

May 18, 2026

City Clerk – Claims
City of Milwaukee
200 E. Wells St., Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Re: C.I. File No. 2026-000616 – Appeal of Denied Property Damage Claim

Dear City Clerk, City Attorney, and Claims Investigator,

I am formally appealing the denial of my claim regarding property damage caused by a City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works snowplow during the March 15–16, 2026 snowstorm.

Your denial letter, dated April 21, 2026 and received May 18, 2026, states that City records show no snowplow activity in the area at the time of the incident. Respectfully, that conclusion does not align with either the circumstances of the storm or what occurred at my property.

During the blizzard conditions on March 16, a City snowplow lost traction while maneuvering downhill directly toward our home. We immediately went outside to assist the driver because the vehicle was sliding and conditions were dangerous for both people and property. After several attempts, the driver accelerated to regain traction and continue forward, at which point damage to our landscape occurred. The plow became stuck again moments later on Burleigh Street before eventually moving on.

At the time, our focus was on safety and preventing further damage or injury — not documenting vehicle identification numbers or obtaining the driver’s name during an active storm emergency. Immediately after the incident, I submitted a report through Click4Action (#17959437). A fleet department representative promptly visited the property, inspected the damage, provided the necessary claim forms, and advised that the City would identify the truck and operator through its records. I timely submitted all requested materials.

Given those facts, the current denial appears to rest solely on an incomplete or overly narrow review of plowing records. I respectfully request that the City reconsider and conduct a more thorough review. One possible explanation is that Gordon Circle itself may not have been scheduled as a primary plow route, while nearby Burleigh Street likely was. Burleigh terminates at Gordon Circle, requiring larger vehicles — including snowplows — to use Gordon Circle to turn around. The snowplow involved came eastbound on Burleigh and used Gordon Circle to maneuver before heading back westbound. In addition, our location adjacent to Gaenslen School would reasonably place the area within active snow response operations during a major storm event. In short, whether or not Gordon Circle appeared on a formal plowing schedule, the snowplow was physically present and caused damage to our property.

I would appreciate a substantive review of the operational and fleet records associated with Burleigh Street and the surrounding area on the morning of March 16, 2026 before this matter proceeds further. I have attempted to cooperate fully throughout this process and hope this can be resolved without the need for a formal hearing. As an aside, I also want to acknowledge the positive work and public communication coming from the City Attorney’s Office in recent years, particularly regarding nuisance property enforcement. I appreciate those efforts and hope this matter will receive the same level of thoughtful review. Thank you for your reconsideration.

Sincerely,


Juli Kaufmann
3060 N. Gordon Circle
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 628-2346
juli.kaufmann@gmail.com

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April 21, 2026

Juli Kaufmann
3060 North Gordon Circle
Milwaukee, WI 53212

RE: C.I. File No. 2026-000616
Communication from JULI KAUFMANN

Dear Juli:

We have received your claim relating to property damage from a loss on March 16, 2026 at or near 3060 North Gordon Circle.

We are unable to verify that the Fleet department was involved in the actual loss. Fleet records indicate no City snowplow was in the area during the time or day of incident. Therefore, the City of Milwaukee is not liable and we are denying your claim.

If you wish to appeal this decision, you may do so by sending a written statement requesting a hearing within 21 days of the postmarked date of this letter to the Milwaukee City Clerk, 200 East Wells Street, Room 205, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202. Please include a photocopy of this letter's envelope, showing the postmark, and retain the original in the event further proof is needed.

Very truly yours,

EVAN C. GOYKE
City Attorney

CRISTAL CRUZ
Claim Investigator Adjuster

ECG/CEC/cdr

2026-000616/




CITY OF MILWAUKEE
Office of the City Attorney
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
800 City Hall
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-3551

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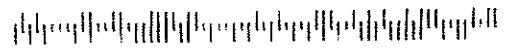
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