

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
BENJAMIN J. ROOVERS
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
JUSTIN J. DREIKOSEN
Assistant City Attorneys

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