



City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Minutes - Final

Legislative Hearings

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651-266-8585

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

9:00 AM

Via Telephone

Special Tax Assessments

9:00 a.m. Hearings

- 1 **RLH TA 20-483** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 756 FULLER AVENUE. (File No. VB2012, Assessment No. 208814)

Sponsors: Thao

Delete the assessment.

756 Fuller Avenue

Marcia Moermond said she reviewed the case yesterday. It was in the vacant building program from March 18 to June 8--less than 90 days--so she recommends it be deleted.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/16/2020
- 2 [RLH TA 20-484](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 575 MCKNIGHT ROAD SOUTH. (File No. VB2007A, Assessment No. 208817)

Sponsors: Prince

Reduce from \$2284 to \$1508.

575 McKnight Road South

Marcia Moermond: I reviewed the case. In the e-mail the owner, Steven Darmer, indicated he was not available to participate in the hearing occurring at 9:00 a.m. for medical reasons. He asked that the vacant fee be prorated. It has been in the vacant building program from November 15, 2016, to July 15, 2020. He has paid 3 vacant building fees. I will recommend the Council prorate the 4th. I recommend \$1,508.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/19/2020
- 3 [RLH TA 20-521](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1262 MINNEHAHA AVENUE EAST. (File No. VB2007A, Assessment No.

208817)

Sponsors: Prince

Reduce from \$2284 to \$753

1262 Minnehaha Avenue East

(voice mail came on)

Marcia Moermond: We will reach out and call the realtor who was mentioned in an e-mail. We will discuss the matter with him.

Eric Hermanson is on the phone line.

Moermond: We are calling about an assessment at 1262 Minnehaha. LaBatt appears to be a purchaser. He copied you in an e-mail exchange. LaBatt said we should also talk to you. I'm hesitant to arrive at a conclusion without talking to the owner.

Hermanson: Nate and I both own the property. We each own 50% of it.

Moermond: I will start with a staff report.

Joe Yannarely: Category 1 vacant building that entered the program November 2, 2017. After 3 years and 4 months, the house is rehabbed, occupied, and no longer in the vacant buildings program. It went 4 months past the anniversary date. This assessment is for \$2,284.

Moermond: I will turn it over to you.

Hermanson: We are looking to get it reduced somewhat. It was vacant with some squatters. We had a management company that is no longer representing us because they failed to submit forms in a timely manner. We are looking for any kind of reduction we can get.

Moermond: It looks like the bill covered the time period of November 7, 2019, through November 1, 2020. Out of that 12 months, you spend 4 months in the vacant building program. I can recommend they reduce it to 1/3 which is \$753.

Hermanson: That would be helpful.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/19/2020

- 4 RLH TA 20-519** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1106/1108/1110 PAYNE AVENUE. (File No. VB2011, Assessment No. 208813) (Public hearing to be continued to September 2)

Sponsors: Yang

Public hearing continued to September 2, 2020 and if permits are finalized by September 1, will reduce from \$2284 to \$1142.

1106, 1108, 1110 Payne Avenue

John Oulman is on the phone line.

Joe Yannarely: This entered the vacant building program in February 28, 2018, after a fire. It is a commercial structure. The owner is in the process of consolidating multiple addresses into one. Several permits have been signed off. There is one open permit--electrical--as of today. The total proposed assessment is \$2,284.

Marcia Moermond: Is this a mixed use rather than a commercial. You have residential in the upper?

Oulman: That building was a single story no basement building that I purchased February 2019. I also purchased the building at 1110, which has mixed use, residential unit on 2nd. First floor was to be retail. The process of going through DSI (Department of Safety and Inspections) and plan review, I combined the 2 for ADA compliance: handicap access, bathroom. That was summer of 2019. I went back and forth with DSI & plan review. And the County took some time. This January was when they finally had them filed under one property ID. The new address for 1106 and 1110 is 1108.

Moermond: The building that was for 1106 is the one that is in the vacant building program?

Oulman: Correct. That spring, I applied for an inspection where mechanical, electrical, structural came through and gave me a to do list. I did all that. That's all done. I got the certificate of occupancy for the residence at 1110. I'm trying to get a certificate of occupancy for the mini store. Waiting for the pandemic to be over so I can operate normally. I'm trying to get off the vacant building list because it 1) costs money, 2) not good to have a building that is vacant.

Moermond: What are you doing? I see a building permit that would have been pulled back in 2018. That does not seem to have any activity on it from the City side. Any other things going on?

Oulman: My permit was from 2019 for 1110.

Moermond: Where are you at with your work on the building?

Ohman: 1106 is complete. I'm just waiting for the electrical to be signed off on the 1110 permit.

Yannarely: It looks like 1110 is where all the permits are. There is one finalized electrical. It looks like they are all finalized.

Moermond: The electrical pulled on October 23, 2019 looks to still be open.

Oulman: That's the building space.

Moermond: When did you think you'll have it?

Oulman: Should be a matter of weeks. Everything is done. It shouldn't take much time. I bought it in February. The first year's vacant building was for the previous year. The people I got it from, I got stuck with their assessment.

Moermond: My proposal to the City Council: recommend they cut it in half if you can get your finals done by September 1.

Oulman: *That's fair.*

Moermond: *I'm picking that day is because that would be the 6-month anniversary of your bill, which covers February 28, 2020, to February 27, 2021. It makes sense to cut the fee in half when you've done at half. I don't tend to cut assessment when they come through later than halfway through the year. One trick with your situation is your public hearing is scheduled for August 19. I'm going to ask the Council to continue to September 2 so I will know if you have your finals and I can cut it in half. Tell your contractor that you have more than a \$1,000 riding on this and he needs to get the work done. Hopefully that speaks to him, and you'll get it done.*

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/19/2020

- 5 [RLH TA 20-456](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 575-577 UNIVERSITY AVENUE WEST. (File No. J2011B, Assessment No. 208110)

Sponsors: Thao

Rescheduled to September 1; unable to contact property owner twice.

575 -577 University Avenue West – 1st try

Mai Vang: This was referred back from July 7.

Joe Yannarely: This was laid over. They responded to 575 and noticed a business next door at 577.

Marcia Moermond: There are 2 service charges. The Respro (Restoration Professionals) people are professionals and they could have turned their head.

Vang: We didn't have the contact information. We are using the phone number in STAMP.

(We attempted to call Ken Macintosh.)

Receptionist: This is a place of business. I don't know how to contact him.

Moermond: He appears to be appealing a tax assessment. My office has reached out to him several times. We will continue to locate him to discuss this matter with him.

