

TEARMAN SPENCER
City Attorney

CELIA M. JACKSON
Special Deputy City Attorney

ODALO J. OHIKU
ROBIN A. PEDERSON
YOLANDA Y. MCGOWAN
TODD FARRIS
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

HEIDI WICK SPOERL
GREGG C. HAGOPIAN
KATHRYN Z. BLOCK
THOMAS D. MILLER
JEREMY R. MCKENZIE
PETER J. BLOCK
JENNY YUAN
ALLISON N. FLANAGAN
HEATHER H. HOUGH
ANDREA J. FOWLER
PATRICK J. MCCLAIN
ELLENY B. CHRISTOPOULOS
HANNAH R. JAHN
JULIE P. WILSON
GREGORY P. KRUSE
JAMES M. CARROLL
MEIGHAN M. ANGER
ALEXANDER R. CARSON
ALEX T. MUELLER
ALEXANDER COSSI
LISA A. GILMORE
NICHOLAS R. SINRAM
TAVISS K. SMITH
KATHERINE A. HEADLEY
ANTHONY JACKSON
JOHN D. MCNALLY
STACY J. MILLER
Assistant City Attorneys

March 29, 2022

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

Re: C.I. File No. 1048-2021-1397
Communication from: Dragana Jankovic
4345 S. 60th Street
Greenfield, WI 53220

Dear Council Members:

Dragana Jankovic alleges that on September 14, 2021 at approximately 6 a.m. her water pump was continuously going off at her property located at 4345 South 60th Street in Greenfield, Wisconsin. She went to her basement to find that the basement had flooded, and the water continued to rise. Ms. Jankovic submitted a damage claim for the amount of \$7,032.79 for personal property damage and repair expenses not covered by her homeowner's insurance.

Milwaukee Water Works records indicated that on September 14, 2021, the Milwaukee Police Department reported a leak in the street at 4345 South 60th Street. A water investigator was dispatched and confirmed a break on an 8" water main at that address and completed an emergency shutoff of the water main. Later that day, Digger's Hotline was contacted to locate and mark underground utilities. When Digger's Hotline provided clearance, water shutoff notices were served to local residents at 12:00 p.m. and the water main was placed out of service at 2:15 p.m. After the repairs were completed, the water main was placed back in service at 8:00 p.m.

On September 21, 2021, Ms. Jankovic contacted Milwaukee Water Works again to report further water back up in her basement. An investigator was dispatched and confirmed water was emerging from the floor drain. She was told to hire a private plumber to investigate further and determine whether the issue with the sewer was occurring before or after the curb line. The claimant hired Roto Rooter, and they could only clear up to 70' of the sewer lateral before encountering clay and rocks.



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Ms. Jankovic reported the results to the City of Greenfield, who then notified Milwaukee Water Works of the findings. On September 24, 2021 Milwaukee Water Works contracted with Mid City Corporation to complete repairs and jet the sewer lateral. Final restoration of the repair site was completed on September 30, 2021.


It is our position that Milwaukee Water Works took action as soon as it was informed of the water main break, and performed repairs in a timely manner. The damage to the sewer lateral was the result of the water main break and not the report work performed by Milwaukee Water Works.

Milwaukee Water Works acknowledges that losses caused by the damaged sewer lateral may have been mitigated if the subsequent repair work had not been delayed for 10 days following the water main break. As such, we recommend the claim be approved for payment.

Very truly yours,



TEARMAN SPENCER
City Attorney



YOLANDA Y. MCGOWAN
Deputy City Attorney

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