

October

The Honorable Dan Niziolek, Chair
Public Safety and Regulatory Services Committee
Room 317 City Hall
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Re: Approval of Inspections Division 2003 Special Assessment Levies

Dear Council Member Niziolek:

The attached resolutions authorize the certification of year 2003 Inspections special assessment levies to the Hennepin County Taxation Department. These levies help defray the City's costs of removing nuisance conditions on private property by placing special assessments against those properties where nuisances and/or hazards were identified and abated. These conditions include rubbish, overgrown grass and weeds, brush, dead trees, vacant and hazardous buildings, inoperable vehicle tows, vacant building registration and police board-ups. The year 2003 levies include nuisance conditions abated throughout the City from approximately September of 2002 through September of 2003.

The abatement of nuisance conditions on private property, the procedures for providing notice to property owners, and the special assessment hearing and collections process are described in Ordinance 227.100 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances. Chapter 249, authorizing the securing and demolition of vacant hazardous structures, also references the special assessments hearing and collection process contained in Section 227.100.

The special assessments hearing process in this ordinance includes hearings before hearing officers appointed by the City Council who are charged with determining the validity and amount of proposed assessments. This hearing process was followed for all assessments included in the 2003 proposed levies.

The deadline for certification to Hennepin County is November 30, 2003. To allow for the published resolution to be sent to the County along with the levy list, this Council resolution must be approved no later than the November 7, 2003 City Council meeting.

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RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council approve the following levies and that the Director of the Hennepin County Property Taxation Department be directed to place assessments against certain properties to defray the cost of work performed under authorization of the Inspections Division to correct nuisance or hazardous conditions on these properties:

Levy 1080 – Removal of Offensive Matter (rubbish), payable in one year - \$216,715.78

Levy 1081 – Removal of Offensive Matter (weeds), payable in one year - \$131,248.29

Levy 1084 – Removal of Offensive Matter (hazardous trees), payable in five years - \$98,689.00

Levy 1085 – Removal of Offensive Matter (brush and plant growth), payable in one year - \$48,191.55

Levy 1086 – Inoperable Vehicle Tow Administrative Fees payable in one year - \$43,387.50

Levy 1092 – Removal of Hazardous/Nuisance Condition Buildings, Lump sum payable in one year - \$97,286.00

Levy 1093 – Removal of Hazardous/Nuisance Condition Buildings, Payable in five years - \$4,571.00

Levy 1096 – Vacant/Boarded Housing Registrations payable in one year - \$42,800.00

Levy 1098 – Securing of Buildings (Police Board Up) payable in one year - \$69,537.50

Levy 1099 – Securing Abandoned Buildings, payable in one year - \$19,396.05

Further, that the City Council approve the accompanying resolutions, all in accordance with Chapter 227 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances, directing the Director of Hennepin County Taxation Department to:

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q Place assessments against certain properties to defray the cost of abating nuisance conditions (Levies 1080, 1081, 1084, 1085, and 1086);

q Place assessments against certain properties to defray the cost of razing buildings determined to constitute a nuisance condition in accordance with Chapter 249 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances (Levy 1092, 1093);

q Place assessments against certain properties to defray the cost of razing dangerous buildings determined to constitute a nuisance condition in accordance with Chapter 87 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances (Levy 1092, 1093); and

q Place assessments against certain properties to defray the administrative costs for registering and processing the vacant building registration form and for the costs of the city in monitoring the vacant building site (Levy 1096); and.

q Place assessments against certain properties to defray the cost of securing the building and also levy and collect associated administrative costs not to exceed seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for each building that is secured in the manner provided by Minnesota Statutes, Sections 429.061, 429.071 and 429.081 and amendments thereto.(Levy 1098)

q Place assessments against certain properties to defray the cost of securing abandoned buildings as authorized in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 463 (Levy 1099).

Sincerely,

Rocco Forte
Director, Inspections