Hearings on 3/1/2011 (CPH 3/2/2011)

13 <u>ALH 11-255</u>

Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 1178 MATILDA STREET for Project #: CRT1103, Assessment #: 118012 in Ward 5

<u>Sponsors:</u> Helgen

<u>Attachments:</u> <u>Assessment Deletion.rtf</u>

No one appeared. Delete assessment per DSI.

Referred Under Master Resolution (Delete per DSI)

14 ALH 11-268

Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 390 SHERBURNE AVENUE for Project #: VB1104, Assessment #: 8009 in Ward 1

Sponsors: Carter III

Waive VB fee for 90 days and grant an extension to June 1, 2011 to pull demo permit.

J. Refugio Martinez appeared. Israel Bravo, contractor, interpreting for Mr. Martinez.

Inspector Yannarelly reported that this is a Vacant Building fee for 390 Sherburne Avenue. It has been a Category 2 Vacant Building since August 3, 2010. The fee is \$1,100 plus a service charge of \$135 for a total of \$1,235. This was referred to the Vacant Building Program due to a Revocation of the Certificate of Occupancy/Order to Vacate from the Fire Marshal's Office.

Mr. Bravo explained that this property was vandalized in 2009. Mr. Martinez call Mr. Bravo to secure the building. The City had turned off the water. After the building was secure, Mr. Martinez pulled two (2) permits to start renovation. In the process of renovation, the building was vandalized again. Mr. Martinez had wanted to move into the house; however, after assessing the damage and talking with City inspectors (Craig Johnson; Tom Tank), he decided to tear the place down. Next, he tried to pull a permit to demolish the house. At the same time, he got a Notice that this address was a Vacant Building. It is Mr. Bravo's understanding that when you have an on-going permit to work on a place, there is no need for a Vacant Building issue. They went down to the Department of Safety and Inspections and asked, "Why?" The people there said that there hadn't been anything done to the house. They said that Mr. Martinez couldn't pull the demo permit unless he had taken care of the Vacant Building fee. Mr. Martinez thought that this wasn't fair. He never got any Notice from Fire and he just wants to tear it down.

Mr. Yannarelly stated that he would recommend that the City give Mr. Martinez three (3) months to demo it and waive the Vacant Building fee. Mr. Bravo responded that Mr. Martinez wants to demo and put in a new foundation immediately after so, he would like a little more time.

Ms. Vang will recommend waiving the Vacant Building fee and granting an extension to June 1, 2011 to pull the demo permit.

Referred Under Master Resolution (waive VB fee; grant extension to June 1, 2011 to pull demo permit)

15 <u>ALH 11-269</u>

Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 587 COOK AVENUE EAST for Project #: VB1104, Assessment #: 8009 in Ward 6

Sponsors: Bostrom

No one appeared. Approve the assessment.

Referred Under Master Resolution

16 ALH 11-272

Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 881 BUSH AVENUE (aka 935 BUSH AVENUE) for Project #: VB1104, Assessment #: 8009 in Ward 6

Sponsors: Bostrom

Approve the assessment.

Chris Braun, 3M, appeared.

Inspector Yannarelly reported that this is a Vacant Building fee actually for 935 Bush, which is on the 881 Bush parcel. It is a commercial building. The file was opened on September 29, 2010. A permit has been pulled to demolish it. Mr. Braun interjected that the building has already been demoed; it came down in September 15, 2010. Mr. Yannarelly said that DSI has no problem prorating that VB fee. Mr. Braun stated that no one seems to know which building is at which address. He is trying to straighten out the confusion; he introduced a map of which buildings have already come down and which are still are still standing.

Mr. Yannarelly stated that there are four (4) addresses listed on this property. Mr. Braun added that there are actually twelve (12) attached buildings. There have been a lot of issues regarding permits on some of these buildings; the City doesn't even have records of some of these buildings being erected and only four (4) buildings are left. The plan is to demolish all of them; demolition for them will begin in May 2011. Mr. Yannarelly added that there is only one (1) Vacant Building fee for all of the buildings (parcel 881 Bush).

Ms. Vang will recommend approving the assessment.

Referred Under Master Resolution

17 <u>ALH 11-273</u>

Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 702 PREBLE STREET for Project #: VB1104, Assessment #: 8009 in Ward 6

Sponsors: Bostrom

No one appeared. Approve the assessment.

Referred Under Master Resolution

18 <u>ALH 11-274</u>

Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for **758 6th St. E** for Project #: VB1104, Assessment #: 8009in Ward 7

Sponsors: Lantry

Waive VB fee for 90 days.

Fr. John Cavin, Deacon, Orthodox Church of the Resurrection of Christ and Mr. Avgulov, appeared.

Inspector Yannarelly reported that 758 6th Street is a Category 2 Vacant Building; the file was opened on September 29, 2010. A Vacant Building fee of \$1,100 was assessed with a service charge or \$135 for a total of \$1,235. A Summary Abatement was sent out with no compliance. Two (2) Word Orders were done on the property on October 5, 2010 when the Vacant Building file was opened. A referral was received from Inspector Robinson in Code Enforcement that the property was vacant and had dilapidated siding, roof, soffits, fascia, paint, basement windows, rotting floors, etc. with tall grass and weeds throughout with garbage and rubbish. They plastered it with Vacant Building signs and sent out a Vacant Building Registration Notice to the ownership.

