

April 8, 2003

City Clerk  
Attention Claims  
200 E. Wells St., Room #205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3567

OFFICE OF  
CITY ATTORNEY  
RECEIVED  
DANNEY  
03 APR 14 PM 3:18  
CITY OF MILWAUKEE

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to inform you of our intention to file claim against the City of Milwaukee in regards to the loss of personal property and clean up expenses incurred as a result of a sewer back up/system failure that occurred on 02-08-03.

On said date, 02-08-03, at about 3:20 pm it was discovered that the City of Milwaukee sewer system had failed and backed up into the basements of the following addresses: 5805 N. 111th St., 5814 N. 111th St., 5815 N. 111th St, 5824 N. 111th St., 11101 W. Carmen Ave., 11043 W. Carmen Ave., and 11031 W. Carmen Ave. A short time later, after notifying the city's Department of Public Works, a repair crew arrived to assess the situation and attempt to rectify the problem. This crew stated that due to the poor architectural design and lack of regular maintenance for this part of the sewer system, this back up of sewage was inevitable. Because of the severity of this sewer back up the D.P.W. crew worked late into the night to unclog the sewer. Apparently just locating and then getting to the manhole cover that was needed to solve this problem was very difficult. It should be noted that on 02-10-03 during a phone conversation, Alderman Nardelli stated that he spoke to D.P.W. Supervisor Mark Rosolek about this situation. Supervisor Rosolek informed Alderman Nardelli that, "That sewer has not been properly cleaned in twenty years. The reason given was, "it's too difficult to get to."

This system failure resulted in approximately 4" to 18" of raw sewage to be backed up in to the basements of the addresses 11031 W. Carmen Ave., 11043 W. Carmen Ave., and 5805 N. 111th St. (The remaining listed addresses had sewage backup in their basements but resulted in no loss of property.) Aside from being a disgusting, unhealthy biohazard in our homes, a large amount of personal property was permanently lost, and time was missed from work. (Individual damage amounts and claims are attached. All possible documentation, pictures, receipts, and estimates have been included.)

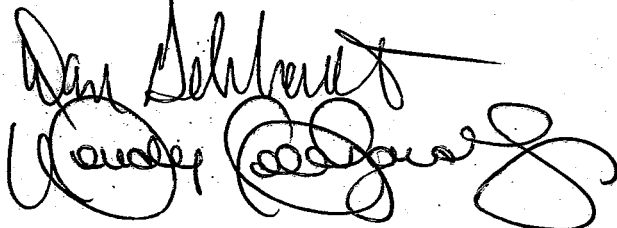
It is our assertion that the City of Milwaukee is responsible for our losses due to neglect of their duties in maintaining this part of the sewer system. We believe that in return for the large amount of taxes we pay in this area, it should not be "too difficult" to expect the correct level of sewer maintenance to be adhered to, and that human waste be kept in the sewers where it belongs....not in our homes.

Thank you for your time in this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

✓ Dan and Wendy Gebhardt  
11031 W. Carmen Ave

414-353-2910



Steve and Renee Witkowski  
11043 West Carmen Ave

*Steve W.A.  
Renee Witkowski*

Ruby Wiley  
5805 N. 111th St.

*Ruby Wiley*

**Items lost from flooding at 11031 W. Carmen Avenue.**

Clean Up

Saturday 2/8

3 men, 6 hours \$ 180.00

Sunday 2/9

2 men, 12 hours 240.00

Monday 2/10

2 men, 5 hours 100.00

(above is for carpet removal, and taking out walls)

Supplies at Home Depot 45.45

6 shelf shelving unit 59.87

Reconstruction of Rec Room 9055.00

Carpeting 785.22

2 love seats 1059.17

1 chair 349.99

1 ottoman 199.99

Maple kitchen set (6 chairs & table) 599.99

1 9x12 area rug in laundry room 81.18

And 3 throw rugs.

32 VHS tapes (average \$12.00 each) 384.00

Luggage set 149.99

Blanket chest / toy box 279.00

Dehumidifier 159.88

Paper shredder 49.99

1 tread mill 399.99

2- 27" color tv's in oak cabinets.

1- Sony Play Station

3- games for Play Station

1- VCR

2- floor speakers

1- receiver 1289.94

1 wedding dress (purchase price 1-20-73)	300.00
5 prom dresses (average \$140 per dress)	700.00
1 formal dress from son's wedding	250.00
Washer/Dryer	810.03
3 coffee / end tables	827.00
4 bowling ball bags	79.96

**Miscellaneous Items:**

12 pair summer shoes	
1 pair Sorel boots	
2 pair Sketcher boots	
1 pair Harley Work boots	
	480.00

**Grand Total for items lost, clean up, etc. ~~\$18,915.64~~**