

CITY OF MILWAUKEE

2001 SEP 26 PM 1:55

RONALD D. LEONHARDT  
CITY CLERK

September 24, 2001

I, Florence Howard live at 6538 N. 66<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53223  
Phone Number (414) 353-4690

I wish to register a complaint about tree roots that have caused the storm laterod to break in two places. I was told that this was the owner's responsibility to get it repaired. The reason the problem occurred was because of a tree that was planted directly in front of the storm lateral. The tree roots got in through the seams of the pipes and grew until the pipes broke. The tree is not my property, and the tree caused the tremendous problems with my property. The tree is the city's property and I cannot cut down the tree without being held liable to the City of Milwaukee. We did not ask for the tree to be planted, so it's the city's responsibility to pay for all the damages to our home.

On June 28, 2001 we contacted the Alderman to complain about the problem we were having with water backing up in the basement of my home. After the sidewalks were replaced last year in 2000 we began to have problems. It started with water damage to my basement, which resulted replacing my carpet twice; also my wall panels were swollen and had water stains, my furnace was also damaged. I called many City government offices to complain about the problem, but no one knew what to do about it until I called my Alderman. The City plumbing inspector came out and had me sign some papers to state that they would have someone to do the work and put in on my tax bill. I signed the papers because I could not go another year without something being done. When the plumber came out he said that it was a root problem. The plumber did the job, but I don't feel that it is my responsibility because the tree roots have caused the problem and the tree is city property. I have pictures of the tree roots and upon request I will make them available.

Thank for your attention to this matter.

*Florence Howard*

Florence Howard  
Co-owner of property  
6538 N. 66<sup>th</sup> Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53223

FH/bla

OFFICE OF  
CITY ATTORNEY

01 SEP 26 PM 3:

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