Fr. Cavin replied that they received a public hearing Notice (didn't have paperwork with). His boss, Priest John, tried to contact various people about this, including Ed Smith, Jeff Hawkins, left a message with Rich Singerhouse - trying to talk with him to

get a new inspection. We have had people living there. It was in the process of being fixed up. The property belongs to the church; is not a rental property, but a place for people who need a place to live. People were living there, off and on, during 2010. Mr. Yannarelly stated that if it is not owner occupied, it should have a Certificate of Occupancy from the Fire Department, which it currently doesn't have. If the building is being occupied, it is being occupied illegally. Fr. Cavin responded that no one has been living there since the Notice was posted on the front door. Fr. John questions why he didn't get any answers when he tried to contact people; and why he didn't get a meeting when he asked for that - he tried to get someone to come out while he was present.

Mr. Yannarelly explained that a Category 2 Vacant Building rating means that it has multiple deficiencies that need to be brought up to Code before it can be re-occupied. It means that a Code Compliance Inspection (\$426) is necessary to discover what all needs to be done and then all of those deficiencies need to be remedied in order for it to be occupied. Fr. Cavin said that he hadn't been told that the church was notified about deficiencies. Mr. Yannarelly stated that a Notice had been sent out to the church saying that enclosed is a Registered Vacant Building Form, please return it; and what needs to be done before it can be re-occupied. Fr. Cavin noted that it had been broken into since the Notice was placed on the front door. Mr. Yannarelly continued to explain that the City will send out four (4) inspectors, who will develop a list of things that need to be remedied. When those things are taken care of, the City will issue a Code Compliance Certificate, then, the church needs to get the Fire Marshal's approval and the house can again be legally occupied.

Mr. Avgulov asked if it were possible to get the VB fee removed; it's a monastic community without much money. Mr. Yannarelly responded that financial hardship is not something the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) takes into account; although, the church could take it to the City Council public hearing. The City Council has the authority to change the Odecision.

Ms. Vang asked if any of the work had been done. Fr. Cavin responded that it had been cleaned-up immediately.

Mr. Essling found that this house is in an historical district which means that any work done has to be approved by the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC); it appears to be the Henry Bueckel house. Any permit work will be automatically referred to HPC.

Mr. Yannarelly noted that Ms. Moermond may divide the Vacant Building fee in half if the Code Compliance Inspection can be done and deficiencies remedied within 90 days.

Ms. Vang will recommend waiving the Vacant Building fee for 90 days.

Referred Under Master Resolution (Waive VB fee for 90 days)

19 <u>ALH 11-275</u>

Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 40 MAGNOLIA AVENUE WEST for Project #: CRT1103, Assessment #118012 in Ward 5

Sponsors: Helgen

<u>Attachments:</u> <u>Assessment Deletion.rtf</u>

No one appeared. Approve the assessment.

Referred Under Master Resolution

20 ALH 11-282

Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 1266 FOURTH STREET EAST for Project #: J1105G, Assessment #: 118013 in Ward 7

Sponsors: Lantry

Attachments: 1266 Fourth St E-Assess Roll.pdf

Delete the assessment per DSI.

John Malencek, Chase Mortgage Bank

Inspector Essling reported that 1266 Fourth Street became a Registered Vacant Building on December 3, 2010. There would be no reason for the City to be providing garbage service at a Registered Vacant Building, so, the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) will recommend deletion of assessments for providing weekly refuse removal forward from December 1, 2010. Today's assessment totals \$225. He noted that he is seeing something odd in the record; there may be an error. He is not seeing any assessments for the month of November, 2010.

Mr. Malencek stated that the redemption period for this address ended in September 20, 2010. The house was occupied through December, 2010.

Mr. Essling stated that DSI recommends deleting the coming assessments for 12-3 through 12-20 for a total of \$575, as well.

Ms. Vang will recommend deleting the assessment. (Note: will recommend deleting J1106G and J1107G, future assessments, as well.)

Referred Under Master Resolution (delete)

21 ALH 11-284

Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for for Project #: 2044 REANEY AVENUE, Assessment #: VB1104 in Ward 7

Sponsors: Lantry

Attachments: 2044 Reaney Ave.VB1104.pdf

No one appeared. LO to March 1, 2011 LH (needs Spanish interpreter)

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 3/1/2011

22 <u>ALH 11-285</u>

Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 686 MINNEHAHA AVENUE WEST for Project #: VB1104, Assessment #: 118009 in Ward 1

Sponsors: Carter III

Attachments: 686 Minnehaha Ave W-VB1104.pdf

Delete per DSI.

Gary Blaske appeared.

Inspector Yannarelly reported that 686 Minnehaha Avenue West has been a Vacant Building since August 4, 2008. Mr. Blaske responded that he's been living there; he doesn't understand why it's called a Vacant Building. Mr. Yannarelly continued to

read notes from Matt Dornfeld, supervisor. "Early this morning (August 16, 2010), Inspector Kalis and I met with property owner, Bary Blaske, and there still is a lot of work to be done on this fire damaged house but we agreed to hold Mr. Blaske Vacant Building fees for 90 days while he works on renewing and finalizing any open/expired permits he pulled to repair the fire damage. Mr. Blaske has been assessed \$2,000 previously in Vacant Building fees thus far. This has been on-going for almost two (2) years now, due to financial problems and disability. This is an owner-occupied Category 1 Vacant Building file so I do not anticipate having to re-schedule a public hearing that had been postponed for at least 90 days. We will re-check in 30 days to verify progress."

