

April 8, 2003

City Clerk
Attention: Claims
200 E. Wells St., Room #205
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3567

OFFICE OF
CITY ATTORNEY
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CITY OF MILWAUKEE
RECEIVED

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to inform you of our intention to file claim against the City of Milwaukee in regards to the loss of personal property and clean up expenses incurred as a result of a sewer back up/system failure that occurred on 02-08-03.

On said date, 02-08-03, at about 3:20 pm it was discovered that the City of Milwaukee sewer system had failed and backed up into the basements of the following addresses: 5805 N. 111th St., 5814 N. 111th St., 5815 N. 111th St., 5824 N. 111th St., 11101 W. Carmen Ave., 11043 W. Carmen Ave., and 11031 W. Carmen Ave. A short time later, after notifying the city's Department of Public Works, a repair crew arrived to assess the situation and attempt to rectify the problem. This crew stated that due to the poor architectural design and lack of regular maintenance for this part of the sewer system, this back up of sewage was inevitable. Because of the severity of this sewer back up the D.P.W. crew worked late into the night to unclog the sewer. Apparently just locating and then getting to the manhole cover that was needed to solve this problem was very difficult. It should be noted that on 02-10-03 during a phone conversation, Alderman Nardelli stated that he spoke to D.P.W. Supervisor Mark Rosolek about this situation. Supervisor Rosolek informed Alderman Nardelli that, "That sewer has not been properly cleaned in twenty years. The reason given was, "it's too difficult to get to."

This system failure resulted in approximately 4" to 18" of raw sewage to be backed up in to the basements of the addresses 11031 W. Carmen Ave., 11043 W. Carmen Ave., and 5805 N. 111th St. (The remaining listed addresses had sewage backup in their basements but resulted in no loss of property.) Aside from being a disgusting, unhealthy biohazard in our homes, a large amount of personal property was permanently lost, and time was missed from work. (Individual damage amounts and claims are attached. All possible documentation, pictures, receipts, and estimates have been included.)

It is our assertion that the City of Milwaukee is responsible for our losses due to neglect of their duties in maintaining this part of the sewer system. We believe that in return for the large amount of taxes we pay in this area, it should not be "too difficult" to expect the correct level of sewer maintenance to be adhered to, and that human waste be kept in the sewers where it belongs....not in our homes.

Thank you for your time in this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Dan and Wendy Gebhardt
11031 W. Carmen Ave

✓ Steve and Renee Witkowski
11043 West Carmen Ave

Ruby Wiley
5805 N. 111th St.

[Handwritten signatures and notes]
Steve Witkowski
Renee Witkowski
Ruby Wiley
414-578-1828

Damage totals for:

Steve and Renee Witkowski
11043 West Carmen Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53225
414-578-1828

Household.....	\$ 1683.46
Toys and Books.....	\$ 353.89
Men's clothing.....	\$ 1226.81
Women's clothing.....	\$ 546.43
Children's clothing.....	\$ 357.65
Lost wages and hourly cleanup....	\$ 835.00
Receipts.....	\$ 322.73
TOTAL.....	\$ 5325.95