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March 18, 2025

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

RE: Communications from Attorney Jonathan Cattey on behalf of
Tywon Thompson
C.I. File No. 1068-2024-1529

Dear Sir or Madam:

Claimant alleges that the City of Milwaukee is responsible for vehicle damages he incurred when a branch from a City tree fell on it while it was parked at 3157 North 8th Street. He is seeking \$7,567.93.

Our investigation into this matter revealed that Forestry responded to a request for service regarding a tree branch that had fallen on a vehicle at 3163 North 8th Street. The Forestry crew found a broken branch lying on the ground next to the damaged vehicle and removed the branch. The subject tree branch was from a Norway maple tree. Decay was evident at the point of failure and the tree was subsequently removed for declining health.

On July 13 and July 14, 2024, the City of Milwaukee experienced thunderstorms with .74 inches of rainfall and peak wind gusts of 48 MPH. The Forestry section responded to 47 calls for downed and broken branches. In checking their records going back to July of 2017, Forestry found one other call for this tree, requesting trimming. The tree was inspected at that time and no issues were noted.



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It is the view of the Forestry Department that no reasonable or prudent action on its part could have foreseen or prevented this damage from occurring. Therefore, we feel that the City is not liable in this case, and we recommend that the claim be denied.

Very truly yours,



EVAN C. GOJKE
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ECG/NES/PK/cdr

1068-2024-1529/296752