



**IMPORTANT NOTICE: A \$25 FILING FEE MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPEAL, WITHIN THE DEADLINE REFERENCED BY THE BILL.**

Checks should be made payable to: City of Milwaukee and a copy of the bill should be included with your appeal

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR CUSTOMERS PAYING BY CHECK**

When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account, or to process the payment as a check transaction.

**IF THE CHARGES HAVE ALREADY APPEARED ON YOUR TAX BILL, THIS APPEAL CANNOT BE FILED.**

**TO:** Administrative Review Board of Appeals  
City Hall, Rm. 205  
200 E. Wells St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 286-2231

**DATE:** July 14, 2025

**RE:** 5667 N 34TH ST

(Address of property in question)

Under ch. 68, Wis. Stats., s. 320-11 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances, this is a written petition for appeal and hearing.

I am appealing the administrative procedure followed by DEPT OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE  
(Name of City Department)

Amount of the charges \$ 234.08

Charge relative to: GARBAGE AND LITTER

I feel the City's procedure was improper due to the following reasons and I have attached any supporting evidence, including city employee's names/dates which I spoke to regarding this issue and copies of any city orders received:

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED LETTER.

I WAS MADE AWARE OF A WORK ORDER TO REMOVE A WELL-KEPT  
COMPOST PILE FROM MY BACKYARD WHEN I INTERRUPTED CITY WORKERS  
REMOVING IT. I WAS NOT CONTACTED BEFOREHAND, AND I WAS  
NOT MADE AWARE OF THE WORKERS ON MY PROPERTY UNTIL I SAW  
THEM REMOVING MY COMPOST. WE WERE BOTH POLITE ABOUT IT;  
THEY LEFT WHEN I TOLD THEM I WANT TO KEEP THE VALUABLE COMPOST.

James A. Michael

LETTER SENT IN NAME CAROL L. WARNE  
Signature OWNERSHIP HAS BEEN UPDATED.

JAMES A. MICHAEL

Name (please print)

5667 N 34TH ST 53209.

Mailing address and zip code

414-899-5059

Daytime phone number

jamichaelservices@gmail.com

E-Mail Address(es)



**Department of Neighborhood Services**  
Inspectional Services for health, safety and neighborhood improvement

July 08, 2025

Jezamil Arroyo-Vega  
Commissioner

Michael Mazmanian  
Deputy Commissioner

CAROL L WARNKE  
5667 N 34 ST  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53209

Record ID # GBG-25-01936

**Re: 5667 N 34TH ST**

**TAXKEY #: 1700652000**

You were notified by the Department of Neighborhood Services to correct a garbage and litter nuisance code violation at 5667 N 34TH ST. You failed to do so within the time prescribed in the order so the City corrected the violation.

**The cost to correct the nuisance was \$234.08.** This fee includes a 1.6% training and technology surcharge. As indicated in the original order, this charge if unpaid will be placed on the property tax bill. If you wish to pay this amount rather than to have it appear on your tax bill, you may do so before September 15, 2025 at this address or pay online at <http://milwaukee.gov/lmsPay>:

Department of Neighborhood Services  
Attn: Cashier  
841 N. Broadway, Room 105  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Checks should be made payable to the City of Milwaukee for the amount listed above.  
Please enclose a copy of this notice with your payment.

**If you have any questions or feel this letter was issued in error, please call 414-286-5771 to have this matter reviewed. A review does not extend the time to appeal.**

If you wish to formally appeal this charge you must file that appeal within 30 days of the date of this letter. It must be filed with the: Administrative Review and Appeals Board, Office of the City Clerk, Room 205 City Hall, 200 E Wells Street, Milwaukee Wisconsin 53202, 414-286-2221. Please contact them to obtain the proper application form. There is a \$25 fee required when filing this appeal.

Please be advised that if you have filed for bankruptcy, this letter is for informational purposes and is not intended to be construed as an attempt to collect a debt during the pendency of your bankruptcy as other conditions may apply.

