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February 24, 2026

To the Honorable Common Council
Of the City of Milwaukee
Room 205 - City Hall

RE: Communication from ROBERT and CATHERINE ADAMUS
C.I. File No. 2025-002154

Dear Council Members:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution. We ask that it be introduced and referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Legislation, with the following recommendation.

Robert and Catherine Adamus allege that on July 31, 2025, they experienced water back up that caused damage to the basement of their property located at 6101 South 37th Street, in Greenfield, Wisconsin. Mr. and Ms. Adamus submitted a damage claim in the amount of $36,361.00 damages, and is seeking $26,361 for remediation repairs, clean up, and temporary lodging accommodations, and replacement of personal items, after which homeowner's insurance paid $10,000.

Our investigation, conducted in coordination with Milwaukee Water Works, determined that the water main failure caused damage to the sewer lateral at 6042 South 37th Street. This damage created an entry point through which debris entered the sewer main. Following the utility's coordination with DPW–Greenfield to clear the sewer, the restoration of water service to the failed main allowed additional debris—including rock and sand—to flow into the sewer system. This influx of material subsequently contributed to flooding that impacted multiple properties in the surrounding area of 6000-6100 blocks of South 37th Street and 3700 block of West Kimberly Avenue in Greenfield, Wisconsin.

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Based on the findings, it is our assessment that the utility did not exercise reasonable care when restoring water service. Additionally, the failure to maintain the original water shutoff contributed to the extent of the resulting damages. Accordingly, we recommend approval of the claim, with adjustments totaling $21,851.89.

Very truly yours,

EVAN C. GOYKE
City Attorney

NAOMI E. SANDERS
Deputy City Attorney

ECG/NES/MTG/cdr

Enclosures

2025-002154/