TEARMAN SPENCER

City Attorney

MIRIAM R. HORWITZ ADAM B. STEPHENS MARY L. SCHANNING Deputy City Attorneys



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September 30, 2020

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

Re:

C.I. File No. 1029-2020-1020

Communication from: Earnest Franklin

5061 North 24th Street Milwaukee, WI 53209

Dear Council Members:

Earnest Franklin alleges that on June 7, 2020 his motorcycle was damaged when it collided with a pothole while he was traveling on 14th between Concordia and Keefe. The claimed damages are \$7,230.86.

Wisconsin municipalities have discretionary immunity from liability for any damage that is due to a defect in a sidewalk or street. Under discretionary immunity, the City is generally not liable for damages.

City records indicate that prior to June 7, 2020 the City had no notice of this hazard in the roadway. Because of this lack of notice, and the City's discretionary immunity, the City is not liable for the damage. Therefore, we recommend that

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



The Honorable Common Council

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this claim be denied.

Very truly yours,

FEARMAN SPENCER

City Attorney

KATRYNA RHODES

Assistant City Attorney

KCR:kdb

Enclosure

c: James Washington (Infrastructure)

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