Receptionist: There is someone that may be able to help with that. Hang on.

(Another person comes on the phone line.)

Moermond: We are trying to reach Ken Macintosh regarding a tax assessment.

Kristin: He is my father. I'll give you his cell number: 651-261-2715.

(Cell phone number called; voice mail came on.)

Moermond: We will call back again to discuss in 20 to 30 minutes.

(About 30 minutes later, the cell number was tried again. Voice mail came on.)

Moermond: I'm trying to reach Ken Macintosh. We'll reschedule to September 1.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 9/1/2020

10:00 a.m. Hearings

- 6 RLH TA 20-380** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 2095 GERANIUM AVENUE EAST. (File No. J2011E, Assessment No. 208316) (Legislative Hearing on August 18)

Sponsors: Yang

Layover over to August 18. (Staff will send photos taken by City inspector to owner)

2095 Geranium Avenue East

Xee Xiong is on the line.

Xiong: I would like to talk about another bill, too.

Lisa Martin: Correction notice issued on January 29, 2020, parking the vehicles and making sure where they are parking is on an approved service, compliance date of February 5, rechecked on February 10, work was still not done, total assessment cost of \$157. There are comments that Xee Xiong called on January 31 and requested an extension, which was granted. Commercial vehicle parking letter was sent on April 23 and another correction notice sent. No previous history on the property. Parking in the driveway area is not acceptable and parking in the front yard is not acceptable.

Xiong: What do you mean parking in the front yard is not acceptable?

Martin: You probably don't have the photographs.

Xiong: I don't. There is a spot since November where this is a spot next to the driveway. When we bought the house, they said it is a parking spot. We called and talked to the guy. He responded. Our father died, and we couldn't move the car. We finally towed it out. The City has been harassing us or the neighbors. The City called and sent something out. He told us they were just doing their job. Then he said someone called, so he changed his story. We had our bus for a whole year. The bus is a trailer home. She came and looked at it already. Maybe it's too tall to fit there. So, we had to get a permit or something. We have a tent. She came and measured it. She changed and said it was too close to the property line. These bills are just assumptions. We don't want to talk to the City anymore. We want to file an appeal. It is causing us too much trouble. She said the tent has to be 200 square feet. We measured it, and it is 200 exactly. I don't know what this bill is for. Everything happened for no reason. We have lived here for 10 years. No complaints. We just want to fix this.

Marcia Moermond: When you get an order with the City, if you disagree with it, you may have noticed that you have the ability to file an appeal. That would be a way for you to discuss the orders and get clarity on what they mean. If you feel you shouldn't have gotten them, you could appeal them. Today's appeal on the assessment is the first appeal that I have had. There is no way for me to engage into what is going on up to this point. The charge is \$157 and it looks like \$122 is for dispatching the inspector

and not having the job done at that time plus a service charge. February 10, they dispatched someone, and the work was not done.

Xiong: The tents were frozen, and we couldn't move them. He came on his own account.

Moermond: I need you to slow down. When I look at the orders, they were issued on January 29. You asked for an extension, the inspector did not come until February 10, so he gave you an extra 5 days. I'm going to have Mai Vang send the photos to you. When inspectors go back to look at things, they do not make appointments because they can look from the street. I can see from one of the photos, there is a car parked in the boulevard area. That is the grassy area. There appears to be a driveway apron there, but you are not allowed to park there. There is a note that says you cannot park in that area. That vehicle does not appear to be frozen in place. It appears to be parked recently. I want to get you these photos and have the same information in front of you as I have in front of me. I want you to get that information, and we will talk again. I'll see if there are more current things and we will get that to you. Can you talk again in 2 weeks, August 21?

Xiong: Yes.

Moermond: On August 21, at 10:00 a.m., we will talk about this assessment. We will send you other information, and we will talk when you all have the same documents in front of you. We'll get that to you.

August 21 is a Friday. Staff changed to August 18 LH with PH on 8/19.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/19/2020

- 7 **RLH TA 20-458** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 625 HAWTHORNE AVENUE EAST. (File No. CRT1202, Assessment No. 208211)

Sponsors: Yang

Reduce from \$717 to 569.

625 Hawthorne Avenue East

(Voice mail came on.)

Marcia Moermond: We'll call back.

(Owner was called about an hour later; voice mail came on again.)

Leanna Shaff: This is a fire certificate of occupancy, single family, \$717. They attempted to pay the bill late after it was sent to Assessments. There were 2 no entry fees that we can't assess. We recommend reducing to \$412 plus the \$157 service charge for \$569.

Moermond: Because the City cannot assess for no entry—inspector was not able to get in—there is no assessment associated with that. They saved by it going to assessments. Either way, the City spent time on this and cannot recoup funds.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/16/2020

- 8 **RLH TA 20-372** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 75 ISABEL STREET EAST. (File No. J2011E, Assessment No. 208316) (Legislative Hearing on August 18)

Sponsors: Noecker

Layover to Legislative hearing on August 18 with Public hearing on August 19, 2020. (unable to reach owner)

75 Isabel Street East

(Voice mail came on.)

Marcia Moermond – We'll try calling back.

(Owner was called 40 minutes later; voice mail came on again.)

Moermond: I'm going to call you back on August 18 between 10 and 11. This is the 3rd scheduled time for a hearing. Council public hearing is August 19.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/19/2020

- 9 **RLH TA 20-442** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 58 LAWSON AVENUE WEST. (File No. CRT2008, Assessment No. 208207)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Reduce from \$569 to \$412.

58 Lawson Avenue West

Steve Krautt is on the phone line.

Leanna Shaff said this is a fire certificate of occupancy, unpaid fees on a single-family home, \$569. Appointment letters were sent out on April 9, April 19, May 2, and May 8, 2018. Deficiency letters sent out on May 17, June 19, July 12, September 21, December 13, 2018, February 12, February 15, March 27, April 10, May 10, and September 27, 2019. Compliance date October 21, 2019. We have no returned mail. All mail was sent to Apogee Properties, 2817 St. Anthony Lane.

Marcia Moermond: Kraut left a voice mail. I have a transcript of that. Why are you appealing and what are you looking for today?

Kraut: I'm appealing for the assessment or the renewal. I'm appealing for the extra charges put on. I have not received any mail regarding certificate of occupancy or billing. The first I received was on August 22, 2019. I received the deficiency notices that were sent to 2817 St. Anthony lane, Number 207 through May 24 2019. I received nothing after that since I moved in 2018. I notified the City I had changed the address of 2309 West Cliff Drive. I had notification that Mai Vang was going to do an inspection for the certificate of occupancy. The Mai Vang notice was sent to me at the 2309 West Cliff Drive.