Mr. Yannarelly said that this file was closed on January 25, 2011; DSI wouldn't have any problems dismissing the VB fees.

Mr. Blaske asked if it was off the Vacant Building list. Mr. Yannarelly said that it was.

Ms. Vang will recommend deleting the assessment.

Referred Under Master Resolution (delete per DSI)

ALH 11-283

Appeal of Special Tax Assessment for 782 FRANK STREET for Project #: J1105G, Assessment #: 118013 in Ward 7

Sponsors: Lantry

Attachments: 872 Frank St. Work Orders.pdf

872 Frank St.J1105G.pdf

Approve the assessment.

Kristine Wolfe-Weeks appeared.

Ms. Mai Vang reported that this assessment Order was done September 2, 2010. Mr. Essling stated that it was inspected on September 1, 2010 and there was no evidence of garbage service.

Ms. Wolfe-Weeks stated that she had been in jail and there had been squatters in her house. Mr. Essling said that the City provided garbage from September 1, 2010 to December 1, 2010 (fourteen (14) weeks), so, this assessment would be for one 2-week period of that. Ms. Wolfe-Weeks responded that she hadn't been aware because her mail had been stolen and her house is in foreclosure. She now has a P.O. box, and she needs to walk away from the house. Mr. Essling stated that if Ms. Wolfe-Weeks walks away from the house, all of the assessments will be added onto the taxes. The lender will be responsible for them; they go with the property, not the individual.

Ms. Nhia Vang will recommend approval.

Referred Under Master Resolution

11:00 a.m. Hearings

Summary Abatement Orders

23 ALH 11-236 Appeal of Robert J. McCarthy to a Vehicle Abatement Order at 1356 JEFFERSON AVENUE.

Sponsors: Harris

Attachments: 1356 Jefferson.appeal.2-2-11.pdf

1356 Jefferson Ave. Vehicle Abatement 9-22-10.pdf

Deny appeal and grant extension to Friday, February 18, 2011.

Robert McCarthy and wife appeared.

Inspector Essling reported on this Vehicle Abatement Order. The original complaint came in on August 9, 2010: "Two non-working vehicles filled with junk on 1356 Jefferson Avenue property now has a pop-up trailer sitting on the boulevard. The van that is parked in the back yard is tagged incorrectly and hasn't moved in over two (2) years. The original inspection was done August 10, 2010. A Vehicle Abatement Order was issued and appealed. The Legislative Hearing Officer recommended to the City Council that an extension be granted until December 31, 2010 to move the vehicle out of the rear yard. The property was re-inspected on January 25, 2011and found to be non-compliant. The van is still sitting in the back yard. A Vehicle Abatement was issued and mailed on January 26, 2011 with a compliance date of February 2, 2011. On February 2, the white van had been removed but the brown Dodge remained in violation.

Mr. McCarthy responded that there were a few mis-statements in Mr. Essling's report. The original complaint read the same except Mr. Essling neglected to point out the fact that the vehicles that were there were: 1) a 1976 Cadillac, the Elegance, a classic car in perfect shape (no junk in it); and 2) a 1969 very rare Travco Camper Vehicle. One vehicle was moved in his presence on the day that he was there in the pouring rain; and he did not want to stay around to watch the other one start. It didn't start, however, because of a bad battery. At that time, his wife had just had her leg amputated and all of the basement contents was inside the garage. Mr. McCarthy appealed because Mr. Essling had told them that the only way they could deal with the brown car was to put it into the garage, which was a total fabrication. At the previous LH, they asked for an extension that had been granted. Mr. Essling, however, did not read the clause on the bottom of the Order which said that we had five (5) days to get the vehicle running and moved. Their appeal to having to get the vehicle running was basically denied and their appeal was approved ("you can't do both"). They went to City Council regarding the problem. In the meantime, they got the vehicle running and met all of the requirements, so, it no longer was an abandoned vehicle (City's definition). At the City Council public hearing, the hearing officer had all of the old information. Apparently, Mr. Essling had not informed her that he had been by and seen that the brown van was operating and had been moved. At City Council, Mr. McCarthy pointed out that the City can't order them to move the vehicle in the future when that wasn't an issue (it was either get the car moving within 5 days or move it). The City Council told the hearing officer to go check it out; and they agreed with Mr. McCarthy that the City couldn't cite him for something in the future. The City Council told the hearing officer to go to DSI and check it out. If, in fact, the car was running, to dismiss the case; otherwise, bring it back in two (2) weeks. They never heard from the City again and assumed that the case was dismissed.

