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November 25, 2025

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

RE: Communication from DONALD ARENSON
C.I. File No. 2025-001646

Dear Council Members:

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

Donald Arenson owner of 608 N. Broadway, alleges damages occurred as a result of flooding from a water main break and caused damages to their basement. A damage claim of $54,025.85 was submitted for damage to personal property, cleanup, and mitigation repairs.

Milwaukee Water Works (MWW) reported on July 10, 2025, at approximately 11:00pm, the utility responded to a report of leak from MFD, and confirmed a water main break at 608 N. Broadway. The leak was found on the public side of a 4-inch water service branch that served 608 N. Broadway, and water service was shut off. A contractor was hired to complete repairs and there were no prior reports or issues with the water service lateral prior to July 10, 2025.

It is our position that the utility took action and responded as soon as it was notified of the leak, and water service was promptly shut off in accordance with standard operating procedures. The city is not liable for damages and we recommend the claim be denied.

Very truly yours,

EVAN C. GOKE
City Attorney

NAOMI E. SANDERS
Deputy City Attorney

ECG/NES/MTG/cdr

2025-001646/

MILWAUKEE