Moermond: A different staff person sent that. My staff person is Mai Vang.

Kraut: I'm sorry. It was an Asian name.

Shaff: Vue updated the address October 21, 2019, in the future folder. Kraut and I spoke on the phone. It is his responsibility to update Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul. I'm wondering how his brother-in-law knew to show up for the inspection.

Kraut: We got a notification that was mailed to 2309 West Cliff.

Shaff: The others he showed up for or asked for an extension.

Moermond: The September 27 letter for scheduling an inspection went to Apogee Properties on St. Anthony Lane. It didn't go to West Cliff. I just randomly pulled up a letter.

Kraut: All my letters went to Apogee Properties and forwarded to me. I received something for garbage assessment on August 22. I received a letter September 27 that went to the 2817 address. That was forwarded to me. Then I had an October 24, 2019, ratification of assessment and that was sent to 2309.

Shaff: Ratification of assessment comes from Real Estate and using the ownership from Ramsey County.

Moermond: You got a lot of notices there.

Kraut: Yeah. I've got people that want to dump garbage on the property when no one is looking. Ratification of assessment for \$117.80. Doesn't look like there is a date on that. That looks like it was sent to 2309. If it was in October, I live in Arizona from November 1 to April 30. I get mail forwarded down there, and it hadn't been forwarded. That was the first notification I was being assessed.

Moermond: I think what Shaff was aiming for is that the certificate of occupancy program tries to contact the property manager. When you receive notices that could result in tax assessments, those go to the owner on record according to Ramsey County Taxation. I'm struggling with the September letter that went out scheduling an appointment. It appears that you had someone meet the inspector at the property. If the address was working for one thing, why wouldn't it work for the other?

Kraut: That's really strange. On September 27, the reinspection would be made on October 21, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. for 53 Lawson. That billing went to 2309 West Cliff Drive, but it was billed to 2817. The post office forwarded it to...

Moermond: The bill got forwarded to you on West Cliff and you still didn't pay it.

Kraut: It was no bill. It was a notice dated September 27. There was no bill with that. It was sent to 2817. That was forwarded to 2309 West Cliff Drive.

Shaff: As I advised Mr. Kraut, it is his responsibility to update his address in a timely manner.

Moermond: When I look at the bills, you indicated there was an address update on October 21, 2019. The bills went out October 23 and November 21. He could have assumed that it would have been updated for the bills. For that reason, I will recommend the Council approve the \$412 and not add the service charge of \$157. I

can't see another way to cut it.

Kraut: I appreciate you looking at it, but I honestly did not receive the bill.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

10 RLH TA 20-482 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1286 MINNEHAHA AVENUE EAST. (File No. J2012E, Assessment No. 208318)

Sponsors: Prince

Approve the assessment.

1286 Minnehaha Avenue East

Adam Ahmed is on the phone line.

Lisa Martin: Summary abatement order issued on February 28, 2020, compliance date of March 1, done by owner on March 4, no returned mail.

Ahmed: I don't live at this property. This property is occupied by a friend. I received the complaint in the mail. I went there as soon as I received the paperwork on March 3 at 1:00 p.m. By 2:00 it was done. The inspection was completed the same day on March 3 at 9:00 a.m. The communication was through the mail. Had I received something via e-mail, then I would have been able to do it quicker and met the deadline. I am not sure if e-mails are not allowed.

Martin: By law, we send it via mail. Since you don't live there, there is a history at the property: April 1, 2020, garbage, resolved by owner; February 13, 2019, vehicle, resolved by owner; and January 25, 2019, garbage issue, resolved by owner. We are not here to manage your property. More than 3 violations in 12 months will get you the \$122 consumption fee.

Ahmed: I understand. I live in Brooklyn Center. I cannot visit the property all the time. Honestly, I am as good as my tenants would be.

Moermond: Here is what I am weighing. I'm looking at ice accumulation. More importantly, the orders for your property were issued on February 28. The most recent snowfall was February 9. By the time the orders were issued, 11 days had passed. No additional snow fell between when the orders were issued and March 3. That is a long time before the neighbors complained.

Ahmed: The snow was removed. I have a person that removes snow. I asked him what happened. There is a downhill by my property. The pavement is caving in towards my property. All the water that melted in March would accumulate down there. So, it's not that it's shortcoming. The circumstances are there that I would put a lot of salt there.

Moermond: Looking at a Google street view. It does not look like much of an incline.

Ahmed: It's hard to see.

Moermond: I'm looking at a lot of ice accumulation and weeks had fallen.

Ahmed: I don't want to argue on those issues, but I feel this was Thursday or Friday, and the following Tuesday when the mail arrived, I went there. If I failed, I failed. I honestly think I'm penalized for communication.

Moermond: I think you're being penalized because of the accumulation of snow. Whoever was responsible for maintaining your property did not maintain it. In your circumstance, I'm going to recommend approval of the assessment. In the notification that you got, there is information about how to communicate your perspective to the City Council. Call Mai Vang at 266-8563 and she can talk to you about how to get information in front of the City Council.

Ahmed: I don't want to go that route. If you want to penalize me, so be it. I honestly feel I'm being penalized for renting out the property. You guys are not understanding what a landlord goes through.

Moermond: I have a good idea. The charge is for sending an inspector out on a needless trip. The work was not done, a work crew went out, and the work was done by the owner. The City is trying to recover those costs. You're making a point that you are relying on your tenants and that's the plight of the landlord.

Ahmed: I talked to the inspector and said if he called me earlier, I would have done something. I am a human being like you are, and there are faults with human beings. After the paperwork is issued, there is not much I can do. I'm not a lazy person. I have to rely on other people. Renting is a service that I feel is not making me rich, but I am serving a community. I am trying to fill up that gap. You guys have a mindset of penalizing the wrong people.

Moermond: The notification is \$150. You can choose to pay it online. The Council is considering September 16. An invoice will follow. I am recommending they approve the entire amount. You can give the Council different information. You can leave a voice mail. You can send an e-mail. Mai Vang can guide you through how to put additional information in front of the City Council.

Ahmed: I've invested enough time into this. You are determined to penalize the wrong people.

Moermond: Alternatively, you can say there is accountability to make sure pedestrians can pass safely on the sidewalk. The City was not penalizing you. I understand what you are saying. All the notes will be in front of the City Council.

Ahmed: How do I pay?

