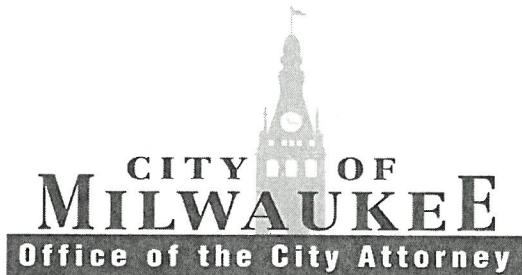


EVAN C. GOYKE
City Attorney

MARY L. SCHANNING
ROBIN A. PEDERSON
NAOMI E. SANDERS
JULIE P. WILSON
Deputy City Attorneys



Milwaukee City Hall Suite 800 • 200 East Wells Street • Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-3551
Telephone: 414.286.2601 • TDD: 414.286.2025 • Fax: 414.286.8550

October 14, 2025

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

RE: Communication from AYSHIA BANKS
C.I. File No. 1048-2025-635

Dear Sir and Madam:

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

The claimant, after hiring Wally Blanton plumbing service to snake her sewer line on March 6, 2025, repeatedly experienced the return of gravel while using a jetter cable. Wally's plumbing Service determined that the private side of sewer lateral had collapsed, and the claimant alleges this was a consequence of incorrect city repair work conducted in 2016. The claimant is seeking reimbursement from the city in the amount of \$25,847.20 for the services she paid Wally Blanton plumbing for repair of her private side sewer lateral.

Our investigation revealed that on March 21, 2014, Milwaukee Water Works (MWW) investigated a city service leak and made a repair to the public side of the water lateral. At this time the water and sewer lateral were in the same service ditch. On November 12, 2017 as part of the Lead Service Replacement (LSLR) program, Mid-City Plumbing and Heating Inc. were contracted to install a copper water service line on both the public and private side of the claimant's property. The new water service was installed approximately 5 feet to the south of the existing lead lateral and sewer lateral. No report was filed for sewer gases experienced around April of 2018. In November 25, 2019, Ayshia contracted Knight plumbing who used a jetter cable to snake her sewer line in which she states the cable got stuck. She then contracted Mr. Rooter on November 23, 2023 who also used a jetter cable in sewer line after she was unsuccessful with previous work from Knight Plumbing.

KATHRYN Z. BLOCK
THOMAS D. MILLER
PETER J. BLOCK
PATRICK J. MCCLAIN
ANDREA J. FOWLER
JOANNA FRACZEK
HANNAH R. JAHN
MEIGHAN M. ANGER
ALEXANDER R. CARSON
GREGORY P. KRUSE
ALEX T. MUELLER
ALEXANDER D. COSSI
KATHERINE A. HEADLEY
SHEILA THOBANI
STACY J. MILLER
JORDAN M. SCHETTLE
THERESA A. MONTAG
ALEXANDER E. FOUNDOS
TRAVIS J. GRESHAM
KYLE W. BAILEY
JOSEPH M. DOBBS
WILLIAM K. HOTCHKISS
CLINT B. MUCHE
TYLER M. HELSEL
ZACHARY A. HATFIELD
MEGHAN C. MCCABE
CYNTHIA HARRIS ORTEGA
OLUWASEUN CHRIS IBITOYE
KEVIN P. TODT
NATHANIEL E. ADAMSON
MATTEO REGINATO
JOSHUA B. CRONIN
ROBERT W. SANDERS
Assistant City Attorneys



To the Honorable Common Council
Of the City of Milwaukee
October 14, 2025
Page Two

On November 28, 2023, in response to the claimant's report of sewer issues, MWW field staff excavated near the copper water service line and did not locate the claimant's sewer lateral. MWW found no records of a main break in 2016 or 2018. No reports or complaints received from November 28, 2023 until March 18, 2025.

The Department of Public works Sewer Maintenance (DPW) records from last 10 years shows three backwater complaints at residence: 11/26/2019, 12/9/2019, and 11/3/2023. For all three incidents, the sewer main was checked and found to be in good working condition. The homeowner was advised to contact a licensed plumber for internal issues.

Furthermore, Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) records indicate that on March 17, 2025 an emergency sanitary sewer repair inspection was requested by Wally Blanton Inc. DNS plumbing inspection approved the installation of 13 feet of 6-inch schedule 40 PVC replaced broken clay sanitary sewer lateral. Sewer broke approximately 12 feet of curb near water main. New repair connected to existing clay with 6-inch fernco's.

In our view, the damages listed in the claim are unrelated to any maintenance or repair work performed by City of Milwaukee and found no negligence. The claim is also untimely, as the alleged damages occurred first in 2016. Therefore, we recommend that the claim submitted by Ayshia Banks in the amount of \$25, 847.20 be denied.

Very truly yours,



EVAN C. GOYKE
City Attorney



NAOMI E. SANDERS
Deputy City Attorney

ECG/NES/CEC/cdr

Enclosures

1048-2025-635/

