GRANT F. LANGLEYCity Attorney

MIRIAM R. HORWITZ ADAM B. STEPHENS MARY L. SCHANNING JAN A. SMOKOWICZ 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

February 4, 2020

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

Re:

C. I. File No. 1029-2019-2422

Communication from: Kanika Ward

6478 N. 43rd Street Milwaukee, WI 53209

Dear Council Members:

Kanika Ward alleges that on October 2, 2019 she sustained damages when a City sewer backed up into the basement of her property located at 633 West Capitol Drive. Claimed damages total \$51,627.08.

The Infrastructure Services Division (ISD) records indicate that on October 2, 2019 Sewer Maintenance responded to a backwater call at this address. The City's sanitary sewer was found to be clogged. A Sewer Jet Vac was called but was unable to open the sewer. During the investigation it was determined that a private contractor, working on a paving project in the area, had damaged the sewer. Subsequently, it was repaired.

The ISD records also indicate that a paving project was being worked on in the vicinity of North 7th Street and West Capitol Drive at that time. This is a State of Wisconsin project, WisDOT Project ID 2025-19-70. Their address is State of Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation, Waukesha Transportation District 2, 141 NW Barstow Street, P.O. Box 798, Waukesha, WI 53187-0798. The general contractor involved in the project is Zenith Tech, Inc. Their address is N6 W23673 Bluemound Road, P.O. Box 1028, Waukesha, WI 53188-1028.

SUSAN E. LAPPEN PATRICIA A. FRICKER **HEIDI WICK SPOERL GREGG C. HAGOPIAN** JAY A. UNORA KATHRYN Z. BLOCK **KEVIN P. SULLIVAN** THOMAS D. MILLER **ROBIN A. PEDERSON** JEREMY R. MCKENZIE PETER J. BLOCK **JENNY YUAN** ALLISON N. FLANAGAN **HEATHER H. HOUGH** ANDREA J. FOWLER PATRICK J. MCCLAIN NAOMI E. GEHLING BENJAMIN J. ROOVERS **ELLENY B. CHRISTOPOULOS TYRONE M. ST. JUNIOR** HANNAH R. JAHN JULIE P. WILSON **GREGORY P. KRUSE** KIMBERLY A. PRESCOTT SHEILA THOBANI KATRYNA C. RHODES NICOLE F. LARSEN JAMES M. CARROLL WILLIAM G. DAVIDSON **MEIGHAN M. ANGER ALEXANDER R. CARSON** JENNIFER J. TATE Assistant City Attorneys



Honorable Common Council February 4, 2020 Page 2

Since the City of Milwaukee is not involved in this project, it cannot accept liability. Therefore, we recommend that this claim be denied.

Very truly yours,

GRANT F LANGLEY City Attorney

KATRYNA C. RHODES

Assistant City Attorney

KCR:mal Enclosure

c: Robert Brooks (Infrastructure - Sewers)

William Frasch (Infrastructure - Construction)

1029-2019-2422:266546