Moermond: The City Council will consider on September 16. Within 1 or 2 weeks, you will receive an invoice in the mail. Before October 1, you will receive an invoice.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/16/2020

11 [RLH TA 20-367](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 491 WHEELLOCK PARKWAY EAST. (File No. J2011E, Assessment No. 208316) (Public hearing to be continued to January 6, 2021)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Public hearing continued to January 6, 2021 and if no same or similar violation(s) by December 31, will delete the assessment.

491 Wheelock Parkway East

Emily Merhar, owner, is on the phone line.

Zach Bramel, owner, is on the phone line.

Lisa Martin: This is a Notice to Remove Snow and/or Ice from the Sidewalk. Orders were issued on January 28, 2020 with a compliance date of January 30, rechecked on February 3, work was still not done. There is no history of orders on the property.

Marcia Moermond: If the orders were issued on January 28, the snow accumulation would have fallen 4.7 inches on January 17 and another 1.5 inches on January 22 and 23. So, the majority of the snow would have fallen more than 2 weeks earlier than the orders.

Bramel: Our understanding is a little different than what was just described. We only got one piece of mail from the City and we acted upon it that day. We didn't know this was a thing. We received no other communication from the City. There were multiple attempts to let us know what was going on. Was everything sent to the management company or have our sidewalks been mistaken for our neighbors? His property extends from Hoyt to Wheelock. The front of his house is on Hoyt and not Wheelock. Our objective: we can pay the fine, but we care most about communicating with the City that we just purchased the property and we don't want any red flags on the property. We want to do our best moving forward. This may have been a mistake and wires got crossed.

Moermond: Looking at a photo taken on February 3, the photo is showing that the sidewalk had not been shoveled. The photo includes a telephone pole. I'm convinced it is your property we are talking about. You don't have any other violations. I feel you are going to be on top of this moving forward. If you can keep the property in a condition that the City does not have to issue orders—let's say 6 months—this will evaporate.

Bramel: We are trying our best right now.

Moermond: I'm feeling confident you will not have a problem going forward. I'll just say December 31, if there are no further violations, this will get deleted. I will have the City Council consider it on January 6. If something happens between now and then and you have a question about whether an assessment will come into play, reach out to Mai Vang, 651-266-8563. I think this will be straightforward. If there is nothing between now and then, I'll recommend deletion of the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/19/2020

Special Tax Assessments-Rolls

- 12 RLH AR Ratifying the assessments for Collection of Vacant Building Registration
20-116 fees billed during January 6 to March 20, 2020. (File No. VB2012,
Assessment No. 208814)**

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/16/2020

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- 13 RLH AR 20-117** Ratifying the assessments for Collection of Fire Certificate of Occupancy fees billed during February 20 to March 19, 2020. (File No. CRT2012, Assessment No. 208211)
- Sponsors: Brendmoen
- Referred to the City Council due back on 9/16/2020**
- 14 RLH AR 20-118** Ratifying the assessments for Excessive Use of Inspection or Abatement services billed during February 21 to March 20, 2020. (File No. J2012E, Assessment No. 208318)
- Sponsors: Brendmoen
- Referred to the City Council due back on 9/16/2020**
- 15 RLH AR 20-119** Ratifying the assessments for Securing and/or Emergency Boarding services during April 2020. (File No. J2012B, Assessment No. 208111)
- Sponsors: Brendmoen
- Referred to the City Council due back on 6/2/2021**
- 16 RLH AR 20-120** Ratifying the assessments for Securing and/or Emergency Boarding services during July 2019 at 589 FIFTH STREET EAST. (File No. J2003B1, Assessment No. 208112)
- Sponsors: Brendmoen
- Referred to the City Council due back on 6/2/2021**
- 17 RLH AR 20-121** Ratifying the assessments for Dangerous Tree(s) Removal services during April 2020. (File No. 2007T, Assessment No. 209006)
- Sponsors: Brendmoen
- Referred to the City Council due back on 6/2/2021**

11:00 a.m. Hearings

Summary Abatement Orders

- 18 RLH SAO 20-12** Appeal of KateLynn Hibbard to a Notice to Cut Tall Grass and/or Weeds at 881 COTTAGE AVENUE EAST.
- Sponsors: Yang
- Deny the appeal; noting the nuisance has been abated and matter is resolved.*
- 881 Cottage Avenue East*
- Marcia Moermond: Nuisance condition is abated.*

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/19/2020

- 19 [RLH SAO 20-14](#) Appeal of Beatrice Collard to a Notice to Cut Tall Grass and/or Weeds at 1136 MARYLAND AVENUE EAST.

Sponsors: Yang

Nuisance is abated and appeal is withdrawn by DSI. Appellant was confirmed of the same.

1136 Maryland Avenue East

Marcia Moermond: Nuisance abated; order withdrawn.

Withdrawn

Correction Orders

- 20 [RLH CO 20-11](#) Appeal of Elsie Mayard to a Correction Notice at 755 MINNEHAHA AVENUE WEST.

Sponsors: Thao

Grant until August 31, 2020 for compliance.

755 Minnehaha Avenue West

Elsie Mayard is on the phone line.

Paula Seeley: Office received complaint on July 15, found 3 violations in the unit, sent orders to Elsie.

Marcia Moermond: Deadline of July 28?

Seeley: Carbon monoxide alarm, doorknob to the unit, and bathroom wall.

Moermond: Not huge concerns, but something you would write orders on. Do you disagree with the orders? Are you asking for an extension?

Mayard: She called the police on me. She had 2 police officers with her. She did an inspection before anyone was in there. I also had Section 8. These people are a problem. I gave them a notice to move out. She has a lot of people who want to be there. Paula Seeley came in there. She had no mask and 2 police. That's what I'm appealing. With the pandemic, they are breaking stuff. Paula was showing me her ego. In a pandemic, she has no mask. So, I need an answer from Paula Seeley for doing this. There is a problem with the people. Paula wants to show me her ego.

Moermond: When you filed the appeal, you attached a letter you gave to the tenant. In that letter, you said you wanted to get in your place to fix things.

Mayard: I gave her the paper before the guy came. She said she didn't want anyone to come in there, so we left. Paula Seeley is doing this. The woman said she is not going to let anyone in there.

Moermond: Have you had an opportunity since July 27 to do any repairs in there?

Mayard: She saw the guy outside her house. She said someone had been in her house. She called the police. We are in the process of doing an eviction now. There are illegal activities going on.

Moermond: Do you have a date of the eviction?

Mayard: I am filing today. If I find people doing illegal activities, they will be gone. She forged my name and doing a lot of stuff. She is a bully; beats people up. I'm not allowing criminals in my place. I have grandkids. She has traffic in and out. If someone is doing illegal activities, it is not going to happen here. She had a lot of stuff going on. She had 100 people. I am filing today. She breaks stuff. That is what happened.

