

January 5, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Beginning in July of 2006, a strong smell of sewage was noticed in my basement near the pipe that connects to the sewer. The smell got stronger over the next few months so I called in a sewer company to take a look at it. On October 5, 2006, a sewer company came to clean out the line but found that waste water was backing up into the sump pump and therefore was not able to clean the drain pipe. The company brought in sewer imaging, which is a TV camera to pin-point the trouble. They were surprised to see a broken lateral under the street. Also, there was a large feeder main pipe, 48 inches in diameter and containing thousands of gallons of water, that was located directly above the break in our pipe. Our lateral pipe was power-flushed, only to find more stones and sand fall in as they worked. We found out that when sewer pipes break, it is usually from the sides or bottom, not the top like ours did. The pipe was in very good condition, except for the fracture and break at the top. The company said that they believed that extreme pressure from the weight of the 48 inch main pipe caused the break.

Badger Plumbing Co. was then called in to fix the sewer. Their plan was to run a bullet inside the old lateral. They dug a hole by hand and a new hole for a lateral next to the old one, thus not disturbing the weight of the 48 inch pipe. This method took longer but kept the structure sound, not allowing the 48 inch pipe to drop or settle any more. The owner of Badger Plumbing, Jeff Prell, agreed that the break in our pipe was caused by the extreme pressure from the 48 inch main. He also said that this was not normal wear and not the fault of the homeowner. Jeff can be reached at (414)322-2665 if you have any questions.

I believe that since I am not at fault in this, I should not be the one to fit the bill. I am a widow on a small income and had to borrow \$9,300 to pay for this. I thank you for your time and understanding in this matter. Please contact me at (414) 546-1346.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Kelnhofer

Mary Kelnhofer

CITY OF MILWAUKEE
RECEIVED

07 JAN -9 PM 3:23

OFFICE OF
CITY ATTORNEY

RONALD J. LEONHAR
CITY CLERK

2007 JAN -9 PM 1:21

CITY OF MILWAUKEE

EAST

CURB

SAND & STONES

48" Main Water Pipe

FRATURE OLD PIPE

House ↓
LATERAL

CURB

SAND & STONES

FRATURE

OLD LATERAL WAS FRACTURED UNDER 48" main water pipe, A New Plastic Pipe was installed NEXT TO OLD LATERAL SO AS NOT TO CHANGE WEIGHT OF THE 48" WATER FILLED PIPE

CURB

NORTH

SAND & STONES

LARGE Main SEWER

OLD PIPE

New PLASTIC LATERAL

SAND & STONES

SOUTH

WEST