Regarding the latest Abatement Order, Mr. Essling stated that regarding the brown Dodge, Mr. McCarthy is in violation of d and f: d) "appears undrivable and inoperative; and f) other violation: collector lacks screen. The following vehicles are in violation of Saint Paul Legislative Code Chapters 45 or 163." Mr. McCarthy finds nothing in Chapters 45 or 163 that deals with the screening of a collector vehicle. He said that under the law, the question of screening of a collector vehicle is in Section

126.2 of the Minnesota Statute Subsection 1E. And that law says that a person is to be notified and then he has twenty (20) days to solve the problem. In Subsection 1E, it says that the vehicle, operating or non-operating, should be screened from ordinarily public view by fence, shrubbery, rapidly growing trees or other appropriate means. When Mr. Essling showed up on February 3, 2011 and was taking pictures, Mr. McCarthy's daughter went out and asked him who he was and she asked to see some identification. He was extremely rude to her and almost refused to provide her with his identification. When Mr. McCarthy went out, Mr. Essling proceeded to yell at him and told him that the car had to be in the garage and there was no other rule, etc. So, Mr. McCarthy wants to know why he is here, since the previous Abatement Order had been dismissed by the City Council and there's been no other complaint. Why is he being singled out by Mr. Essling when he knows of at least 50 classic vehicles sitting uncovered or tarped in the city? Mr. McCarthy called Mr. Essling's supervisor and got all of the answers he had been seeking when he came to the first legislative hearing; i.e., a number of ways to screen his vehicle, most of which required a bunch of hoops to jump through and he didn't have time to do any of those before today's hearing. He made further inquiries and found that there is nothing in the law that says you cannot tarp a vehicle - that tarp is not an other appropriate means. Tarping seems to be the most popular way of parking classic vehicles around town. He found out from Steve that Section 162 subdivision 1E does not apply to any vehicle that has regular license plates on it. Currently, every vehicle parked on his driveway has regular license plates and is running. He sees no complaint here.

Ms. Nhia Vang asked DSI staff whether the City normally charges residents under the state statute. Mr. Essling replied, "Yes." The Order says that the vehicle lacks collector screening as required by the state statute. The state statute says that operable or inoperable, the vehicle may be stored in compliance with local government zoning and ordinances. Mr. McCarthy countered that in Mr. Essling's notification, he said that Mr. McCarthy was in violation of Saint Paul Legislative Codes 45 and 163. There is no mention, whatsoever, of collective vehicles in either one of those. Mr. Essling noted that the City statutes extend to the state statutes. Mr. Essling stated that a different inspector would be assigned to this.

Mr. Essling stated that the legislative hearing officer at the first LH was willing to give Mr. McCarthy an extension to demonstrate that the vehicle was operable and to clean-up the yard as long as he was willing to comply with other provisions of the ordinance, which included screening the vehicle as required in the state statute. Mr. McCarthy repeated that when he went to the City Council, they agreed that they had no power to add that provision when it wasn't a matter of issue in the first place. Mr. Essling noted that the new Order, dated January 26, 2011, is to address the inoperable vehicles and the improper screening. He stated that he would recommend that Mr. McCarthy have 21 days from January 26, 2011 to bring the vehicles into compliance. Mr. McCarthy asked why tarping of a vehicle is considered not appropriate. Mr. Essling responded that it is DSI's policy to not accept tarped vehicles. The citizens of Saint Paul have conveyed to their elected official that they don't want vehicles stored in residential areas. A vehicle is considered storage if it is not driven weekly.

Mr. Essling stated that since the vehicle is now in the garage, DSI will have a different inspector drive by to verify that and close the file by the end of the week.

Ms. Nhia Vang will recommend denying the appeal and granting an extension through Friday, February 18, 2011.

Referred Under Master Resolution (deny appeal and grant extension to Fri, Feb 18, 2011)

1:30 p.m. Hearings

Fire Certificates of Occupancy Correction Orders

24 ALH 10-479 Appeal of Hoang Dao to a Notice of Condemnation Unfit for Human

Habitation Order to Vacate at 360 and 362 FULLER AVENUE.

Sponsors: Carter III

Attachments: 360 Fuller.appeal.12-7-10.pdf

360-362 Fuller Ave.LH ltr.12-7-10.doc

The three units that have been completed may be occupied at this time. They will have to be vacated if the entire building is not brought into compliance by March 3, 2011.

On February 18, 2011 the Legislative Hearing Officer further reviewed the file and recommended the appellant must be in compliance by March 3, 2011 before occupancy of the entire building.

No one appeared as the property owner thought he did not have to come to a meeting until March 3.

Inspector Mike Urmann said this is a three story building which still has multiple violations including fire separation in the basement. He noted that the third unit has a separate entrance. All the work in three of the units has been completed but five units still need work. The deadline to complete the work is March 3, 2011 and a certificate of occupancy must be completed or the tenants will have to vacate. Some of the outside work can't be done at this time because of the weather.

At Mr. Urmann's suggestion, Nhia Vang, Deputy Legislative Hearing Officer, said the three units can be occupied at this time but they will have to be vacated if the entire building is not brought into compliance by March 3.

Referred Under Master Resolution (Appellant must be in compliance by March 3, 2011 for full occupancy).

25 ALH 11-178 Appeal of Peter Vu to a Fire Inspection Correction Notice at 605 GREENBRIER STREET.

Sponsors: Lantry

Attachments: 605 Greenbrier.appeal.1-25-11.pdf

Grant a 2 inch variance on the south bedroom windows measuring 22 inches high x 27.5 inches wide; Appeal denied and granted 120 days to replace at least one window in the north bedroom.

