

Overview Of New Property Document Services, Recommended New Fees Associated With Services and Update on Mapping Prejudice Project

April 9, 2024

Presented by Amy Koethe and Andrew McGuire



Dakota County Property Taxation & Records is introducing two new online property document retrieval services to provide additional access to recorded documents and keep property owners informed

- Occasional User Online Service-An online portal to allow one-time or infrequent users remote access to property history and digitized documents
- **Property Watch Subscription Service**-A free service that allows property owners to monitor their property and combat the potential for property fraud

Public Access to Property Records



- Property Taxation and Records has made great efforts in the past three years to digitize all recorded documents in Dakota County.
- Currently, records are available in 4 ways:
 - Maintaining a RecordEASE subscription with the county and paying a monthly subscription fee
 - On-site visits
 - Sending a check to the county for the document copies which are returned by mail or email
 - Ordering records from a local title company with RecordEASE subscription access (a costly option)



Occasional User is a new online portal service which allows anyone to access our digital document records without maintaining a subscription

- Current subscribers who access documents infrequently have another, less costly option
- Allows access to new customers who have not previously been able to access our records remotely
- Modernizes access to records and makes it cost-effective
- Improves customer service

Occasional User Service Search Options



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RecordEASE Web Access For best results, the 'Back' button should not be used.

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Proposed User Fees



Service Configuration

• The service is provided via an integration between our current RecordEASE recording software and an online payment provider

User Fee Determination

- Offset individual transaction costs
- Align with existing subscription service fees
- Comparable to similar services provided
 by other counties

Comparison of Recommended Occasional User Service Fees to Current Subscription Service Fees *NEW* Occasional Subscriber **User Service** Service Fees \$ 30.00 Monthly 5.00 Online Access \$ Ś 0.50 Search 1.00 \$ \$ View Document 1.50 2.00 \$ Ś View Certificate 2.50 3.00 \$ Ś View Tract Page 2.50 3.00 \$ Ś View Tract Card 2.50 3.00

Subscriber Fees are part of the current fee schedule





Comparison of costs for counties providing a similar service





The 2024 Dakota County Fee Schedule shall be amended to add the new fees

- Minn. Stat. § 373.41 requires a public hearing
- A public hearing will be scheduled on the April 23rd County Board Agenda
- Public Hearing Scheduled on the May 7th County Board Agenda to receive comments and seek Board approval
- The service will be available upon approval of the fees



Property Watch is a new service for Dakota County property owners to monitor their property and combat the effect of property fraud

- This service is free of charge and available by subscribing to the service and providing the property owners name(s) and/or property legal description
- Subscribers receive email alerts whenever a document is recorded with the matching name and/or legal description
- Property Watch will be available to the public in April 2024
- Social Media posts, and News Release and other promotional opportunities are planned to promote the service

Overview of Property Watch Service



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Property Watch Alert



McGuire, Andrew To 🛛 🛇 Koethe, Amy Retention Policy Delete 180 days (6 months)

Expires 9/30/2024

From: Records <<u>Records@co.dakota.mn.us</u>> Date: April 3, 2024 at 12:20:24 PM CDT To: "McGuire, Andrew" <<u>Andrew.McGuire@co.dakota.mn.us</u>> Subject: Property Watch Alert Reply-To: records@co.dakota.mn.us

ALERT:

A document has recently been recorded that matches the monitor criteria you have provided: NAME and LEGAL: PACE, DAVID and CIC NO 554 LEVANDER ESTATES CONDOMINIUMS - B:NONE - L:319.

The document information is:

Location: Dakota County, MN Document Number: A3623787 Document Type: MORTGAGE Recorded Date: 03/19/2024 Matched Document Data: GRANTOR & LEGAL: PACE, DAVID W and CIC NO 554 LEVANDER ESTATES CONDOMINIUMS - B:NONE - L:319

If you have questions about this document, you may contact the Recorder's Office at (651) 438-4597.

To unsubscribe, follow this link.



Mapping Process is Complete

- Initial findings identified 2,300 *documents* which may contain racially restrictive covenants
- Transcription process identified 722 *properties* with racially restrictive covenants
 - Transcription process identified multiple covenanted documents on individual properties
 - Covenants were found in South St Paul, West St Paul, Mendota Heights, Lakeville, Eagan, Sunfish Lake (1), and Hastings (1)







Discharging Racially Restrictive Covenants

- No County owned property were identified to have racially restrictive covenants
- Property owner may discharge racial covenants
 - Property owners are exempt from paying the recording fee
 - Updated information and instructions are available on the Dakota County website
 - Contact Property Records for information
 - Law Library can assist property owner with completing to form





Questions?