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December 9, 2025

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

RE: Communication from SHELTON KING, JR.
C.I. File No. 2025-001665

Dear Council Members:

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

Shelton King, Jr., alleges on July 30, 2025, damage occurred as a result of a tree branch that fell onto his vehicle from a city tree, while it was parked at or near 3163 N. 45th Street. Mr. King is seeking \$5,847.78, for repairs to his 2011 Chevrolet Camaro.

Our investigation determined that on July 30, 2025, Forestry Services responded to an emergency request regarding a tree branch down adjacent to 3160 N. 46th Street. Damage was confirmed to the to the right quarter panel and right door of the claimant's vehicle. The tree branch was removed. The branch that failed was reported from a Norwood maple tree and was not alive with decay evident at the failure point, and visible from outside of the tree. Forestry reported a prior request for service for broken branches on the ground in April of 2025, which came from two different trees. It is undetermined if broken branches came from the subject tree.



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On July 30, 2025, the city experienced a rain event with 1.04 inches of water and winds that averaged 9.5 MPH, and peak winds of 33 MPH. This event generated 38 calls City wide for tree related requests. The next scheduled inspection of all trees in quarter section 288 will occur during the new 6-year inspection cycle of all trees in 2027.

It is our view that the branch failure was not a result of any negligence caused by Forestry Services. The city is not liable for damages and we recommend that the claim be denied.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Goke", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

EVAN C. GOKE
City Attorney

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Naomi E. Sanders", with a wavy, stylized shape.

NAOMI E. SANDERS
Deputy City Attorney

ECG/NES/MTG/cdr

Enclosures

2025-001665/