Recipients:

CAROL L WARNKE, 5667 N 34 ST, MILWAUKEE, WI 53209



Administrative Review and Appeals Board  
Office of the City Clerk  
Room 205 City Hall  
200 E Wells Street  
Milwaukee Wisconsin 53202  
414-286-2221

From: James A. Michael  
5667 N 34th Street  
Milwaukee Wisconsin 53209  
414-899-5059

Friday, July 11, 2025  
Record ID# GBG-25-01936  
Taxkey# 1700652000

Dear Administrative Review and Appeals Board,

I am the person responsible for the property at 5667 N 34th St in Milwaukee. I am requesting to appeal the invoice I received for \$234.08 from the City of Milwaukee.

There was never a garbage or litter nuisance at my home. I will admit that the property has not been kept as nicely as I would prefer, as I have been doing my best to live without money for an extended period of time, but garbage and litter has never been an issue here.

The issued referred to with this invoice involved a tidy woodland compost pile, out of public view, which has been there since such composting was requested by Mayor Henry Meier in the 1980's. My subdivision, Thurston Forest is a natural woods.

Many of the large, old hardwoods here have been lost over time, but many beautiful, shady trees remain, and the rare, valuable and protected woodland flowers still grow here, where residents allow them. Examples are Trilliums, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Bloodroot, Indian Pipe, Dutchman's Breeches and others, including the Wood Violet (Wisconsin state flower).

Woodland compost has allowed me to keep and care for these rare plants, which cannot be cultivated; they occur naturally. A few weeks ago, I interrupted two workmen from the City as they had begun removing my neat compost pile, which has been there in the back yard, bothering no one, odorless, rodent-free, neatly kept for decades. One of the workers admitted to me that he saw no violation and realized the value of the compost, but he was only doing his job as ordered. He concurred with me that there was no litter or garbage around, and asked me if I would prefer that they leave the property, and leave the compost alone; I told him I did prefer that they leave the compost; they had already taken a small amount of it and could not put it back.

I have been friendly and cooperative with the Department of Neighborhood Services. They have my name, phone number and email address, yet never informed me of any complaint about my compost, or their intention to remove it. The workers from the City made no attempt to let me know they were coming onto my property, although they were polite when I interrupted them. The worker I spoke to told me that I could ask them to leave, but that it was likely their supervisor would return, with a police escort. I still do not understand the need for police, given that our conversation was mutually respectful, and that the issue at hand was a harmless, valued compost, put there at a mayor's request.

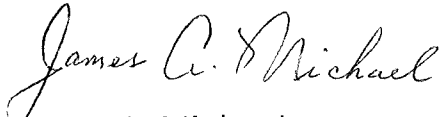
Admittedly, I have had difficulty caring for things the way I always did for many years, and I have unpaid taxes, as well. The reason has been that there has been great difficulty in accessing my own retirement accounts, and I have been living with nearly no money. I have documented proof of this. These problems are close to resolution, and as soon as I possibly can do so, my taxes will be paid, and my property will be improved upon. I believe my neighbors would tell you that I have been a respectful, clean, quiet, friendly and helpful neighbor, always.

I contend that this invoice of \$234.08 is an unfair charge for an unnecessary work order which never should have been issued. I have always been careful about garbage and litter; in fact it is I who picks up the litter from the street and alley almost daily, and I who takes care that the hydrants are clear and sewer grates are unobstructed. I have not been a bad citizen or a bad neighbor, and I do not deserve

to be fined. I respectfully request that this fine be rescinded, and that I be allowed to keep this compost, which I have cared for and used for many years.

I thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to discuss this matter, if necessary, at your convenience.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James A. Michael". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

James A. Michael

5667 N. 34th Street

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209

414-899-5059

jamichaelservices@gmail.com

**Receipt of ARBA Fee**

Date: 7/14/25

Received Of: James Michael

Property at: 5667 N. 34<sup>th</sup> St.

Received By: LME

Check # (If Applicable): Cash  
Amount: \$25.00