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February 24, 2026

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

RE: Communication from HAROLD JANAS
C.I. File No. 2025-001667

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.

Harold Janas alleges that on July 31, 2025, he experienced water back up that caused damage to the basement of his property at 3714 West Kimberly Avenue, in Greenfield, Wisconsin. Mr. Janas submitted a damage claim to his insurance carrier; however, his claim was denied based on his policy. Mr. Janas submitted a claim for water mitigation and loss of personal items that were destroyed in his basement.

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 $14,361.78.

Very truly yours,

EVAN C. GOYKE
City Attorney

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Deputy City Attorney

ECG/NES/MTG/cdr

Enclosures

2025-001667/