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March 29, 2022

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

RE: C.I. File: 1048-2021-1434  
Communication from: Raymond and Norma Lathan  
11901 W. Rio Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53225

Dear Council Members:

Raymond and Norma Lathan alleges that on August 19, 2022, a water main break caused damage to their property located at 11901 West Rio Street resulting in \$13,969.61 of damage and expenses.

Our investigation determined Milwaukee Water Works was notified of a leak in the street at 12013 West Rio Street at 4:33 a.m. A water investigator was dispatched and confirmed a break in the 12” water main located to the east of 11900 West Kaul Avenue (one block south of West Rio Street). An emergency shut off was performed, and the water main was taken out of service at 8:86 a.m.

An emergency request was submitted to Diggers Hotline to locate and mark underground utilities. Milwaukee Water Works received clearance to complete repair work at 9:45 a.m. The repairs were completed and the 12” water main was placed back into service at 5:30 p.m. the same day. Later in the evening at approximately 7:17 p.m., a citizen reported a leak in front of 11900 West Kaul Avenue. A field investigator was dispatched and found water pouring from the gate box into the lawn of that property. The leak was located in the west line gate of North 119<sup>th</sup> Street and West Kaul Avenue. By 9:37 p.m. the Water Works crew throttled the flow of water by leaving once gate valve on at North 119<sup>th</sup> Street and West Rio Street while turning off other gates. This is standard operating procedures so that the leak can be controlled until repair.

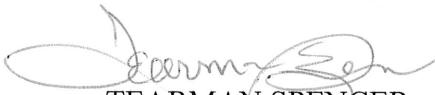


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On August 20, 2021 Milwaukee Water Works submitted a request to Diggers Hotline to locate and mark underground utilities. The department received clearance at 8:00 a.m. and a crew arrived to the site at 8:45 a.m. Water shutoff notices were served to the surrounding area, and the main was placed out of service at 10:00 a.m. The necessary repairs were completed to the gate box valve, and the water main was placed back into service at 1:00 p.m.

It is our position that Milwaukee Water Works took action as soon as it was notified of both leaks in the area, and performed the repairs in a timely manner. The City of Milwaukee has no negligence in this matter, and we recommend denial of the claim.

Very truly yours,



TEARMAN SPENCER  
City Attorney



YOLANDA Y. MCGOWAN  
Deputy City Attorney

YYM/KBG/cdr

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