CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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December 18, 2001

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

Re:

Communication from Florence Howard

C.I. File No. 01-S-334

Dear Council Members:

Claimant, Florence Howard, 6538 North 66th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53223, alleges that on June 28, 2001 the roots of a City tree damaged a sewer lateral and caused water to back-up in her home. She claims damages in the amount of \$8,285.00.

Infrastructure Services Division and Forest Division note that as indicated by City of Milwaukee Charter Ordinance 12.15, the operation and maintenance of sewer laterals are the responsibility of the property owner. It is the City's position that tree roots do not affect laterals in good condition. The city is not liable for this claim. Accordingly, we recommend that this claim be denied.

Very truly yours,

GRANT/F. LANGLEY

City Attorney

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Assistant City Attorney

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