

FORREST HALAMKA
8080 HILL RD
WATERVLIT MI 49098
DEC. 11, 2015

DEAR D.E.Q

I AM COMPRISING THIS LETTER IN RESPONSE TO A VIOLATION THAT OCCURRED AT MY RESIDENCE, 8080 HILL RD. WATERVLIT MI 49098, ON NEVEMBER, 24TH 2015. TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY, THE WEEKS LEADING UP TO, AND THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED.

MY WIFE, CHRISTINA HALAMKA, AND I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM OUR INSURANCE COMPANY STATING THAT IF WE DIDN'T REPAIR OR DEMOLISH OUR OVER A CENTURY YEAR OLD BARNS WE WOULD NOT BE RENEWED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW YEAR. SO NATURALLY WE STARTED SHOPPING AROUND. COME TO FIND OUT THERE WEREN'T ANY INSURANCE COMPANIES WILLING TO INSURE OUR DEPLETING OLD FARM BUILDINGS THAT HAD BEEN IN MY FAMILY FOUR FIVE GENERATIONS NOW. WE GOT ESTIMATES FROM A FEW EXCAVATORS AND FOUND THAT FINANCIALLY WE COULD NOT AFFORD TO REPAIR OR DEMOLISH THE BUILDINGS. WE ALSO CONTACTED THE FIRE CHIEF, DAN JONES, ABOUT DOING A CONTROLLED BURN. FROM THE LETTER YOU SENT IT SOUNDS LIKE MAYBE THAT WAS AN OPTION BUT WE WERE TOLD FIRE DEPTMENTS DID NOT DO THAT ANYMORE. LEAVING OUR MESS OUR PROBLEM.

ABOUT 4-5 WEEKS AGO I RECIVED A CALL FROM JEFF PALLAS OF COLOMA MICHIGAN REGARDING MY BARNS. HE WAS LOOKING FOR BARN WOOD TO PUT UP AT HIS WINERY IN COLOMA. WE CAME TO AN AGREEMENT THAT HE WOULD TAKE THE BARNS DOWN CLEAN UP A LOT OF IT AND TAKE SOME OF THE BARN WOOD HE WANTED AND I WOULD DO WHAT I WANTED OR COULD WITH THE REST. JEFF AND HIS CREW WERE OUT THERE PERIODICALLY FOR A COUPLE WEEKS AND ON THE DAY OF THE 24TH OF NOV. HE INFORMED ME THAT WHEN I GOT HOME FROM WORK WE SHOULD LIGHT WHAT WAS LEFT OVER OF THE SMALLER OF THE TWO BARNS ON FIRE. I RELAYED THIS TO MY WIFE AND SHE STARTED A SMALL FIRE ON ONE SIDE OF IT. BEFORE THE FIRE REALLY GOT GOING AN OFFICER OUT AND ABOUT MAKING ROUNDS SAY IT AND CALLED THE FIRE DEPT. AT WHICH TIME WE FOUNF OUT THAT IT WAS A VIOLATION AND WE COULD ONLY DISPOSE OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AT THE LANDFIL. THIS WAS A HUGE SURPRISE TO ALL OF US. WE HAD ABSOLUTLY NO IDEA THAT THIS WAS AGAINST THE LAW AT ALL. WE WERE TOLD THAT ALL TREATED WOOD WAS TO BE TAKEN TO LANDFILLS AND NOT BURNED OR BURRIED. WE ALSO DIDN'T THINK ANY OF THE WOOD WAS TREATED AS IT WAS ALL OVER A HUNDRED YEARS OLD. REGARDLESS WE WERE NOT AWARE OF ANY WRONG DOING UNTIL WE WERE TOLD AFTER THE FACT. THE LETTER YOU SENT ALSO SAYS THAT BOTH BUILDINGS WERE EXTINGUISHED BUT ONLY ONE OF THE BUILDINGS WAS ON FIRE AND NOT FOR VERY LONG.

