

Hall, Renee

From: s b <searlb@live.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 10:45 AM
To: City Council and Mayor
Cc: Schainker, Steve; Higgins, Rich; VanMeeteren, Sara
Subject: RE: Reimbursement for Needed Structural Repair due to Lack of Inspection

[External Email]

Greetings Mayor and Ames City Council,

I submit to you information and costs for the replacement of the structural support for unit located at 4253 #6 Eisenhower Lane. The following note and email string provides some documentation of the historical events to date.

I come to you requesting reimbursement for the cost to replace the support structure (beam) located in the basement. The total cost is: \$3,789 (construction #3,320; Engineering \$450 and Records \$19). John Lott of Benjamin Design Collaborative, (who said he had a contract with the city) provided the support beam replacement calculations noting, "the existing beam is too small for the opening, you are not in immediate danger of the beam failing. When we do calculations, we have to use the maximum values as required by the building code. Your normal daily activities don't reach the max levels the building is required to provide. But as soon as you invite all your friends to a party, the beam will be fully loaded." The problems stem from the inadequacy of the flooring support/beam when the units were constructed. I have had multiple builders review the structure, and all assert it is/was part of the original construction. The pertinent inspection records for unit #6 do not exist and at a meeting with City of Ames staff, I was told the City relies/trusts the builder regarding inspections.

I am eager to resolve this issue through reimbursement and put this issue behind us. I look forward to your response.

Thank you.
Steven Bowman

From: s b <searlb@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:22 AM
To: Schainker, Steve <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>
Subject: Re: City of Ames Inspection Department Follow Up

