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December 23, 2025

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

RE: Communication from MARY JOHNSON
C.I. File No. 2025-001546

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.

On April 21, 2025, the Forestry Section responded to a report of a broken branch down on a parked vehicle, and confirmed that a branch from a city-owned tree had fallen and caused damage. The fallen branch was removed promptly. According to the branch that failed was not alive. It fell from a 24-inch honey locust tree that otherwise appeared to be in good health, with no evidence of decay at the point of failure.

On the date of the incident, General Mitchell International reported peak wind gusts of 40 MPH and sustained wind speeds of 26 MPH. This weather event generated 17 calls related to tree issues across the city. Trees within Quarter Section 287 were last pruned and inspected in March 2022. Two Forestry service requests were recorded for this specific tree on June 14, 2024. Both requests involved roots surfacing in the lawn; no concerns about branches were noted.



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Page Two

It is our view that the city is not liable for damages. The damage was unforeseeable and could not have been prevented through ordinary care or maintenance. As such, we recommend that the claim be denied.

Very truly yours,

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

EVAN C. GOYKE
City Attorney

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

NAOMI E. SANDERS
Deputy City Attorney

ECG/NES/MTG/cdr

Enclosures

2025-001546/