Inspector Leanna Shaff said this was a Fire Inspection Certificate of Occupancy conducted by Kelly Booker on January 20, 2011. The windows do not meet requirements in two bedrooms. The double-hung windows in the north bedroom measure 14 inches openable height x 27.5 inches openable width. The south bedroom window measures 22 inches openable height x 27.5 inches openable width. Peter Vu noted that the house is in Dayton's Bluff Historic District.

Mai Vang, Legislative Hearing Coordinator, reported that Ms. Moermond recommended granting a variance on the south bedroom windows.

Mr. Vu stated that each bedroom has two windows and one of the double hung windows can be removed and also can be opened to 18 in. Ms. Shaff said he should not have to take the window out for escape. Since this is an Historic Preservation area, people have installed crank-out windows which are acceptable. Mr. Vu said he will talk with HPC staff.

Referred Under Master Resolution

26 ALH 11-226

Appeal of Qi Jin Huang to a Correction Notice-Reinspection Complaint at 704 PARKWAY DRIVE.

Sponsors: Bostrom

Attachments: 704 Parkway.appeal.1-31-11.pdf

704 Parkway Dr. Huang Itr 2-15-11.doc

Appeal denied (no show). Called Appellant and he indicated he didn't received letter of the hearing. Rescheduled to March 1, 2011 LH.

Rescheduled to the Legislative Hearings on 3/1/2011

27 ALH 11-241

Appeal of Cheri Kappas to a Fire Inspection Correction Notice at 241 SEVENTH STREET EAST.

Sponsors: Thune

Attachments: 241 7th St E.Appeal.1-31-11.pdf

241 Seventh St E.Kappas ltr 2-15-11.doc 241 Seventh St E.Kappas ltr 3-1-11.doc

Laid over to March 1 for the appellant to provide supporting documentation on the door screen which was required by the Health Department; phone or e-mail Ms. Moermond within two weeks after consulting with a contractor concerning the hood and duct ventilation fire suppression system.

Inspector Leanna Shaff said this case was a Fire Inspection Certification of Occupancy conducted by Inspector Kris Skow on January 20, 2011. There is an issue with the back exit door which currently swings in and the requirement is that it swing out. The screen door does swing out (Item 1). There is also an issue with panic release hardware on all exit doors (Item 2)

Cheri Kappas, Appellant, said it was the Health Department that required they put a screen door on. At that time, the inner door swung out but it had to be changed when the screen was put on. She thinks the doors have been like that for 15 years. Ms. Shaff suggested she try to find records pertaining to this order from the Health Department.

Nhia Vang, Deputy Legislative Hearing Officer, recommended a two week layover in order for Ms. Kappas to provide supporting documentation on the door screen.

Regarding Items 5 and 6, Ms. Shaff said the inspector is requiring a hood and duct ventilation fire suppression system over the six-burner stove to remove grease laden vapors. Although the appellant indicates the stove is used mainly for heating sauces in double boilers, sauces and other re-heats are still carrying grease laden vapors. She said it looks like it was rearranged at one time. Ms. Kappas responded that

soups and sauces are generally frozen and she does not feel they are a grease issue. There is an exhaust vent which has never required cleaning as there has never been grease on it. Foods that are greasy are cooked on the grill in the bar area not in kitchen and she has a ventilation system for that.

Ms. Shaff recommended Ms. Kappas take the next couple of weeks to decide exactly what they will do with the layout of the kitchen. She suggested she talk to a contractor to determine what is needed. Ms. Kappas said it would be extremely expensive to make the changes and they would need more time than 120 days. Ms. Shaff responded that Ms. Kappas has not taken the steps to determine what is needed. She told her she can e-mail or call Ms. Moermond.

Laid over two weeks in order to consult with a contractor and Ms. Kappas was told to phone or e-mail Ms. Moermond who will determine if she has to come back for another hearing.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings on 3/1/2011

28 ALH 11-242

Appeal of Greg Running to a Fire Inspection Correction Notice at 1299 SIXTH STREET EAST.

Sponsors: Lantry

Attachments: 1299 6th St E.Appeal.2-3-11.pdf

1299 6th St E.Running Itr 2-15-11.doc

Appeal granted on upper floor bedroom ceiling height.

Inspector Leanna Shaff said this was a Fire Certificate of Occupancy inspection conducted on January 26, 2011by Inspector Wayne Spiering. The ceiling in the upper floor bedroom measures 14 ft. x 10 ft. 8 in. The ceiling slants on the sides and is flat in the middle with a height of 6'8" in an area that is more than 50 percent. The code requires a ceiling height of 7 ft. over one-half of the floor area. She said she would support this as it is only 4 inches short of the code requirement.

Nhia Vang, Deputy Legislative Hearing Officer, granted a variance. Variance on the windows was previously granted by Ms. Moermond.

Referred Under Master Resolution

29 ALH 11-245

Appeal of Nhia Chue and Nou Yang to a Fire Inspection Correction Notice at 2172 REANEY AVENUE.

