

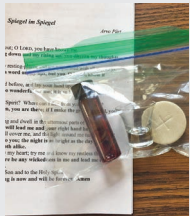
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Developer sued for damaging affordable apartment now plans to demolish it

The owner of 2003 Aldrich Ave. isn't sharing its cost estimate for repairing the building. Randolph Street Realty Capital plans to demolish it in September and build a market-rate apartment on the site. Photo by Isaiah Rustad

By Zac Farber

Lowry Hill East neighbors are mobilizing to try to save what was once a 25-unit affordable apartment from demolition, but despite the current owner having played a role in damaging the building, city officials say there's little to be done to stop it.

The city ordered the apartment at 2003 Aldrich Ave. to shut down in 2018, with families forced to move out, after cracks large enough to see through floors appeared in the facade and inspectors fretted that further shifts of the building could cause a gas leak and, potentially, an explosion. The building, which includes two retail spaces, has been vacant ever since.

SEE **CRACKED APARTMENT** / PAGE A14

Not so fast

Charter Commission's slow-rolling of public safety amendment follows pattern

By Andrew Hazzard

When the Minneapolis Charter Commission voted to use its full review period to consider an amendment to replace the traditional police department with a new public safety model — a move that will keep the issue off the 2020 ballot — Council President Lisa Bender wasn't surprised.

In many ways, the move echoes events that Bender saw play out two years ago. On June 23, 2018, Thurman Blevins, a 31-year-old Black man, was shot and killed by Minneapolis police during a foot pursuit. In the aftermath, Council Member Cam Gordon (Ward 2) proposed a charter amendment that would have given the City Council more power over police department operations. The council approved the amendment on a 7-5 vote and sent it along to the Charter Commission for review. Like this year, the body opted to take its full review, and the amendment was kept off the 2018 ballot.

The killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer has drawn unprecedented levels of protest, activism and attention to city government, including to the Charter Commission, a little-known, judge-appointed board that didn't even broadcast its meetings until the coronavirus pandemic began.

Now that board, and the role it plays in Minneapolis, is under more scrutiny than ever.

The proposed amendment would have eliminated the requirement for a minimum number of police officers and replaced the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) with a public health-based department of public safety using a combination of traditional peace officers, social workers and interveners to address crime and safety issues.

The City Council's intention was to create alternatives to armed police, to assert more direct power over the force and to increase the

SEE **CHARTER COMMISSION** / PAGE A6

Ilhan Omar wins big; Fateh ousts Hayden

Two seasoned local DFL lawmakers suffer primary defeats

By Nate Gottlieb

U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar, the first Somali-American elected to Congress, swept to victory over a well-funded primary challenger on Aug. 11 as two other progressive candidates of color — both second-generation African immigrants — staged primary upsets against established local DFL state legislators.

In Southwest Minneapolis, Omar bested the Uptown resident and media lawyer Antone Melton-Meaux on his home turf, winning every precinct in the Uptown area while also taking the neighborhoods along Interstate 35W.

Melton-Meaux won most of the higher-income, whiter precincts south and west of the Chain of Lakes, showing strength in a majority of the precincts won by former Vice President Joe Biden in the March presidential primary.

Omar won every Southwest precinct that went to Sen. Bernie Sanders, as well as

precincts in Bryn Mawr, Kingfield, Tangle-town, Linden Hills, Armatage and Kenny that went to Biden and Sen. Elizabeth Warren in March.

Out of the 40,389 ballots cast in 39 Southwest precincts, roughly 58.1% went to Omar, 40% went to Melton-Meaux and 1.9% went to other candidates in the five-way race.

Omar, a progressive hero whose left-wing views, political missteps and racial identity have attracted a variety of critics, won 58.2% of all votes cast in the 5th District — a 19-point margin of victory and a significant expansion of her base from the 2018 primary, when she won 48.2% of the district.

"We earned a mandate for change," Omar said in an election-night statement. "Despite the attacks, our support has only grown."

SEE **PRIMARY** / PAGE A12



Omar Fateh, 30, was overcome with emotion on Aug. 11 after defeating incumbent state Sen. Jeff Hayden in the Senate District 62 primary. Photo by Isaiah Rustad