Moermond: You wrote on order on the carbon monoxide detector. Not working or no detector at all?

Seeley: There was none there, but Mayard said she put one there and the tenant took it down.

Moermond: Doorknob issue?

Seeley: The doorknob is a glass older type and it keeps spinning. It would occasionally catch and work. In case of a fire, it's not a good idea to have that type of doorknob.

Mayard: The doorknob will work. We're outside, it can be locked with a key. Section 8 will not come to the place. You came out there with your friends. Everything is properly done before they come by there. I could fix it, but I can't do that because she will not let anyone in. A lot of people she calls. You cannot get in there. If the inspector tells you to fix something, there is no reason to appeal it. She will not show me what needs to be fixed. She has no mask or nothing. She called the police on me. Why would Paula Seeley call the police on me?

Moermond: You are filing an eviction today?

Mayard: Yes. It is a Section 8 program.

Moermond: Do you have the orders with you that Seeley gave? When you file the eviction, tell them you have orders from the City to correct life safety, and the tenants will not let you in. I need to put a deadline on it. Carbon monoxide detector and a doorknob are important. Let's set the deadline for August 31 to make sure these things are done. You can tell the court that you have to get in there to do that.

Mayard: She called the Police for doorknob. That's nothing. I told Seeley that she will not let anybody go in there. I want something to be done. No matter what they broke, I have to fix it. They won't let anyone in there, so what does she want me to do? She has been arrested for grand theft. A crime has been committed, and something has to be done. I am done with this.

Moermond: Seems reasonable that she should give you access. The inspector will send an appointment after August 31.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/19/2020

11:30 a.m. Hearings**Orders To Vacate, Condemnations and Revocations-Code Enforcement**

- 21 [RLH VO 20-35](#) Appeal of Leo J Domenichetti to a Notice of Condemnation as Unfit for Human Habitation and Order to Vacate at 1145 FOURTH STREET EAST.

Sponsors: Prince

Grant to August 6, 2020 for owner to vacate the property.

1145 Fourth Street East

Leo Domenichetti is on the phone line.

Erica Minus, House Calls, is on the phone line.

Lisa Martin: July 29, my office had a notice of condemnation. Violations of condemnation are listed in Item 1 followed by a list of 20 items. Photos are in the file. Erica Minus was in the home and can describe what she saw.

Minus: I was there with Inspector Suon on July 28. We had been there previously. Mr. Domenichetti was not in the home. When we returned, he was in there. We started with the backyard. There are vehicles, tools, table. Went through a side door which leads to a kitchen and upstairs. Very full. Foundation was unsteady. Holes in the wall. Living room full. Lots of tools and machinery and electronics in the home. Front door was damaged. There was an item blocking the front door, which he didn't want the inspector to move. I did not go up with inspector. I was told it was full except one room, which was organized. There are a lot of tools. It appears to be dangerous, holes, and lots of foundation issues with the home. We could provide a dumpster, but it would be out of our budget to get the work done. I am expected to go back on Friday.

Moermond: A lot of the holes and plaster appear to be the result of water damage based on color of wood, staining on walls. Is that your assessment?

Martin: Yes. It appears the foundation may have shifted as well.

Moermond: We are missing a chimney, and the foundation has shifted.

Domenichetti: I'm a contractor. The chimney, 1992, I put in a furnace, water heater, and took the chimney out all the way down to the basement. I shingled it over and re-shingled it. The issue was between the First Floor and Second Floor. I was going to do remodeling on the kitchen. I have it framed over. It is not like I am not qualified to do this. It never occurred to me that I would not have a permit. The water heater went out on Thursday. I got my sump pump out. I have to get a water heater. I buy stuff wholesale. I checked the price of a new water heater. I was told to buy a certain one. I didn't get a permit because it was Sunday. I did violate the law by not getting a permit. I had to do what I had to do. I was walking in Menards, I got a dizzy spell, I ended up falling onto the ground, fell on my right side, got skull fractures, blood was out of my nose, I was unconscious. I was at Regions and told my ex-wife. That's the last thing I remember. I was in ICU for 5 to 6 days. (He talked about his health.)

Moermond: Let's talk more about the house.

Domenichetti: My kids bagged up things in the house, and threw things in a bag. When I got in the hospital, no one told me about this. I was crying. I had 45 bags of stuff in the yard. There is a background story on this thing.

Moermond: I am very concerned about how much stuff you have in your house. I need you to focus on the life safety things.

Domenichetti: On Monday, I called Stephan. He said there is nothing we can do about this. I had to sit there. I had severe brain damage. I had to go through the bags. I guess Parks and Rec handles this stuff. Something happened here. I started to go through bags. Everything I owned was out there. Finally, he said they would come out on Tuesday. He said why don't you take the bags, and put them in the office and go through them later.

Moermond: I'm concerned that you need to focus that the house is condemned, and the inspector says you need to be out of there. You need to tell me why you feel you need to be living there.

Domenichetti: My dining room was full of pails and recycling things. I need to sort tools out. That is what my plan is. Suon wanted to come into the house. I would let him in the house, and you open the doors to all sort of things. I told Stephan I need help to get all the stuff out. I made the decision to get rid of everything I don't need. I'm just getting rid of them. When Stephan originally talked to me, I told him I have to sort these things out. I said I can't let you in. I decided to clean it out and only keep the small power tools. My roof is leaking. I didn't have money to fix the roof. I had water damage. I caught much of the water. It came down into the dining room. I have to have a roof repair. They both said we have money, we have programs, we can help you get this worked out.

Moermond: I'm telling you right now, I think you can't live there safely anymore. You can continue to do the repair, continue to clean it out, but you can't live there. That means not sleeping there at night, preparing food, etc. It's not safe for you to be in this house.

Domenichetti: Ericka said she can help with cleaning this out.

Moermond: I just heard her say that there is so much work to be done, it is too expense for her program to pay for and for you to pay for. How much to clean it?

Minus: Upwards to \$10,000. It is a large home.

Moermond: That is only half. The other part is repairing the roof and the rest of the dilapidation. It could be in the tens of thousands to rehab the house. What can we do so that you can safety live while things happen at the house? Minus can help you out in the short term. It sounds like you may have to reach out to family and friends. Do you have someone to reach out to?

Domenichetti: I've cut strings with my family for what they did to me. I have been working all week to take stuff out of here. I've taken a ton of stuff to Savers. I have been putting things outside. All the stuff my kids have left here for years.