Sponsors: Lantry

Attachments: 2172 Reaney.appeal.2-4-11.pdf

2172 Reaney Ave. Yang Itr 2-15-11.doc

Granted 7 inch variance on the openable height of the egress windows in the main floor southeast and southwest bedrooms; deny and grant extension to June 30, 2011for Items 5. 6 and 8.

Inspector Leanna Shaff said this was a Fire Certificate of Occupancy conducted by Inspector Wayne Spiering on January 27, 201. Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Office, previously granted a variance on the window portion.

The other issues include the garage exterior and replacing the damaged service and overhead garage doors (Items 5 and 6), and Item 8 to replace the deteriorated

concrete stoop at the north entrance. Mr. Yang said he will need additional time to complete the outside work.

Nhia Vang, Deputy Legislative Hearing Officer, granted the appellant until June 30, 2011 to complete the work.

Referred Under Master Resolution

30 ALH 11-246

Appeal of Susan Gilmer to a Fire Inspection Correction Notice at 443 and 447 FAIRVIEW AVENUE SOUTH.

Sponsors: Harris

Attachments: 443 & 447 Fairview.appeal.2-4-11.pdf

443-447 Fairview Ave S.Gilmer Itr 2-15-11.doc

Appeal granted on egress windows (Item 6). Measurements must be verified by inspector on February 23.

Inspector Leanna Shaff stated this was a Fire Certificate of Occupancy inspection conducted on January 26, 2011 by Inspector Rick Gavin. Two items were appealed: Item No. 6, the double-hung windows; the code requirement is that the windows open to a minimum of 24 in. high and 20 in. wide.

In Unit 447, the west bedroom window, measures 11 in. high x 27 in. wide and the east bedroom measures 15-1/2 in. high x 27 " wide.

In Unit 443, both the west and east bedroom windows measure 19-1/2 in. high x 27 in. wide and the east bedroom measures

Item 13, discontinuing the use of all multi-plug adapters, is also under appeal. Ms. Gilmer said the plug adapters have been removed.

With respect to Item No. 6, Ms. Gimer said in both the west and east bedrooms in 447, they now open to 19 inches. It was a problem with them being painted over. Ms. Shaff said if the inspector verifies that, it will be approved. There will be an inspection on February 23.

Laid over to March 1 Legislative Hearings (Laid over for Inspector to verify window measurements on Feb. 23, 2011).

31 ALH 11-252

Appeal of John and Dahrys Knetter to a Fire Inspection Correction Notice at 1023 WATSON AVENUE.

Sponsors: Thune

Attachments: 1023 Watson Ave.Appeal.2-7-11.pdf

1023 Watson Ave. Knetter Itr 3-1-11.doc

Appealed denied (no show). Appellant called to reschedule and didn't get a letter about the rescheduled date.

Rescheduled to March 1, 2011 on the handrail issue. Grant a 6.5-inch variance on the openable height of the egress window in the north bedroom.

Laid over to the Legislative Hearings on 3/1/2011

32 ALH 11-256

Appeal of Gary Nyquist to a Fire Inspection Correction Notice at 1698 ROSS AVENUE.

Sponsors: Lantry

Attachments: 1698 Ross Ave.Appeal.2-8-11.pdf

1698 Ross Ave. Nyquist Itr 2-15-11.doc

Grant a 3 inch variance on upstairs egress windows, northeast bedroom (Item 16); granted 90 days to correct upstairs bedroom egress window on southeast side (Item 17) and a permit must be pulled.

Inspector Leanna Shaff stated this was a Fire Inspection Certificate of Occupancy conducted on December 28, 2010 by Inspector James Thomas.

Two items were appealed, both being egress windows. For Item No. 16, the upper northeast side bedroom window, the inspector was unable to measure. Variance was granted.

Item No. 17, the bedroom on the southeast side, the window measured an openable height of 16 inches high and an openable width of 20 inches.

A re-inspection was done on January 10.

Ms. Shaff noted that the windows were installed by Gladstone Window and Door in 2007; however, she can't find a permit for the installation. If the windows had been installed under permit and the permit signed off, they would have been acceptable. However, an installation on the southeast side with such a small opening probably would not have been allowed.

Referred under Master Resolution

33 ALH 11-257 Appeal of Glen E. VanGuilder to a Fire Inspection Correction Notice at 1145 SUBURBAN AVENUE.

Sponsors: Lantry

Attachments: 1145 Suburban.appeal.2-8-11.pdf

1145 Suburban Ave. Van Guilder Itr 2-15-11.doc

1145 Suburban Ave-Lease Agrmt.pdf

Appeal denied (no show). Mr. Van Guilder called to reschedule his hearing; however, he indicated the room is not being used as a sleeping room. After consulting with Ms. Moermond on this, she recommended Mr. VanGuilder put in his lease agreement that the room cannot be used as a sleeping room.

On February 28, 2011, an Addendum to Rental Agreement was received via fax to our office between the property owner and tenant indicating that the basement rooms will not be used for sleeping rooms. Addendum attached to this file.

Referred Under Master Resolution

Window Variances: Hearing Required

Appeal of Window Concepts, on behalf of Donna Helminiak, to an Egress

Window Non-Compliance Determination at 1610 WILSON AVENUE.

