



Ex-Viking is now a landlord with substandard property

"Really," said **Eddie McDaniel**, when asked about a July news story on KARE11 that portrayed the former Viking as a slumlord.

By **C.J.**, Star Tribune

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"Really," said **Eddie McDaniel**, when asked about a July news story on KARE11 that portrayed the former Viking as a slumlord. "It's no story at all," said the fellow known as **Eddie Mac**, who apparently could not be reached for comment by KARE11. I got some comments in late July at a Smile Network International charity event. It was a garden party the backdrop of which was a palatial Lake Minnetonka estate that couldn't have been more different from the surroundings of tenants at the Marshall Street NE apartment building McDaniel owns. According to KARE11, about four years ago McDaniel bought the property for \$1.1 million. It had 11 code violations at the time of the news report and was scheduled to be condemned because of a broken fire alarm system; residents pooled their resources to make the

roughly \$100 repair. "That is a life safety issue," Minneapolis Fire Marshal **Dave DeWalt** told KARE11 in **Trisha Volpe's** story. The story's visuals were icky and unsettling. There was a kitchen sink cabinet with mold in one unit and moisture trickling down one wall of another. When I spoke to DeWalt on Friday, he said, "We're making progress, but we can't get responses from Mr. McDaniel or his management company. It's very difficult for us, and we're using every tool we can to try to get a hold of him or get a response so we can gain compliance." When I saw McDaniel at the opulent garden party, he told me, "I own so many buildings I don't know what they are talking about." Maybe he should take a look at a copy of the KARE11 report or better yet, go over to this property. It's in a nice neighborhood; I was there Thursday. I didn't make it much beyond the front door. There's a hole where there should be a front door lock. Look up and you'll see the porch light is smothered in spiderwebs. One resident told me the halls are also an spidery nightmare. And some residents can't receive mail because the postal carrier refuses to put it in boxes without locks. I didn't know about these shortcomings in July, when I suggested to Eddie Mac that he might want to check on his property. "You know how the media can be," he told me then. Yep, that's why I kept pounding away, asking questions like how

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many pieces of property he owned. "I don't even know," he said. "We probably have a lot of properties where people are running two and three months behind on their rent, anyway." So they deserve to live in horrible surroundings? "No, no, no. Don't try to say that," said McDaniel. Eddie Mac then dropped the name of some prominent current and former Minnesota millionaires he called "some of my biggest idols" because they allegedly started building their empires with properties like the ones he owns. "I ain't saying they did anything [like the neglectful things KARE11 claimed Eddie did]," McDaniel said. Eddie Mac on Vick Moving on, I asked McDaniel about this rumored NFL subculture that enjoys illegal dogfighting. His response suggested that Michael Vick's problem was mainly the company he keeps: "The thing about that is sometimes you have to separate yourself from being around people like that." We talked before Vick's announcement that on Monday he will plead guilty to some of the charges in that federal indictment. We talked back when Vick was pretending to have absolutely no knowledge of what folks were doing on this property in Virginia (he claimed not to visit it regularly). Tweaking Eddie Mac some more, I asked whether dog fights could be taking place on his properties. "No," he said, with a deadpan look. "There is not dog fighting going on." So shouldn't Vick have

known what activities were taking place on his property? "Just like me," he said, "should have known." Then I not so subtly tried to get Eddie Mac to reconsider the problems of the living conditions of his tenants on Marshall Street. "At the end of the day, I do own the property," he said. Bingo. "We had the property manager [come] out and [say] it is his fault," said Eddie Mac. Throwing the property manager under the bus was not going to cut it here. Eventually, Eddie Mac acknowledged that he shared in the responsibility "because I own the property." BINGO! McDaniel promised that at "end of the year, I'll have something for you." It's not an announcement, Eddie Mac said, that he's following the lead of former teammate Robert Griffith, who recently got married in California. It would be nice if what Eddie Mac had for me was good news for those residents on Marshall Street. Even nicer if such good news arrived forthwith. C.J. is at 612.332.TIPS or cj@startribune.com. E-mailers, please state a subject -- "Hello" doesn't count. Attachments are not opened, so don't even try. More of her attitude can be seen on Fox 9 Thursday mornings.

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