

**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

**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**  
**ELIZABETH K. MILES**  
Assistant City Attorneys

November 11, 2025

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

RE: Communication from ROBERTA BAILEY  
C.I. File No. 2025-001605

Dear Council Members:

Roberta Bailey submitted a claim for sustained damage to her vehicle. She alleges that while it was parked in the area of 4714 N 46<sup>th</sup> Street a large branch from a City tree fell on it on July 8, 2025 causing damage.

Our investigation revealed that on July 8, 2025, the Forestry Department received a request for emergency service regarding a tree branch down on a vehicle at 4714 N. 46<sup>th</sup> Street. The Forestry crew arrived and found a large tree branch laying between the curb and sidewalk. 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 six years, Forestry found eight other related service requests. Two were placed for the claim incident. Four requests for branches down broken in August of 2023, December 2023 (not from tree in front of 4714), March 2024, and July of 2024. Two were for tree trimming. The tree in question was last pruned in July of 2024 and scheduled again in 2025. The tree was inspected each time and determined to be in good health.



To the Honorable Common Council  
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On July 8, 2025, Milwaukee had a rain event throughout the City with winds peaking at 20 MPH and rain of 0.28 inches of water. Forestry Section received 30 calls for tree damage this day. 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 Roberta Bailey in the amount of \$7,126.01 be denied.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan C. Goyke", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

EVAN C. GOYKE  
City Attorney

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Naomi E. Sanders", with a stylized, wavy horizontal line.

NAOMI E. SANDERS  
Deputy City Attorney

ECG/NES/CEC/cdr

2025-001605/