

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
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
LAURI A. ROLLINGS
Assistant City Attorneys

January 6, 2026

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

RE: Communication from STEVE BRANDENBURG
C.I. File No. 1029-2025-1396

Dear Council Members:

Steve Brandenburg alleges that on May 27, 2025 his vehicle sustained damages due to a manhole covered with plywood that he encountered while driving near the intersection of East Pleasant Street and North Kewaunee Street. The plywood collapsed under the weight of his vehicle when he drove over it.

The Department of Public Works - Sewers (DPW) investigated this claim and affirms that on June 13, 2025 a manhole alongside 1646 North Astor Street was partially excavated in order to perform a repair to the manhole. Upon completion of the excavation, the area was covered with plywood and barricaded to restrict unauthorized vehicle entry. Additionally, on July 8, 2025 DPW- Sewers backfilled and patched the excavation site in accordance to construction and safety standards.

Based on the findings of our investigation, it is our position that the claimant did not submit sufficient admissible evidence to establish negligence or involvement by the City of Milwaukee in the claimed loss of May 27, 2025. The manhole was excavated in June 13, 2025, which was confirmed by the DPW-Sewer's investigation. It is our position that the City of Milwaukee was not negligent in



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this matter. Therefore, we recommend that the claim submitted by Steven
Brandenburg in the amount of \$6,477.89 be denied.

Very truly yours,



EVAN C. GOYKE
City Attorney



NAOMI E. SANDERS
Deputy City Attorney

ECG/NES/CEC/cdr

Enclosures

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