SINCE THIS ORDEAL HAPPEN ED THE DAY BEFORE THNAKSGIVING WE TOOK A DAY OFF FOR THE HOLIDAY AND STARTED CLEANING UP THE MESS OVER THE LOMNG HOLIDAY WEEKEND. MY WIFE AND THREE KIDS AND I WORKED ALL WEEKEND SORTING OUT WOOF AND FILLING A DUMPSTER WITH AS MUCH WOOD AND JUNK WE COULD GET IN THERE. WE ALSO EMPLOYED HELP FROM MY MOTHER AND 84 YEAR OLD GRANDMOTHER WHO OWNED THE LAND AND BARNs FOR MANY YEARS BEFORE I PURCHASED IT FROM HER.

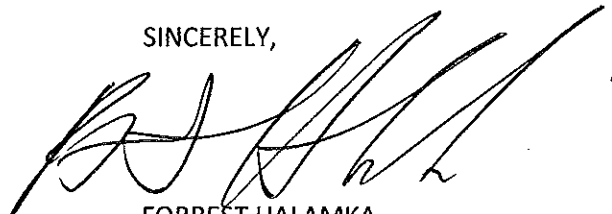
WE WERE A LITTLE OVERWHELMED WITH THE AMOUNT SO WE WERE ABLE, THROUGH A LOT OF HELP OF A CLOSE FRIEND WHO IS EMPLOYED THERE, GET HELP FROM B&Z CONSTRUCTION CO. OUT OF BENTON HARBOR MI 49022. B&Z DELIVERED AN EXCAVATOR FRIDAY 12-4-15 AND STARTED WORK ON CLEANING UP OUR MESS ON SAT 12-5-15. THANKS TO THE HELP AND HARD WORK OF MY CLOSE FRIEND, ADAM CRAIN, WE WERE ABLE TO GET IT ALL CLEANED UP AND HAULED AWAY IN SEMI TRAILERS TO THE DUMP AND TO B&Z'S PIT SO THEY COULD SALVAGE SOME OF THE WOOD. OUR INSURANCE CO WAS NOTIFIED AND HAS LIFTED THE NON-RENEWAL.

I UNDERSTAND THAT NONE OF THAT IS YOU PROBLEM OR CONCERN BUT I FELT YOU SHOULD KNOW THE WHOLE STORYAND THE REASONS FOR THE INCIDENT IT SELF. WE ARE VERY REMORSEFUL ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. THAT WAS THE LAST OF OUR INTENTION. WE WERE JUST DOING WHAT WE THOUGHT WAS THE BEST OPTION FOR EVERYONE, FOUND OUT THAT WAS NOT AN OPTION AT ALL.

SO TO SUMMARIZE THIS LETTER, WE MADE A HUGE MISTAKE, A SERIOUS MISTAKE THAT NIETHER OURSELVES, OR ANYONE ELSE WE TALKED TO, BEFORE OR AFTER THE INCIDENT, HAD ANY CLUE OF WRONG DOING IN WHAT HAPPENED. WE THOUGHT WE WERE ABLE TO DISPOSE OF WOOD ON OUR PROPERTY ANY WAY WE COULD. WE HAVE TRIED VERY HARD AND DILIGENTLY TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION. WE HAVE SPENT A LOT OF MONEY AND USED ALL THE RESOURCES WE COULD THINK OF TO TAKE CARE OF THIS IN THE PROPER WAY ONCE WE KNEW WHAT AND HOW WE WERE SUPPOSED TO.

I HOPE I HAVE ANSWERED ALL YOUR QUSTIONS AND PLEASE NOTIFY ME OF WHAT, I ANYTHING, TO DO OR GO FROM HERE. ONCE AGAIN I/WE DO APPOLIGIZE FOR THE ENTIRE INCIDENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS.

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Forrest Halamka', written in a cursive style.

FORREST HALAMKA