Moermond: Cleaning out the house is 1/3 of my concerns. The house is so dilapidated, it isn't safe. This is a long-term kind of a problem you need to address. I'm going to say no; cleaning it out right now is not going to be enough. You are going to have to relocate. Ericka can help with some of these things.

Domenichetti: They were saying the City has money with programs to get a new roof put on. I'm told there is money.

Moermond: While that happens, you cannot live there. You can apply for money. While that is happening, you cannot live there. You are going to have to get your bags packed. That is your focus. You have to get out of the house and find someplace to live while you go about the business of cleaning out your house.

Domenichetti: Does that mean Ericka is not going to fund any part of me cleaning out the house?

Minus: That does not mean that. We can still help you with that.

Domenichetti: I just want to keep the small tools. The rest of the stuff is going. I've dealt with the roof. I'm 78 years ago, and I have sweaty palms. I can't do that.

Moermond: Especially with your brain injury, that sounds dangerous.

Domenichetti: Can I get a temporary extension so I can get this thing cleaned out?

Moermond: No.

Domenichetti: The roof will not stop me from living there.

Moermond: I am pulling the plug on this. It is not safe. You cannot live there. Minus can help you get relocated in the short term. You may want to reconnect with your kids. I am concerned about your welfare. I will follow up with Ms. Minus about this. I'm saying you need to be out of there by Thursday of this week. This is not safe for you to live there anymore. I hate to give you this response, but I can't in good conscious give you any other response at this time.

Domenichetti: It's not to my benefit to get this cleaned out.

Moermond: You do need to do a cleanout. Also, you need to find a place that will keep you safe and sound.

Domenichetti: Is there a regulation about sleeping in my truck?

Moermond: No. You get 5 days in a hotel. You will be more comfortable than in your truck. Right now, you want to get yourself working with her to be safe in a hotel.

Minus: I can give you a call and set up the reservation and meet you there by 3:00 on Thursday.

Moermond: Ericka will call you and meet you at the hotel.

Domenichetti: I guess I don't have any other options?

Moermond: I'm sorry about that. We need to get you out and safe. We can talk in a

future time about what kind of repairs need to happen. Is it placarded?

Martin: I believe it is.

Domenichetti: It is.

Moermond: Maybe hold off on a vacant building placard. Make it discrete.

Martin: They usually put it inside the door.

Moermond: Can I leave you in charge of keeping the placard discrete? I don't want someone walking by to know that it is condemned. I'm going to leave it for Ms. Minus to connect with you. Let him know he can appeal the vacant building status if he wants to.

Domenichetti: I can appeal the vacant building?

Moermond: Yes. I'm thinking one of us should do an adult protection thing with him. I would give your names for people to be contacted.

Martin: I have not been there or talked to him personally. Stephan or Ericka.

Minus: Yes, he is very vulnerable.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/19/2020

Orders To Vacate, Condemnations and Revocations-Fire Inspections

- 22 [RLH VO 20-30](#) Appeal of Thomas Mueller - SMRLS representing Selina Duncan to a Correction Notice - Re-Inspection Complaint (Condemnation) at 170 RUTH STREET NORTH #304.

Sponsors: Prince

Grant until August 21, 2020 for compliance or the property must be vacated.

170 Ruth Street North #304

Thomas Mueller, SMRLS (Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services), is on the phone line.

Selina Duncan is on the phone line.

Heather Myers is on the phone line.

Marcia Moermond: An order just got handed to me. An eviction order got filed August 3. I will turn it over to staff and then to you.

Leanna Shaff: We were continued from last week in order to get inspections done on the property by James Thomas and Al Harris from SMRLS was present. Some progress was made. It was explained to Thomas that it was not done and more people were coming in to help. He went back the following Tuesday. Inspector Thomas said it is not done. The smell is not gone. There is an agreement that Ms. Duncan will be moving the 21st of this month.

Mueller: Duncan has had a long history of communications that have been difficult

with her landlord. With her medical conditions, letting people into her property has been dangerous to her health. That has contributed to the place where we are at. When we were finally able to get a time with Ms. Duncan, another inspection was done the following Tuesday. It was my understanding that things look much better and things would be lifted, but that is not the case. The lingering smell in the unit, I don't have personal knowledge of that order. Any smell that has been or currently noticeable are outside of her unit.

Duncan: I have documentation that when my supervisor came to do a pop up visit, Mr. Thomas came by and there were no odors in my apartment. She stated that there was a problem with the garbage compactor.

Moermond: Ms. Duncan, when was that particular visit?

Duncan: We've had one almost every day this week. The day Mr. Thomas came in for his last inspection, the worker showed up at 2:00. Maybe my lawyer would know. They have been here. We have workers coming today.

Moermond: My understanding was that your unit was cleaned out by volunteers the morning of the inspection. That was a change in condition at that time. This issue also goes beyond getting an appointment scheduled, but rather a repeat behavior on your part.

Mueller: I can appreciate there is a past history. In this case, there was a lot of conversation last year. Can she have people into the building? Duncan has been really scared. She has been told that she cannot have volunteers come in. She's tried to get them to be considered essential workers. She has not been in a situation where she is now allowed to have workers in.

Moermond: I'm looking at the eviction order that appears to be signed by your client. August 21 is the vacate date. I'm willing to grant an extension to the vacate date of August 21.

Myers: That is exactly what we would be requesting. There is an end date in sight to this tendency. We will get a writ immediately. The landlord does not want the burden in doing that.

Moermond: The tenant gets to stay until the eviction takes effect. I put a date in place of August 21 so it works in tandem with the eviction.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/19/2020

23 RLH VO 20-32

Appeal of Paul Olson to a Revocation of Fire Certificate of Occupancy and Order to Vacate at 771 SIXTH STREET EAST.

Sponsors: Yang

Grant to August 4, 2021 (or duration of current tenancy, whichever is shorter) to comply with the window order or vacate the Unit 1, front sleeping room.

771 Sixth Street East

Paul Olson is on the phone line.

Olson: The egress makes sense to me.

Leanna Shaff: Fire certificate of occupancy, orders are in Unit 1, condemnation on bedroom windows because they don't meet minimum requirement nor does it look like it was meant to be a bedroom.

Marcia Moermond: Needs to be 20 by 24.

Shaff: 20 by 24 does not make the minimum square opening size. It means if one side is 20 inches, it can't go down to 15. Those are the minimum sizes in any direction.

Moermond: I don't understand. The code is minimum.

Shaff: One of the minimum dimensions is 15 inches.

