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September 28, 2023

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

Re: Communication from Catherine Skowronski

C.I. File No. 1068-2023-598

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution. We ask that it be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Legislation with the following recommendation.

Claimant alleges that she sustained damage to her vehicle while it was parked in the area of 2751 North Farwell Avenue when a large branch from a City tree fell on it on March 10, 2023.

Our investigation revealed that on March 10, 2023, the Forestry Department received a request for emergency service regarding a tree branch that fell on a vehicle at 2751 North Farwell Avenue. The Forestry crew arrived, noted the damage to the vehicle, and removed the branch from the scene. The failed branch was alive with no decay present at the point of failure. Forestry did not receive any other service requests for this address in the past nine years.



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On March 9 through March10, 2023, Milwaukee experienced 10.7 inches of heavy wet snow. In addition, there were sustained wind speeds of 22 MPH with wind gusts to 30 MPH. This contributed to widespread tree damage throughout the city. It is our position that the Forestry Department followed standard operating procedures in this case, and were not negligent in this matter. Therefore, we recommend that the claim submitted by Catherine Skowronski in the amount of \$15,169.40 be denied.

Very truly yours,

TEARMAN SPENCER

City Attorney

JENNIFER L. WILLIAMS

Deputy City Attorney

TS/JLW/PK/cdr

Enclosures

1068-2023-598/287260