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April 5, 2018

Mary Evers
2552 N. 17th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53206

*unmailed
4/9/18*

RE: C.I. File No. 1029-2018-414
Communication from Mary Evers

Dear Mrs. Evers:

We are in receipt of your claim for property damages in the amount of \$2,725.96, resulting from sewer backwater at your residence of 2552 N. 17th Street occurring on or about February 15, 2018.

In response to your claim for damages, the Sewer Maintenance and Forestry Section of the City conducted their own independent investigation of this matter. The investigation conducted and concluded by Sewer Maintenance revealed that the public main sewer was found to be in proper working order. We understand that you were advised of such and it was suggested that you contact a licensed plumber in regards to this matter.

The investigation conducted and concluded by the Forestry Section revealed two (2) City street trees growing between the sidewalk and curb near your residence. It is often believed that tree roots as being the cause for damaging and blocking sewer pipes. On the contrary, root growth into a sewer pipe only occurs where the pipe has first been damaged by other factors: soil compaction and aging sewer laterals (see attached copy of Forestry Services "Tree Root Information").

The investigations conducted by Sewer Maintenance and the Forestry section did not find any liability on the City. Therefore, we are denying your claim for property damages.

If you wish to appeal this decision, you may do so by sending a written statement requesting a hearing within 21 days of the postmarked date of this letter to the



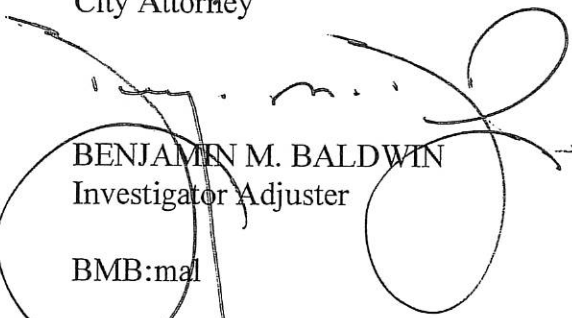
Mrs. Mary Evers
April 5, 2018
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Milwaukee City Clerk, 200 East Wells Street, Room 205, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202. Please include a photocopy of this letter's envelope, showing the postmark,
and retain the original in the event further proof is needed.

Very truly yours,



GRANT E. LANGLEY
City Attorney



BENJAMIN M. BALDWIN
Investigator Adjuster

BMB:mal

1029-2018-414:248306

TREE ROOT INFORMATION

Roots and Sewers

Tree roots are often blamed for damaging and blocking sewer pipes. However, root growth into a sewer pipe only occurs where the pipe has first been damaged by other factors. Soil compaction and aging sewer laterals can cause cracks or grout erosion between sewer tiles. Roots do not cause this damage, but grow well in leaking sewerage (i.e., nutrients, oxygen and warm temperatures) resulting from damaged sewer pipes. The rapidly growing roots can then grow into the sewer lateral and interfere with sewerage flow.

Milwaukee Forestry will not remove healthy trees which may have roots growing into defective or damaged sewer laterals. A property owner with a damaged sewer lateral is responsible for correcting the problem and should contact a plumber to evaluate repair options.

Surface Roots

Exposed roots found at the base of your city or private trees can make it difficult to grow and maintain grass. Consider the following solutions that will allow you to maintain the area without harming the tree(s):

- Always leave surface roots in place. Do not cut or bury surface roots with soil.
- Remove grass and replace with mulch and/or groundcover plants.

Roots and Sidewalks

Healthy street trees with roots heaving adjacent sidewalk typically will not be removed. Heaved public sidewalks may qualify to be ramped or replaced. Call **286-CITY** to request a sidewalk inspection.

Questions?

Call Milwaukee Forestry
286-CITY (2489)