Moermond: The difference is it should be 10.

Shaff: How it works if you read the code, it is 5.7 square feet. 24 by 20 does not meet the square inches to make 5.7 square feet.

Moermond: 15 by 32 is the opening as measured by the inspector.

Olson: We have a family that has lived there for 40 years. They have a daughter that lives in that front room. Historical Society will not let me do it.

Moermond: That means they can review. It would have to be consistent with the design guidelines. It doesn't mean no, you can't do it. That does look like it was original size.

Olson: If the building does not originally have a window on the side, it would be outside of the guidelines.

Moermond: The building permit would have to be reviewed by them. It does not forbid the window.

Olson: How did this unit pass for decades? Was there some sort of grandfathering in progress?

Shaff: The codes are specific about that. Just because it was not right in the past does not mean it is supposed to be allowed in the future.

Moermond: It is unlikely it was designed as a bedroom. Grandfathering does not apply in that case. If it was originally constructed as a bedroom, then it would be allowed to continue. That is not the case with this space.

Shaff: He says in his notes there were violations noted that the window did not meet the size. He also advised the owner should talk to HPC.

Moermond: I used to hear a lot of window appeals. If it was an existing use, we would grandfather it in. I used to as a matter of course recommended that variances of the fire code be granted if it was 2 or 3 inches short, but I do not go so far as 5 minutes short. I think we can give some time for this to be resolved. I'm going to ask the City Council to give you a year to deal with this. It will be a full year unless the current tenants leave, and you need to resolve this before new tenants are put in the space. That will be a year from today's date. So, we will say August 4, 2021.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/19/2020

24 [RLH VO 20-33](#)

Appeal of Ruby Nguyen to a Revocation of Fire Certificate of Occupancy and Order to Vacate at 777 SIXTH STREET EAST.

Sponsors: Prince

Layover to August 11. Owner to submit specific work plan with schedule to address all of the items in the Fire orders no later than the close of business on August 10.

777 Sixth Street East

Ruby Nguyen is on the phone line.

Leanna Shaff: We were here last year on June 16. She appealed the bedroom window. She wanted more time because she didn't feel she had enough time to complete the list. Your recommendation was the building must be in compliance by July 17. Franquiz went back and found the building was not in compliance. He asked for orders for all areas of the building. The back stairs. There wasn't much done. There still seems to be quite a list. Gave until August 16 to have the building in compliance or vacated.

Nguyen: I'd like to be scheduled for an inspection. I have a lot of buildings with the same date. I put the date in and now I have trouble. I would like to reschedule. I did a lot and came back. I have been doing this for 20 years. I never have any problems. I try to do as much as I can. I just want to appeal the window. Because of COVID 19, it is hard to get the work done. We ask to make sure they are not sick. There was quarantine. I do have financial problems of people not paying the trash. My dad has passed away. My mom has dementia right now. I have a plan. Last time, was a month ago. That was the first time I had a chance to talk to him directly on the building where and how we want to do the work correctly. That is the first time we had to wear a mask inside. I do have a contractor for the window, backstairs, and everything.

Marcia Moermond: It looked like the department tried to start inspectors with you on February 11, March 4, March 19. The first inspection was April 22. In those orders, there were 46 items. There continues to be 46 items. It does not look like you got anything done. One of the orders is to continue to provide access to the building. There are items that were not shown to the inspector. You mentioned family troubles. What is your ask today? What are you looking for?

Nguyen: I have a question about the list. The last time, I didn't have a list with me. Inside, some of the items were new ones.

Moermond: You've been in the business for a long time. Not having a list with you is on your part. What are you looking for?

Nguyen: I'm looking for more time.

Moermond: It's been four months, and you don't have one item checked off. That's a long time to make zero progress. I'm looking for a specific time that you will have things done. What are you asking for?

Nguyen: Can I get to November?

Moermond: No.

Nguyen: To be sure. This time I will have a list.

Moermond: You have done this many times. I would expect you to come prepared. I will give you two months from today. I will give you until September 30 to complete the work. If it is not complete, it will be vacated October 15.

Shaff: All permits finalized, all work done.

Nguyen: Please give me more time. With COVID 19.

Moermond: I'm lacking faith in your earnestness to complete the problem.

Nguyen: I've done a lot of things. Please. Please. Please. I have done a lot. Number 2 extension cords is a new one. The back door is a new one. Install air conditioner, is Number 43. Number 2 we ordered, and we got it now. I did a lot of fixing the cabinets, fixing the door, taking off the door. The cabinets in the kitchen. And downstairs in the basement, too. I fixed everything in the basement this time.

Moermond: You are a professional landlord. I don't know what is going on here that you aren't doing the repairs.

Nguyen: My dad passed away. He was in the hospital with COVID. My husband had to take care of my mom. I had to take my parents home here. I can't leave them in a nursing home and not watch them. I've never had this problem before. I have to take care of my parents. It's my fault. Give me a chance to do that. A lot of contractors are running businesses right now.

Moermond: It doesn't sound like you actually talked to any contractors. Business permits are being issued at a normal rate.

Nguyen: My building is not really like a Category 3. I want to do the whole business so I can take care of it. I got the FDA approved for the business zone already.

Moermond: You have money in place?

Nguyen: Yes, I got FDA approved.

Moermond: You are ready to write checks to the contractors to do the work?

Nguyen: They give me estimates. I can update that with Leanna.

Shaff: I'm not taking responsibility for...

Nguyen: I can work with Efrayn.

Moermond: Everything is slow. You haven't called the contractor yet is what you're telling me. Have you tried?

Nguyen: Yes. They estimated the siding.

Moermond: Other estimates?

Nguyen: Blacktop is done. \$7500.

Moermond: The only way I will give you more time is a specific work plan with specific deadlines. I will review your work plan. You have to tell me when each and every item is done. Provide me with additional information that you have contractors to do it. The fire inspector will go through and check off those things that he can. That the permits themselves be finalized. I want to see a work plan no later than the close of business on Monday and we'll look at this. The entire set of orders.

Nguyen: I have an inspection on August 17.

Moermond: E-mail to Mai Vang.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 8/11/2020

1:30 p.m. Hearings

Fire Certificates of Occupancy

- 25 [RLH FCO](#) Appeal of Gaoly Yang to a Reinspection Fire Certificate of Occupancy
 [20-102](#) With Deficiencies at 956 RUSSELL STREET.

Sponsors: Yang

Rescheduled per owner's request.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 8/11/2020

- 26 [RLH FCO](#) Appeal of Michaelanne Stafford to a Correction Notice-Complaint
 [20-106](#) Inspection at 923 SHERBURNE AVENUE.

