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May 30, 2025

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

Re: Communication from ERICA LITTLE LYLE
C.I. File No. 1068-2024-2167

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 3535 North 2nd Street when a large branch from a City tree fell on it on October 31, 2024.

Our investigation revealed that on November 1, 2024, the Forestry Department received a request for emergency service regarding a tree branch that fell and was blocking the street at 3535 North 2nd Street. The Forestry crew arrived and found a large branch down on a parked vehicle, causing damage. The failed branch was alive, and there was no external evidence of decay at the point of failure.

Reviewing records for this property going back to October of 2017, Forestry found four other related service requests. Two were placed for branches down after storms in August of 2021 and 2024. One was for planting a new tree in May of 2023 and one for pruning in August of 2022. The tree was inspected each time and determined to be in good health.



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On October 31, 2024, Milwaukee had a weather system move through the City with winds peaking at 53 MPH. Forestry Section responded to 219 calls for downed and broken trees and branches from 10/31 to 11/1/24. 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 Erica Little Lyle in the amount of \$8,957.44 be denied.

Very truly yours,



EVAN C. GOYKE
City Attorney



NAOMI E. SANDERS
Deputy City Attorney

ECG/NES/PK/cdr

Enclosures

1068-2024-2167/297875