Sponsors: Lantry

Attachments: 1610 Wilson.appeal.2-4-11.pdf

1610 Wilson Ave. Window Concept Itr 2-15-11.doc

Grant an 8 inch variance on the openable height of one double hung replacement egress bedroom window measuring 16 inches high x 27 inches wide.

Referred Under Master Resolution

2:30 p.m. Hearings

Vacant Building Registrations

35 ALH 11-28

Appeal of Benjamin Roberts to a Notice of Condemnation Unfit for Human Habitation Order to Vacate and Vacant Building Registration Notice and Fees at 575 DAYTON AVENUE.

Sponsors: Carter III

Attachments: 575 Dayton Avenue.appeal.12-28-10.pdf

575 Dayton Ave.LH Ltr 1-4-11.doc 575 Dayton Revocation.2-8-11.dot 575 Dayton Ave.Photos.2-8-11.pdf 575 Dayton Ave.LH Ltr 3-1-11.doc 575 Dayton Email 2-23-11.pdf 575 Dayton Email 2-24-11.pdf

Laid over one week for Ms. Moermond's review. Because there was not a hearing on February 22, the matter will be heard on March 1, 2011.

Inspector Leanna Shaff stated on January 4, 2011 Legislative Hearing Officer Marcia Moermond recommended a layover to February 15 to have everything done. Inspector Martin sent Ms. Moermond an e-mail on February 8 stating the property was condemned due to lack of water. Ben Roberts filed an appeal on the vacant building status and stated all the work was completed and the home was ready to be re-occupied. A final inspection was done on February 8 and Ms. Martin found the home was not ready for occupancy. The furnace has not been inspected, the dryer vent is incorrect and not vented, the owner is still painting and the entrance/exit to the building is a hazard, plus additional violations.

Benjamin Roberts, property owner, said this is an enormous job. He evicted the tenants and he was left with a lot of work. They left enough things to fill two large dumpsters and every wall had to be gone over in the seven rooms plus the big basement.

Ms. Shaff read from previous minutes stating that Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer, does not think this should be a Category 2 vacant building. A full code compliance inspection is not necessary because none of the items look as if they will affect the structure. Instructions were to schedule a fire code compliance inspection and complete the work in 30 days. Ms. Moermond recommended a lay over to February 15, 2011 and if Mr. Roberts is interested in a public hearing before the City Council on January 19, it can be scheduled. Mr.

Roberts said at the time of the hearing Ms. Moermond said since there was exterior work, if additional time was needed, she would give him more time.

Ms. Shaff said she sees no permit for venting the dryer. Mr. Roberts said the dryer has been removed. He showed Nhia Vang, Deputy Legislative Hearing Officer, photos of work that has been completed.

Ms. Shaff said it was her understanding that Ms. Moermond gave Mr. Roberts additional time so the property would not have to go to vacant buildings but if it wasn't completed, it would then go to vacant buildings.

Mr. Roberts said he has repaired the window screen, nail holes have been patched, and walls primed. The only area not painted is the furnace room and the laundry room

Ms. Shaff said she does not see a permit for properly venting the dryer. Mr. Roberts said there had been an electrical fire, the dryer didn't work and the door was removed. Ms. Moermond told him if it wasn't being used, he did not have to do the venting. Ms. Shaff said at the February 8 inspection, the dryer was still there and there is still a requirement to properly vent it. Later in the hearing he indicated the dryer was removed.

Ms. Shaff asked about the temperature relief valve on the water heater. Mr. Roberts said that has been repaired. Ms. Shaff asked if he had a receipt or verification for that.

Mr. Roberts said all the handles were available to put on the windows.

Ms. Vang asked about Item 7 - protective globes for the lighting fixtures. Mr. Roberts showed additional pictures. He said he would like to have another inspection.

Laid Over to March 1, 2001 Legislative Hearings

36 ALH 11-191

Appeal of Yang Y. Lee to a Fire Inspection Correction Notice at 1970 LONGFELLOW AVENUE.

Sponsors: Lantry

Attachments: 1970 Longfellow.appeal.1-27-11.pdf

1970 Longfellow Ave.Lee Ltr 2-15-11.doc

Grant an 8 inch variance on the egress bedroom windows.

Referred Under Master Resolution

37 <u>ALH 11-204</u>

Appeal of Lue Williams to a Vacant Building Registration Notice at 840 FULLER AVENUE.

Sponsors: Carter III

<u>Attachments:</u> 840 Fuller.appeal.1-28-11.pdf

840 Fuller Ave.Williams Itr 2-15-11.doc

Change from Category II to Category I and grant 60 days to make the corrections and have the Fire Certificate of Occupancy signed off by Inspector Pat Fish.

Matt Dornfeld, Vacant Building Supervisor, said this property was made a Category 2 vacant building on January 13, 2011 by him due to a certificate of occupancy revocation by Fire Inspector Pat Fish on January 12, 2011. Ms. Fish documented 17 code violations in her revocation letter. She has tried to contact the owner multiple

times to schedule an appointment but to no avail. Mr. Dornfeld read violations from Pat Fish's notes which included that the home appeared vacant and was sent to Vacant Buildings.

There have been snow and ice issues on the sidewalk but they were taken care of and the property has been maintained.

Lue Williams, appellant, said she received a letter when she returned home, after being gone, indicating that it was a vacant building. She would like to eventually have it occupied. The previous tenant did damage but it does not require a lot of work so she would like to do have the work done.

