EVAN C. GOYKE City Attorney

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May 20, 2025

The Honorable Common Council of the City of Milwaukee Room 205 - City Hall

RE:

Communications from EDWARD HOLMES

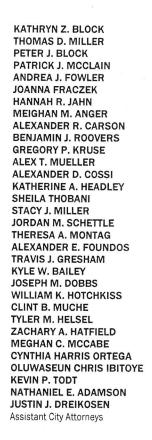
C.I. File No. 1048-2025-280

Dear Sir or Madam:

Edward Holmes and Carl J. Holmes, Sr. allege extensive property damage resulted when a water main broke on January 20, 2025 in front of their home located at 3723 West Stark Street. They claim the City was negligent regarding its infrastructure and drainage system.

We have completed an investigation into this matter with Milwaukee Water Works (MWW) and Infrastructure - Sewer Services. MWW reports that they received notice of water surfacing in the street along West Stark Street and North 37th Street at approximately 7:36 pm on January 20, 2025. A MWW field staff supervisor was notified within 4 minutes. At 7:52 pm, MWW received a 2nd call of water surfacing in the area and freezing on the road. Milwaukee Police Department also responded to assist with road blockage and traffic control. A MWW field supervisor arrived at the location at approximately 8:00 pm. Because of the large amount of ice forming, the supervisor called for a City salter truck to assist with ice removal. This was necessary before the valves could be operated in order to turn off the water. A repair crew was also called out to assist with ice removal and begin to access the shutoff valves. The water was turned off as quickly as weather and procedures would allow. The main was repaired and returned to service by 1 pm on January 21, 2025.

In checking their records, Infrastructure Sewers found no records relative to this incident.





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It is our view the City was not negligent regarding their response to and repair of the water main break in this case, and accordingly, are not liable for damages. As such, we recommend this claim for \$16,450.00 be denied.

Very truly yours,

EVAN C. GOYKE

City Attorney

NAOMI E, SANDERS Deputy City Attorney

ECG/NES/PK/cdr

Enclosures

1044-2025-280/297782

..Number

..Version

ORIGINAL

..Reference

..Sponsor THE CHAIR

..Title

Resolution relating to the claim of EDWARD HOLMES

..Analysis

Resolution

..Body

Whereas,

..Requestor

City Attorney

..Drafter

Naomi E. Sanders/cdr

May 20, 2025 1029-2025-280/297800