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September 30, 2022

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

RE:

Communications from Katherine Geiger

C.I File No. 1048-2022-447

Dear Sir or Madam:

Ms. Katherine Geiger alleges she sustained damages to her basement from multiple water main breaks at her property over a period of time from September 2021 through December 2021, located at 2650 S. Linebarger Terrace.

Our investigation revealed that, on September 16, 2021, Milwaukee Water Works (MWW) reported that Ms. Geiger contacted MWW regarding water accumulation in her basement. An MWW crew responded and attempted to locate a leak using multiple techniques and there were no leaks detected.

On September 28, 2021, MWW received another complaint from Ms. Geiger regarding water in her basement. An MWW crew responded and there were no leaks detected, however, the investigator observed a broken palmer valve in the basement tile drain system that was a contributing factor to Ms. Geiger's water damages. On October 1, 2021, Ms. Geiger hired Every Waterproofing, which performed repairs to the palmer valve.

On December 2, 2021, Ms. Geiger complained of water leaking in her basement a third time. The following day, an MWW crew responded and located a small leak on a 6" water main across the street and to the south of the claimant's property. The water main was placed out of service at 11:00am, repairs were performed, and the water main was placed back in service at 3:30pm.

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Ms. Geiger filed her claim on April 1, 2022, and our independent appraisers inspected the property on April 22, 2022. The inspection concluded that there was no visible structural damage to the walls, and that damage was observed to the interior dwelling with the recommended cost of repairs of \$17,610.84.

It is our view that the water damages subsequent to the leak were due to inoperable drain tiles, and not because of any negligence caused by Milwaukee Water Works. Milwaukee Water Works responded to each call in a timely matter, used all tools and technology available to locate the source of a leak, and made repairs in a timely matter. As such, we recommend that the claim be denied.

Very truly yours,

Jamw Jone TEARMAN SPENCER

City Attorney
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S. TODD FARRIS
Deputy City Attorney

STF/cdr

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