

RECEIVED

OCT 05 2015

Date: 5 October 2015

To: Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender, Rapid City Attorney, Rapid City Council Members

MAYOR'S OFFICE

From: Kenneth Hargens, Property Owner 1202 5th Street

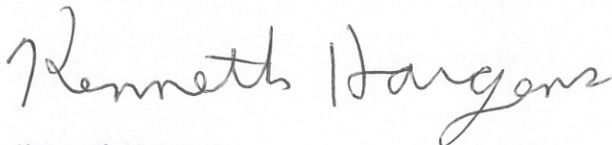
Sometime this summer I received a letter from the Rapid City Ordinance Enforcement personnel that the large maple tree on the grass apron between my sidewalk and the street needed trimming. As a result of this notice, I removed nearly a pickup load of branches from this tree. I have performed this task and many other more extensive branch-removal tasks on this tree many times over the course of years that I have owned and lived at this property.

I never received a notice from the Ordinance Enforcement Department that my efforts were satisfactory. Imagine my surprise when I returned home one day to discover that many more branches had been cut from this tree. I assumed that the branches had been removed by the construction company that was to begin replacing the water and sewer lines on this short section of Clark Street. Now, imagine my continued surprise and extreme disappointment when I received the attached bill informing me that I owed \$162.00 for 'tree branch trimming'!!

I am adamant that I should not have to pay this bill! If I had been informed that my tree trimming had been inadequate I would have cut more branches from this tree.

I have lived in this home since I bought it upon being discharged from the Army in 1971 after my 'Viet Nam experience'. Over the years I have been subject to many inconveniences and inadequacies by the City of Rapid City. These include: Inadequate or no snow-removal on Clark Street, destruction of my water shut-off valve in the sidewalk, widening of 5th Street leading to my continued damp basement, stolen property, inadequate law enforcement of noise ordinances, etc. More recently, I have been subject to the severe inconveniences of 9 weeks of the afore-mentioned 'street improvement' project. I pay several thousand dollars to Pennington County each year for property taxes. I have done so faithfully for many years. Receiving a bill like this is a 'slap in my face' for being an honest and law-abiding citizen!

At this time I would like the appropriate individuals listed above to review the attached bill and to review my several reasons that I should not have to pay said bill. Please vacate this bill. If the city can afford to spend \$700,000 for a 'Civic Center Study' they can certainly afford to pay this very inappropriate bill of \$162.00 that may reflect the ineptness of the department involved. I am looking forward to receiving a favorable response to my plea concerning this matter.



Kenneth Hargens



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

Code Enforcement

300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 355-3465

Memorandum

DATE: September 24, 2015

TO: Finance Department

FROM: Ordinance Officer, Code Enforcement

RE: Billing statement for trim tree branches and haul to landfill at 1202 5th St.

Legal Description: Lot 11-12 Less Lot H1 Of Lot 11, Block 3, Flormann Subdivision

ID# 23171

Owner: Kenneth Hargens
1202 5th St.
Rapid City, SD 57701

PR Number: R16137

Work Completed: Trim tree branches and haul to landfill

3418 Vendor Fees:

Cricket Lawn Service \$120.00

Building Inspection Fees:

3193 Administrative Fees: \$42/hour \$42.00

Total: \$162.00