

MILWAUKEE CITY CLERK
200 East Wells Street
Room 205
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

3447 North 41st Street
Milwaukee, WI 53216
Telephone 444-3753

Date: January 9, 2002

Re: CLAIM FOR REIMBURSEMENT
for damage to residence door
caused by police break-in
C.I. File No. 02-S-406

Sir:

By letter, dated December 20, 2002, received by me December 27, 2002, Mr. Grant F. Langley, City Attorney, has informed me that my claim for damage to the door of my home, caused by police break-in on July 31, 2002, has been denied, and that if I wish to appeal that decision, I may do so by a letter, addressed to you, requesting a hearing.

I hereby notify you that I do wish to appeal and accordingly request a hearing.

Respectfully yours,

John Gumina
John Gumina
Claimant

CITY OF MILWAUKEE
RECEIVED

03 JAN 10 PM 3:31

OFFICE OF
CITY ATTORNEY

CITY OF MILWAUKEE
03 JAN 10 PM 3:11
RONALD D. LEONHARDT
CITY CLERK

CITY OF MILWAUKEE
RECEIVED

To: CITY CLERK
City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Room 205
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

3447 North 41st Street
Milwaukee, WI 53216
Telephone 444-3753

OFFICE OF
CITY ATTORNEY

NOV 27 PM 3:40

Re: Claim for reimbursement for
damage to residence door
caused by police break-in

Date: November 25, 2002

THE OCCUPANTS OF PREMISES. Claimant and his wife occupy the upper flat of a duplex at 3447 North 41st Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. They have lived there for more than fifty years, he as a member of the State Bar and she, for twenty years, as a teachers' aide at Townsend Street School. As a soldier in the European theater of World War II, claimant experienced considerable artillery bombardments that left him with impaired hearing. Mrs. Gumina also has suffered a precipitous decline in hearing. And now I have reached the venerable but no longer uncommon age of ninety years, with Mrs. Gumina trailing by a couple of years.

RONALD L. GEORHARDT
CITY CLERK
NOV 27 PM 2:54
CITY OF MILWAUKEE

LAYOUT OF THE PREMISES. The bedrooms are located in the rear part of the flat, behind the living quarters. Like all such accommodations, they are subject to the natural laws of acoustical phenomenon, and many factors involving room arrangement, wall barriers, and materials affect how sound vibrations reach them and impress themselves upon the ears. Ours are typical of hundreds of so-called Milwaukee duplexes in the city.

TERROR: THE BREAK-IN BY THE CUSTODIANS OF THE LAW AT MIDNIGHT. On July 31, 2002, at 11:30 or 11:45 P.M., or thereabout, a time of day when the citizenry of the community are customarily sleeping, my wife too was sound asleep, and had been for about two hours. She was undisturbed by the ominous buzzing of the doorbell, followed in quick succession by smashing blows of a sledgehammer against my entrance door. On the other hand, I had lain down to rest my eyes. Considering the hour, it is possible that I dozed off, for I didn't hear the bell. (Query: How can I be faulted or in effect penalized for not hearing? It's a fact of nature.) For a few moments, while the blows were light, I thought the noise came from my next-door neighbors' place as every now and then they make that kind of noise. The previous tenants did the same thing, and I used to wonder about what they were doing.

When the pounding on the door intensified, however, I got off the bed and looked out the kitchen aslant toward the door, whereupon three shadowy figures, barely visible to me, emerged from the dark, one of them holding a flashlight which he flashed into my eyes, so that for a moment I couldn't tell who they were. The trio turned out to be a police squad. The scene they left behind for me cry over was like a page from the days of the bastille. Without much thought or compunction, the squad reduced the door to ruin, beyond repair. Every part of the bottom two-thirds of the door was damaged. When one of the officers bounded up the stairway and stepped into my kitchen, while I was still at the window trying to make sense of this outrage, the thought crossed my mind that if perchance I had not been home to absorb the shock of it, my wife now would likely be in worse shape than the door. I'm reminded of the practice during the Middle Ages of administering quietus to a culprit with an abundance of prayers, in order to save his soul from evil. Under the aegis of a law ostensibly humanitarian these do-gooders from the police department, lacking common sense in the exercise of their duties and frivolous in their judgment of what needed to be done, went whole hog by busting in the door and creating a crisis, at least for me if not for my wife, as in the late hours of the morning I searched for odd pieces of wood and junk with which to barricade the doorway against rodents and enterprising human predators on the lookout to ply their trade in the happy hunting ground of my home. Perhaps the fault lay with the dispatcher who sensed no need for and delayed assigning the rescue of my wife for two and a half hours. And there is the matter of the coincidence of names. We had buried our Gross Gross only a few days before. The uncooperative detective at the bureau, who cared not a whit about the foiled rescue of my wife or my broken door and even less about the tears I shed over it; his name is Gross. And there is the mysterious lady, whom we don't know, to our knowledge never talked to or ever did any business with; her name is Gross. Her call to the police that my wife was beseeching for help initiated the mess and damage which the police department made for me to clean up.

I bring this letter to a close abruptly as I no longer can see where I'm going on the page. I enclose copies of two bills from the carpenter, John Bohnek, one dated 8-08-02, for \$265.00, the other dated 11-20-02, for \$39.56, making my total damages \$304.50. I'm overwhelmed by sadness. What an awful condition blindness is!

Respectfully yours

John Gumina

8-08-02

PAID by Prop. Check No. 3157,
dated 8-25-02, amount \$265.00.

Carpenter Labor & Material
3447-N-41ST

① Replace Police brake in
on side entrance door
2'-8" x 1³/₄" - 20" x 24" light with
solid core door.

② Re-install deadbolt lock
replace damaged bolt,
Re-install surface deadbolt
lock.

③ Install new door knob lock

④ Apply 1 coat Sealer Stain Varnish

⑤ Reinstall plastic glass on
inside light
Total \$265.00

John Bohrak
7150 W Beckett Ave
Milwaukee WI 53216
Carpenter Repair Service

11-20-02

PAID by Prop. Check No. 3206,
dated 11-20-02, amount \$39.50.

Carpenter Labor Matheral
1344 N - 41ST - ST
Milwaukee WI

1- Replace unworkable
keyed surface type
dead bolt lock
on side entrance
door.

Lock	14.56
Labor	\$ 25.00
Total	<u>\$ 39.56</u>

John Bohmak
7150 W Beckett ave
Milwaukee WI
53216 - Carpenter

CITY OF MILWAUKEE
02 NOV 27 PM 2:24
RONALD D. LEONHARDT
CITY CLERK