Sponsors: Thao

Grant to August 18, 2020 for compliance with the items in the Order with the exception of the trim which is granted until October 1, 2020.

923 Sherburne Avenue

Michaelanne Stafford is on the phone line.

Leanna Shaff: On July 2, 2020, we received a complaint that it was overoccupied. Torrance went on July 7, did not find it was overoccupied. Stairs in disrepair, vehicle, tall grass, soffit, sent to owner. The property owner had passed away.

Marcia Moermond: In the normal course of events, it's no longer an owner occupied property.

Shaff: This has a certificate of occupancy.

Moermond: Full inspection?

Shaff: Not necessarily. Depends on how it looks on the exterior.

FOLLOW-UP: City has received documentation that Patricia Ness is the legal representative of the deceased owner, Marilyn Jean Nelson. Leanna Shaff has spoken with her and she is willing to become the Fire C of O responsible party. -MCM 8/12/20

Stafford: I'm just looking for a little more time for the trim. We have to come up with the money to find somebody to climb up there. There are 2 pieces missing: somebody to do it and come up with the money to do it. My nephew will take care of steps. As for the car in the back, it is my nephew's car and we're going to remove the car.

Shaff: Because it has a certificate of occupancy, which is not due until September 2021, we no longer have a responsible party.

Moermond: Where she is going with this, if you are a nonowner occupied party in the City, you have to have a fire certificate of occupancy. That will be applied for and in the name of the owner. Since the owner is deceased, she no longer is the responsible party. We need a person to play that role.

Stafford: Right now, the house is supposed to go to me. With COVID, it hasn't gone to court yet. My mother bought 2 properties: one here and one in South Saint Paul. That will go to my sister.

Moermond: Probate?

Stafford: My aunt Pattie is doing all of this.

Moermond: She represents your mother's estate?

Stafford: Yes.

Moermond: If Pattie is representing the estate, we need someone to be the responsible party. We don't have to do the certificate of occupancy anymore. Aunt's last name?

Stafford: Ness.

Moermond: Would a letter from Pattie Ness suffice?

Shaff: I need a little more than that.

Moermond: Is this a conversation you could continue with her offline?

Shaff: I could.

Moermond: My guess is your mother had a will.

Stafford: She died the day before she was supposed to sign it.

Moermond: The courts can still make your Aunt Pattie the representative of the estate. Hopefully this can be pretty simple and get the paperwork on our side. We've both dealt with a lot of cases like yours. Why don't we have you work with Shaff to figure out how we cover ourselves on this end. For the order in front of me today, you have more time to hire someone and get money together. Let's put this out to October

1. When will your nephew be able to tackle the front stairs?

Stafford: Hopefully soon. He works with a company that dealt with concrete.

Moermond: Let's go a few weeks out for the stairs. Two weeks. It should be done by August 18. After that, someone can come by and look at the steps, vehicle, and grass should be mowed.

Stafford: It's been cut now for a week.

Moermond: On August 18 for everything except for the trim on the second level. October 1 for that. In the meantime, we will try to get you and Pattie in the same place with Leanna Shaff to figure out how to get the responsible person on the books with the City.

Shaff: I will be giving you a call.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

27 [RLH FCO](#)
[20-104](#)

Appeal of Kodjo Alagbo, Sunrise Grocery, to a Reinspection Fire Certificate of Occupancy With Deficiencies at 440 UNIVERSITY AVENUE WEST.

Sponsors: Thao

Layover to August 18. LHO to talk to Commercial inspector.

440 University Avenue West

Kodjo Alagbo is on the phone line.

Alagbo: Did you get what I sent yesterday?

Marcia Moermond: Yes.

Leanna Shaff: Fire certificate of occupancy inspection on July 9 by Laura Huseby. Item 1 is being appealed: "remove unapproved locks from the exit door. The door must be openable from the inside without the use of keys or special knowledge or effort. Remove the barred door locking system at front door and provide a locking system that does not involve barring the door."

Alagbo: On the picture I circled the metal bars that I put on the door. That is what the inspector asked me to remove from Picture 2. It was a prior inspector who came in, and I explained to him—don't remember his name—and we discussed it. He told me it was okay. I put it across the door. Someone broke it and it destroyed the lock system I had on the bar. The system was not working anymore. Laura wanted me to remove it. I explained to her because it cost about \$12,000 to replace, it is going to cost me too much money to do it. She explained when a firefighter come to the store, they would have to get out. There is another door, Picture 3, another exit door. So, I have 3 doors. I don't know why she would disapprove me. That was my concern.

Moermond: I'll ask Shaff what her concerns are about 2 other doors.

Shaff: I'm not sure of the layout of the store or the exiting requirements. For a marked exit, it has to be operational from the inside.

Moermond: All exits have to be workable.

Shaff: There are doors that go outside and then there are doors that are required exits. If it was just a door that is not a required exit, it does not matter so much. It's the required exits it is an issue for, so people do not get trapped in the building.

Moermond: If there are 2 other doors, would this be a required exit? If it isn't a required exit, it would have to be completely not used as an entrance and exit and a sign that has "doors blocked".

Shaff: Possibly. It looks like the front door. That's an issue. Usually when we are talking about a door not being required, that is a side door or something. The last inspector was Wayne Spierling. He talked at that time about removing slide door lock.

Moermond: You had another type of locking system when the inspector was there last time.

Alagbo: Yes, we removed those. After the inspector approved me. He said he would get back to me. Later, he came back, he approved me, and then I put it.

Moermond: I need to find out more about what happened with that.

Shaff: Wayne is no longer with the City. I don't believe he would have allowed that.

Alagbo: I one hundred percent agree with the inspector. My situation is that my business was broken into. They put a bar underneath the door to force it and break it to get into the store. Whatever we can do to prevent that, that is what we do.

Moermond: I'd like to talk to the commercial supervisor in this area to see if he has alternatives. I don't think what you have there is acceptable. I'm concerned that this is a worse situation than the slide bolts in place. I'm not sure what Mr. Spierling saw when he was there. This is more concerning. I will talk to them to see if I learn anything more. I'm going to lay this over to August 18, 1:30 to 2:30.

Alagbo: That should work.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 8/18/2020

2:30 p.m. Hearings

Vacant Building Registrations

- 28 [RLH VBR 20-52](#) Appeal of Robert Rockstroh to a Vacant Building Registration Fee Warning Letter at 718 SIXTH STREET EAST.

Sponsors: Prince

Rescheduled per owner's request.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 8/11/2020