

From: [*CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings](#)
To: [Heather Linehan](#)
Cc: [*CI-StPaul_CC-Ward5](#); [*CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings](#); [Richard Kedrowski](#)
Subject: RE: 973 Front Avenue - Amber Duncan
Date: Tuesday, December 31, 2024 2:46:29 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon Ms. Linehan,

The Legislative Hearing officer wanted me to follow up with you on this, as I forwarded your email to her since the matter is before Council, as you know. She has determined that this must be a part of the public record, and the CAO and other Legislative Hearing officers agree, your name cannot be kept off the record nor redacted. This is for multiple reasons, first being that you sent it to multiple offices, and specifically anything sent to a Ward office is considered ex parte and all ward offices must have access to the same information.

Additionally, regardless of what happens with our file, anything sent to the City becomes public information under [State Law](#) and isn't redacted unless it involves personnel issues or includes information that may be used for identity theft such as routing numbers.

Last, we'd like to emphasize that the only thing in front of the Council is the condemnation. Much of what you addressed would be adjudicated and addressed in other places, and isn't something that the Legislative Hearing officer can use in her determination and recommendation on the condemnation to the Council.

Thanks,
Joanna



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

Joanna Zimny

Legislative Hearing Executive Assistant
Legislative Hearing Office
Pronouns: she/her/hers
Saint Paul City Hall
Suite 310
15 W. Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
P: 651-266-8585
www.StPaul.gov



Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Heather Linehan <heather.linehan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2024 7:43 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Re: 973 Front Avenue - Amber Duncan

You don't often get email from heather.linehan@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Morning, Joanna,

May I ask that you please redact a few other things contained in my December 27 email? Please see below highlighted in yellow.

I shared my email with a few neighbors and they pointed out some things that they thought should be redacted (and I agree) -- should that email be publicly shared. I tried to keep the email as vague as possible so as not to make it sound like I was writing the email, but rather it was being collectively written by neighbors.

Many thanks,
Heather

Hello, good morning.

I am neighbors with Amber Duncan. I, along with many other neighbors, have been reporting her property for years (in addition to calling Animal Control and SPPD as we see and hear things).

We are really trying to understand this whole condemnation/order to vacate process and we're hoping that someone can provide an update to us.

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At any point will Child Protective Services be brought into this? Because they should, if they are not already. There are additional major issues over there:

1. Amber letting the kids get high. Amber and the kids sit in her van for hours at a time, smoking weed. We see it. We smell it. We hear them coughing and hacking. We hear the kids' slurred, slowed down speech. We see the flicker of lighters in the back seats and blunts being passed around the van. We see and hear their wild behavior (as recently as December 25, some of the kids climbed out of an upstairs window and were seen on the roof, hanging out, dancing and videoing each other. Amber was not home at the time).

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3. Is anyone questioning why Amber has all these kids in her home? Genuine question: where are their parents? Amber cannot manage to parent her own kids, let alone taking on that responsibility to care for somebody else's kids.

We don't think the number of people in that house, who are not Amber, her two kids, and nephew, should be any factor or consideration in this process. Amber is clearly playing into people's sympathies by saying things like "I know it is cold, but is it more important to put a family out on the streets in the middle of this? Or let them stay in the house with space heaters while they're trying to figure out how to fix the furnace." At this point, in our opinions, Amber should be focused only on herself, her two kids, and her nephew, who has lived with her since at least 2019. All the other friends, "boyfriend," his mom and 3 year old sister should not be there. Amber saying "we have a large family and we all fight a lot" as some sort of answer to why police calls happen is ridiculous. No, Amber does not have a large family. She does however have a lot of people living in

her house that should not be there because it only results in more chaos.

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A month or so ago, a neighbor forgot to lock her car door. On that night, the kids were out running around and Amber's son and his friend went into the car and stole some things from the front seat. Despite that act being caught on camera, Amber denied knowing who the boys were. That's just one of many examples of her kids doing something like that and then Amber feigning ignorance of knowing them and how she "can't control what my kids' friends do!" -- despite one clearly being her son and his friend who's been living in Amber's house for many months now.

That's a major issue for us all. Amber has so many kids living over there that it's just a matter of time before one or more of them do something criminally substantial and Amber simply denies she knows them.

4. While we have no physical proof, we have long suspected inappropriate sexual behavior happening inside the home, given the number of teens being allowed to stay overnight for long periods of time. This goes so beyond a normal sleepover with friends.

One example involves her so-called new boyfriend who is 18 years old (his mother and his 3 year old sister are also living in the home -- it worries us that there's that young of a child staying in the home with all the questionable behavior that's happening. The 3 year old doesn't even have a car seat/booster and sits on the lap of someone anytime she's in the van). He, along with another teen, showed up late in the spring/early summer of this year, with Amber claiming they were her nephews. At the time, and as recent as earlier this month, Amber had a boyfriend. They apparently broke up and now this 18 year old, who she claimed was her nephew -- who she took into her home -- is now her new boyfriend. Amber is 34.