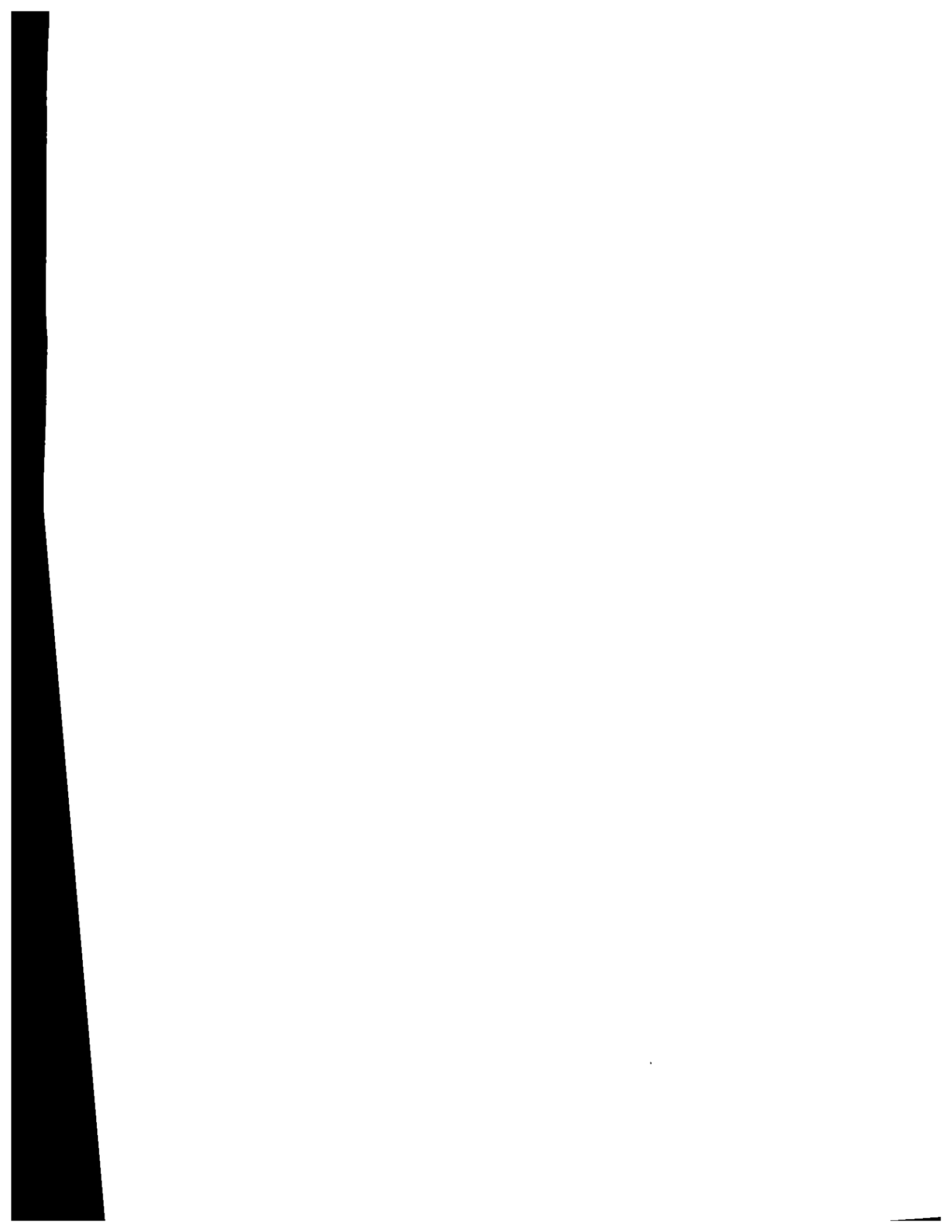
Hello Steve,

Shall I go ahead and send my note to the council?

Steve

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
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From: s b <searlb@live.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2022 8:24:02 PM
To: Schainker, Steve <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>
Subject: RE: City of Ames Inspection Department Follow Up



Hello Steve,

I just about have my letter finalized and would like to discuss things with you before sending it. Let me know if that works for you. Thanks

Steve

From: Schainker, Steve <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 9:00 AM
To: s b <searlb@live.com>
Cc: Higgins, Rich <rich.higgins@cityofames.org>; VanMeeteren, Sara <sara.vanmeeteren@cityofames.org>
Subject: RE: City of Ames Inspection Department Follow Up

Steve:

If you would like to proceed further, you can write an email to the City Council explaining your request. They will probably ask for a staff report on this issue and the Council will could make a final decision regarding your request.

Steve

From: s b <searlb@live.com>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 10:31 AM
To: Schainker, Steve <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>
Cc: Higgins, Rich <rich.higgins@cityofames.org>; VanMeeteren, Sara <sara.vanmeeteren@cityofames.org>
Subject: Re: City of Ames Inspection Department Follow Up

[External Email]

Hello Steve,

Ok. How would you like us to proceed?

Steve

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
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From: Schainker, Steve <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 10:24:20 AM
To: s b <searlb@live.com>
Cc: Higgins, Rich <rich.higgins@cityofames.org>; VanMeeteren, Sara <sara.vanmeeteren@cityofames.org>
Subject: RE: City of Ames Inspection Department Follow Up

Hi Steve!

As I mentioned in my June 30, 2021 email, the City staff has determined that that there isn't anything more we can do for you regarding your situation. However, as I stressed previously, the ultimate decision maker is the City Council. If you want to pursue the matter further, all that needs to be done is to write an email to the Council stating your position and request. I can assist you in writing the email if you would like me to.

Steve

From: s b <searlb@live.com>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 10:02 AM
To: Schainker, Steve <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>
Subject: Re: City of Ames Inspection Department Follow Up

[External Email]

Hello Steve,

I finally have a final dollar figure for the replacement of the support beam in my basement and I'd like to again discuss reimbursed for the cost. Please advise. Thank you.

Steve Bowman
515.232.6259

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
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From: Schainker, Steve <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 12:44:04 PM
To: s b <searlb@live.com>
Cc: Higgins, Rich <rich.higgins@cityofames.org>; Beatty-Hansen, Bronwyn <bronwyn.beattyhansen@amescitycouncil.org>; Betcher, Gloria <gloria.betcher@amescitycouncil.org>; Corrieri, Amber <amber.corrieri@amescitycouncil.org>; Gartin, Tim <tim.gartin@amescitycouncil.org>; Haila, John <john.haila@cityofames.org>; Junck, Rachel <rachel.junck@amescitycouncil.org>; Martin, David <david.martin@amescitycouncil.org>; Poundstone, Trevor <trevor.poundstone@amescitycouncil.org>
Subject: RE: City of Ames Inspection Department Follow Up

Hi Steve!

