

Re:

FILE # J2525R

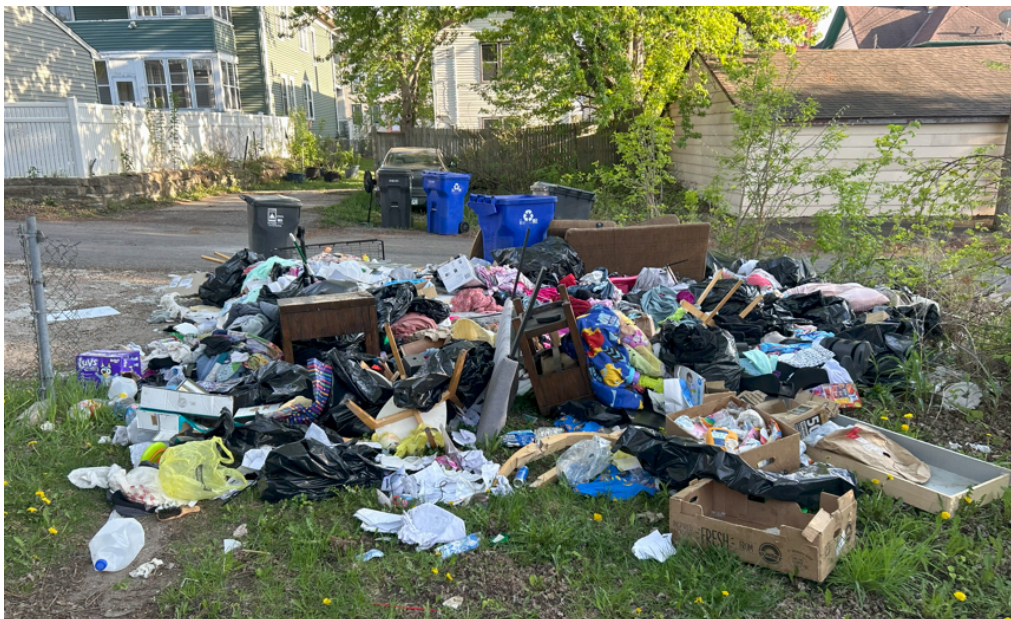
From:

Byron Broughten, Property Owner

To whom it concerns,

The city is charging me \$389 for being the victim of having garbage being spread around the back of my yard. I appealed the decision and was denied. This is my second appeal. Below are the main points of context and reasons as to why this second appeal ought to be granted.

1. I own a duplex and live in one unit while renting out the other.
2. The tenants I was renting to destroyed the unit and left behind garbage and belongings:
3. I hired contractors to turn over the unit. They neatly bagged up everything and put it back by the alley so I could use the city's garbage service to pick up the filled bags and larger items on a per bag/item basis.
4. Someone—I don't know who—decided to tear open all the garbage bags and spread the garbage all over the back of my yard. This is what I woke up to on May 7th:



5. My contractors and I had two options: 1. Re-bag the garbage and risk the same thing happening, or 2. Order a dumpster. We went with option 2.

6. My contractors have a working relationship with a dumpster vendor. The contractors and vendor had spotty schedules and ended up being able to convene on May 16th to address the issue. It cost me at least an additional \$500.
7. The person who handled my first appeal specified three main reasons why my appeal was denied: 1. There were “large items” that weren’t originally in garbage bags, 2. I didn’t call the city to say I needed more time, and 3. The situation was “horrendous”, which the person conducting the appeal repeated at least twice in a row.
8. Regarding the first point, as I stated previously, I was intending to use the city’s garbage service to pick up the large items on a per-item basis. I should not be faulted for placing items where they are supposed to be placed in order to use the city’s services.
9. Regarding the second point, I didn’t call the city to request more time because I didn’t know that was an option. The notice I received didn’t say to do that. If that is an option, the notice should say, “If you need more time to take care of the issue, call the St. Paul Department of Safety and Inspections to request it”.
10. Regarding the third point, I am well aware of how “horrendous” the situation was. No one was more displeased than me that random people decided to spread garbage around the back of my yard. Frankly, I didn’t appreciate how the person handling the appeal shamed me—“It was horrendous. It was just horrendous”, she said—for something that wasn’t my fault.
11. In summary, tenants trashed my unit, I paid contractors to bag it up, random people spread the garbage all over the back of my yard, I paid for a dumpster and labor to address it, the city charged me, and my appeal was denied for the reasons that I followed the city’s protocol for disposing of large items, I didn’t do something that no one told me was an option, and the situation forced on me was so “horrendous”.

If there are any other reasons why my first appeal was denied, they were not made clear to me so I cannot address them here. Thank you for your time.