I would also like to address where Amber claims she has a job. I don't believe she's being truthful about that. Rarely, if ever, do we see Amber alone driving in the van. Her van is always filled with kids and unless she has a job where she's taking the kids with her, we don't think she's employed. At least not in a traditional sense. That may be something to press Amber on, if that has any bearing in all of this.

If you were to ask me and other neighbors today what we would like to see happen: we'd like for Amber to move. Simple as that. We'd love for her parents and sister to say "enough is enough," to

sell the house and be done with this already.

At the very least, Amber should absolutely be ordered to vacate the home. If she's ordered to vacate, that will force her to take all of this seriously because from our observation, she is not.

Amber has been an issue for over five years. This past year has been the absolute worst in the 8 or so years she's lived there -- and we fear things will just continue to get worse as the kids get older and bolder and Amber completely loses any sliver of control she may have with them.

We have all lived on this block between 15-40 years. We are all friends with/friendly with one another. Except for Amber, it's a pretty quiet neighborhood. Amber is a menace to this neighborhood.

Unless she gets some serious, deep rooted therapy, she's not going to change. She may have repairs done to the home or get a professional cleaning crew in to clean the home. But if *she* doesn't change, we'll be right back here in a year. She's so comfortable in her victimhood and quick to cast blame on others for her own poor choices, bad behavior, and outright neglect to kids and animals. Her saying that DSI has been "harassing" her for 5 years and how they "stole" things from her this summer is absolutely absurd.

We think Amber's been given so many opportunities to turn things around and she simply doesn't do anything to fix the problem. Her answer to problems is avoid and sit in her van smoking weed with children and teens. That's her day to day. Every single day. Not once have we seen her go into her packed, double car garage and start going through things to throw in the dumpster. Not once have we seen her carrying things out of her house to throw in the dumpster. It's always her kids (and the random kids living there) or sister doing the heavy lifting. By her own admission, her mom pays for a lot of things. A lot of enabling of Amber happening in that family.

I appreciate you all taking the time to read this. I know it's A LOT. We just wanted to provide more context to you and have you aware that Amber's problems go so far beyond "just garbage and hoarding."

One final thing: Should this email be used as an attachment to the January 7 hearing, or any other public facing matter, I would ask that my name/email be redacted and not publicly shared. Amber is extremely volatile and retaliatory and I fear she would lash out in some fashion at me, or any other neighbor for that matter (or worse, rile up and encourage the kids to do something).

On Fri, Dec 27, 2024 at 9:36 AM *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings
<LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Good morning Heather,

The Legislative Hearing officer is out this week, and I'd like to defer to her for any response, but I wanted to acknowledge receipt of this email and note your concerns re: the highlighted portion below and acknowledge as far as the public record on Legistar that shouldn't be a problem.

Thank you,
Joanna



Joanna Zimny
Legislative Hearing Executive Assistant
Legislative Hearing Office
Pronouns: she/her/hers
Saint Paul City Hall
Suite 310
15 W. Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
P: 651-266-8585

joanna.zimny@ci.stpaul.mn.us

www.StPaul.gov

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Sent: Friday, December 27, 2024 9:03 AM

To: *CI-StPaul_CC-Ward5 <CC-Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Richard Kedrowski <Richard.Kedrowski@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

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We have all lived on this block between 15-40 years. We are all friends with/friendly with one another. Except for Amber, it's a pretty quiet neighborhood. Amber is a menace to this neighborhood.

Unless she gets some serious, deep rooted therapy, she's not going to change. She may have repairs done to the home or get a professional cleaning crew in to clean the home. But if *she* doesn't change, we'll be right back here in a year. She's so comfortable in her victimhood and quick to cast blame on others for her own poor choices, bad behavior, and outright neglect to kids and animals. Her saying that DSI has been "harassing" her for 5 years and how they "stole" things from her this summer is absolutely absurd.

We think Amber's been given so many opportunities to turn things around and she simply doesn't do anything to fix the problem. Her answer to problems is avoid and sit in her van smoking weed with children and teens. That's her day to day. Every single day. Not once have we seen her go into her packed, double car garage and start going through things to throw in the dumpster. Not once have we seen her carrying things out of her house to throw in the dumpster. It's always her kids (and the random kids living there) or sister doing the heavy lifting. By her own admission, her mom pays for a lot of things. A lot of enabling of Amber happening in that family.

I appreciate you all taking the time to read this. I know it's A LOT. We just wanted to provide more context to you and have you aware that Amber's problems go so far beyond "just garbage and hoarding."

One final thing: Should this email be used as an attachment to the January 7 hearing, or any other public facing matter, I would ask that my name/email be redacted and not publicly shared. Amber is extremely volatile and retaliatory and I fear she would lash out in some fashion at me, or any other neighbor for that matter (or worse, rile up and encourage the kids to do something).