

March 31, 2006

Minneapolis City Clerk's Office
C/O Peggy Menshek
350 South 5th Street Room 304
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear City Clerk

I wish to file a written objection to the proposed assessment to my property located at 5226 Stevens Ave for the following reasons:

1. I have lived at this address for 10 years and nothing has been done to the street even at my repeated request in the past.
2. Since the street repair/replacement is being done in conjunction with the State project the State should pick up the cost. Widening of 35W is not for the purpose of the residents who live along Stevens Ave or the other streets that are being assessed.
3. The excessive amount of the assessment and the proposed property tax increase, results in an 81 percent increase to my property when you take into account the property tax increase.

Since January of 1995 I along with others along Stevens Ave have endured several changes to the area with none being of benefit to the residents. First I was assessed approximately \$1800.00 for sidewalk replacement because there were cracks in the concrete and water pooled on the side walk from unlevelled surfaces. After the replacement water still pools on the side walk however, I didn't complain because I felt the best of efforts don't always result in positive change. Secondly I endured having the street torn up for the installation of a new pumping system and a separation of the storm sewer from the sanitary sewer with the express purpose of removing rain water from the street quicker and more efficiently. However, this has been a miserable failure. The pipe for dumping the water from the street faces up stream in to Minnehaha Creek rather than down stream which would be the proper installation. With every 1/2 inch of rain or more I live with the constant fear that my resident will be flooded along with others on the

Street. The new pumping station comes with the instruction that when the green light is on please call a specific telephone number. I have personally called that number in an excess of 50 times. The public employees remedy the problem of standing water by opening the sanitary sewer so that the water is removed from the street. Keep in mind the separation of the sewers was the reason the changes were put into place. Also all of the drains for the street from Diamond Lake to 53rd and Stevens have been closed to keep water from draining onto 35W which compounds the problem of removing rain water from the street in front of my house. Lastly as one who chooses to live in the City of Minneapolis I have endured without complaint 10 years of constant property tax increases because I thought it was good for the City. But this last assessment is just too much over the edge. It doesn't represent a positive for those of us being assessed but it does for those who are not. I'm being assessed to help provide a quicker escape and entrance to our City by people who choose to live, to pay property taxes and assessments some place else. I am not affected by the traffic jams on 35W either in the morning or the afternoons because I use other routes to get to and from downtown which my increased property taxes help pay for and maintain.

In conclusion the only reason I'm being assessed is to help pay for a project I neither need nor want. I strongly object to widening a highway that will be obsolete long before the construction is completed. There is one thing that I see that this project will accomplish. It will encourage others to flee from the City with the idea that they will be able to get in quickly because the highway has been widen. Perhaps the more prudent thing to do would be to build a light rail system down one lane of the freeway in either direction and fund it by raising State taxes so that all of us would share in it's cost.

Sincerely



Woody Dixon
5226 Stevens Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55419