The next City Council meeting will be on July 13th beginning at 6:00 p.m. During the portion of the meeting entitled "PUBLIC FORUM" citizens are invited to speak to the City Council regarding any city issue not already on that agenda. So, that would be an opportunity for you to address the Council. However, I should warn you that each person addressing the Council is given no longer than three minutes to speak. No discussion or final action can take place at that meeting in response to the information you provide. At the end of the meeting during "COUNCIL COMMENTS" the City Council members will decide whether or not to refer your issue to staff for a report back to them regarding the issue that is being raised. Since your time to address Council is short, I would suggest you also send them something in writing (email) so you will be able share with them all of the information you feel is important.

Steve

From: s b <searlb@live.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 10:09 AM
To: Schainker, Steve <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>; Haila, John <john.haila@cityofames.org>
Cc: Higgins, Rich <rich.higgins@cityofames.org>; VanMeeteren, Sara <sara.vanmeeteren@cityofames.org>
Subject: Re: City of Ames Inspection Department Follow Up

[External Email]

Greetings,

I believe the best method to convey my thoughts and the intricacies of my situation is to explain things directly to the Council - what are the meeting dates? Thanks.

Steve

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
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From: Schainker, Steve <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2021, 9:52 AM
To: s b
Cc: Higgins, Rich; VanMeeteren, Sara
Subject: RE: City of Ames Inspection Department Follow Up

Hi Steve!

After reviewing all of the information that Chief Higgins shared with you, I am sorry but I don't believe that there is any more that staff can do to resolve this situation for you. However, I want to emphasize that we don't have the final say in this matter. If you so desire, you can write a letter/email directly to the City Council explaining your thoughts and specific request. The Council will then decide whether or not to request a report from staff clarifying the situation. If requested, after receiving this information, they then will decide how to respond to your request.

Steve

From: s b <searlb@live.com>
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2021 7:53 AM
To: Schainker, Steve <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>
Cc: Higgins, Rich <rich.higgins@cityofames.org>
Subject: Re: City of Ames Inspection Department Follow Up

[External Email]

Hello Steve,

Today will not work.

I sent pictures. What are your thoughts/plan?
Please advise. Thanks

Steve

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
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From: Schainker, Steve <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 8:42:50 AM

To: s b <searlb@live.com>; Higgins, Rich <rich.higgins@cityofames.org>
Subject: RE: City of Ames Inspection Department Follow Up

Hi Steve!

Is there a possibility that Rich and I could come out to your house to view the basement? It would give me a better idea of the situation.

If yes, are you available on Friday or some time next week for us to visit?

Steve

From: s b <searlb@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 5:01 PM
To: Higgins, Rich <rich.higgins@cityofames.org>
Cc: Schainker, Steve <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>
Subject: Re: City of Ames Inspection Department Follow Up

[External Email]

Hello Rich/Steve,

Thanks for the reports but they do not provide any substantive information regarding the construction. Theoretically speaking, the inspector could miss 50% of the items and still clear the unit in the city's system. The information attached does not provide answers for the information I requested. The absence of data between permitting and the final inspection is extremely concerning.

Also, the plan review permit documents stipulate a 7' basement clearance.

Steve, do you have commentary/follow up per our meeting?

Steven

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
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From: Higgins, Rich <rich.higgins@cityofames.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021, 3:41 PM
To: searlb@live.com
Cc: Schainker, Steve
Subject: City of Ames Inspection Department Follow Up

Hi Steve,

Thanks again for coming in and meeting with Steve and me on Wednesday. I'm following up to provide you with a copy of the footing, foundation and framing inspection reports (attached). Just a reminder that this was done for the whole building and not individual units like the final, electrical, mechanical and plumbing inspections. I also followed up with our Inspection Division and was reminded that basements are only required to maintain a minimum height of 6'-4" clearance under beams and ductwork.

Please let me know if you have any follow up questions or would like one of our inspectors to come out and take a look at the beam. My contact information is listed below.

**Thanks,
Rich**

Rich Higgins
Fire Chief
Ames Fire Department
Fire Station #1 | 1300 Burnett Ave. | Ames, IA 50010



515-239-5414 *main*
515-291-9612 *mobile*
rhiggins@cityofames.org
Mailing: 515 Clark Ave. | Ames, IA 50010

www.CityofAmes.org

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