Mr. Dornfeld said the two options are to change the property to a Category 1 and allow the owner to work off the revocation list and hold the vacant building fee for some time, or to leave the property as is and force the owner to pay the vacant building fee which is \$1100 to go through the code compliance inspection process.

Inspector Leanna Shaff said this started out as a citizen complaint in August 2010. There are serious things on the list that haven't been repaired since last fall which Ms. Shaff talked about. Ms. Williams said a lot of the violations have been fixed. Her tenant would not let people into the home. Ms. Williams filed a harassment order against the tenant and, because of that, she or her worker could not have any contact with her. Things would be fixed and the tenant would destroy them, including a broken window. She said she did not know there was an inspection scheduled with Pat Fish on January 12 as she was out of town.

Ms. Shaff said she did not have a problem holding it for the vacant building fees for 60 days as long as the work is done by the proper trades under permit and signed off by Pat Fish when completed. Ms. Vang concurred with Ms. Shaff's recommendation.

Ms. Shaff further suggested that Ms. Williams talk to Pat Fish regarding what's done and what needs to be done.

Referred Under Master Resolution

No Hearing Necessary

Window Variances: Fire Certificate of Occupancy

38 ALH 11-243 Appeal of Melissa and Michael Kuisle to a Fire Inspection Correction Notice

at 1681 BEECH STREET.

Sponsors: Lantry

Attachments: 1681 Beech St.Appeal.2-4-11.pdf

1681 Beech St.Kuisle Ltr 2-15-11.doc

Grant a 3-inch variance on the openable height of the egress windows in both bedrooms measuring 21 inches high by 29 inches wide.

Referred Under Master Resolution

39 ALH 11-249 Appeal of Richard Charlton to a Fire Inspection Correction Notice at 1595 RICE STREET.

Sponsors: Helgen

<u>Attachments:</u> 1595 Rice St.Appeal.2-7-11.pdf

1595 Rice St.Gunter Ltr 2-15-11.doc

Grant a 4-inch variance on the openable width of the egress bedroom windows in all 11 units.

Referred Under Master Resolution

40 ALH 11-251 Appeal of Cynthia Mueller to a Fire Inspection Correction Notice at 285

CLIFF STREET.

Sponsors: Thune

Attachments: 285 Cliff St.Appeal.2-7-11.pdf

285 Cliff St.Mueller Itr 2-15-11.doc

Grant a 6-inch variance on the openable height of the egress window in Unit 4, north bedroom and a 2.5-inch variance on the openable height of the egress window in Unit 4, west bedroom.

Referred Under Master Resolution

41 ALH 11-260 Appeal of Terry Kirk to a Re-Inspection Fire Certificate of Occupancy With

Deficiencies at 2128 BUSH AVENUE.

Sponsors: Lantry

Attachments: 2128 Bush.appeal.2-8-11.pdf

2128 Bush Ave.Kirk ltr 2-15-11.doc

Grant a 4-inch variance on the openable height of the egress window in the main floor southwest bedroom.

Referred Under Master Resolution

Window Variances: Building Permits

42 ALH 11-239 Appeal of Window Concepts, on behalf of Eugene Neppl, to an Egress

Window Non-Compliance Determination at 1308 MARION STREET.

Sponsors: Helgen

Attachments: 1308 Marion.appeal.2-3-11.pdf

1308 Marion St.Window Concept ltr 2-15-11.doc

Grant a 6.5-inch variance on the openable height of one double hung replacement egress bedroom window which measured at 17.5 inches high by 25 inches wide.

Referred Under Master Resolution

43 ALH 11-240 Appeal of Daniel Schmidt and Jim Yannarelly, Saint Paul-Ramsey County

Department of Public Health, to an Egress Window Non-Compliance

Determination at 1017 ENGLEWOOD AVENUE.

Sponsors: Carter III

Attachments: 1017 Englewood.appeal.2-3-11.pdf

1017 Englewood.Public Health PC ltr 2-8-11.doc

Grant a .625-inch variance on the openable height of one double hung replacement egress bedroom window which measured at 23.325 inches high by 27 inches wide.

Referred Under Master Resolution

44 ALH 11-247 Appeal of Kenneth and Marlys Arcand to two Egress Window

Non-Compliance Determinations at 1964 ARLINGTON AVENUE EAST.

Sponsors: Bostrom

Attachments: 1964 Arlington Ave E.Appeal.2-4-11.pdf

1964 Arlington Ave E.Arcand Itr 2-15-11.doc

Grant a 4.4-inch variance on the openable height of two double hung replacement egress bedroom windows which measured at 19.6 inches high by 23.5 inches wide.

Referred Under Master Resolution

45 ALH 11-248 Appeal of David Hulbert to an Egress Window Non-Compliance

Determination at 650 POINT DOUGLAS ROAD SOUTH.

Sponsors: Lantry

Attachments: 650 Point Douglas Rd.Appeal.2-7-11.pdf

650 Pt Douglas Itr 2-15-11.doc

Grant a 7-inch variance on the openable height of three double hung replacement egress bedroom windows which measured at 17 inches high by 38 inches wide.

Referred Under Master Resolution