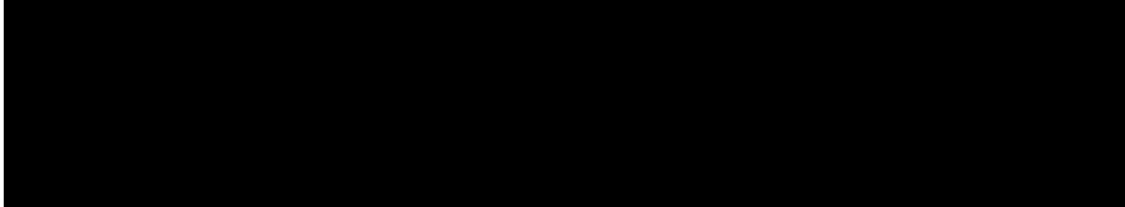



Columbia Heights City Council  
590 40th Avenue NE  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

17 December 2025

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I'm writing to ask for your understanding and approval of a temporary rental license for my home at 4129 7th Street NE.

Before turning to the option of renting, we tried the least complicated and most traditional route: selling the house. We listed it from July through November of this year, even though selling after only four years of owning (especially our first home) felt far from ideal. Even though we lowered the price multiple times, we still had no takers. By the time we pulled it from the market, we were facing the likelihood of even further financial loss if it sold. Throughout those months, we continued paying the mortgage, which deepened the strain we were already under, and of course we continued to care for the home. We have kept the lawn mowed, the leaves raked, and now the snow shoveled. It's a beautiful house that we love, and maintaining it has been important to both of us.

Renting the home temporarily is not a business decision or an investment strategy; it is the last remaining option that would allow us to recoup some of these losses and stabilize financially after the divorce. I understand and respect the City's efforts to manage rental density, but I am hopeful that the temporary-license process exists for situations like mine, where a homeowner is navigating a genuine period of transition and financial hardship.

Being able to rent out the house, even for a year or two, would give me crucial breathing room. I'd share the income equally with my ex-husband, of course, and the rest would help me buy food and necessities, save a little, and begin rebuilding my life. This request isn't from a developer adding properties to an investment portfolio. It's from a real person navigating a difficult transition, trying to support her children, who wants to keep the house in good condition until we can decide on the next chapter for it. I understand the responsibilities of renting and am committed to meeting all inspection, safety, and compliance requirements. Renting the home temporarily would not change the character of the block either - it would simply allow another family to enjoy the home as it's intended while I regain my footing.

I deeply appreciate your consideration of my request for temporary relief permitted under the ordinance, and the opportunity to present my situation. Thank you for your service to the community and for being willing to hear the human stories behind these requests.

With respect and gratitude,

