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August 19, 2025

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

Re: Communication from BRENDA BURTON
C.I. File No. 1068-2025-942

Dear Council Members:

Ms. Brenda Burton alleges that on April 17, 2025 a tree branch fell onto her vehicle and caused damage at 4445 North 21st Street. Ms. Burton is seeking at least \$8,000 for repairs.

Our investigation revealed that Forestry Department received an emergency request for a tree down on Ms. Burton's vehicle. The tree branch was removed near the curb at the subject location. The branch that failed was from a Green Ash tree, and the branch was dead with decay evident at the point of failure. The decay was not visible from outside of the tree.

On April 17, 2025, Milwaukee experienced a minor rain event with .04 inches of rain with winds averaging 14.7 MPH and peak winds of 36 MPH. Forestry reported the last scheduled pruning for this section was held in 2016, and based on the new 5 year inspection cycle, the next scheduled inspection for all trees in this quarter section 231 will occur in 2025.

There was no indication that the tree needed removal or that the tree would have further issues. The City is not liable for damages and we recommend the claim be denied.

Very truly yours,

EVAN C. GOYKE
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ECG/NES/MTG/cdr

Enclosure

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