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July 13, 2022

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

Re:

Communication from CURTIS CRAIG

C.I. File No. 1068-2021-1525

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution. We ask that it be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Legislation with the following recommendation.

On August 11, 2021, the Forestry Department was notified of a tree down and blocking the street at 3018 North 40th Street. The request for service was routed to a Forestry crew who responded and found a large split branch from a City tree at 3021 North 40th Street lying in the street and on two parked vehicles.

The entire tree was alive and appeared to be in good health. There was some decay at the point of failure, however this decay was not visible from the exterior of the tree. A Forestry employee documented the damage and the branch was removed.

On August 10, 2021, The City of Milwaukee experienced a strong thunderstorm event which produced winds with sustained wind speeds of 35 MPH and peak winds of 50 MPH. This storm also brought .13 inches of rain on top of the 3.29 inches received over the previous four days. These high winds and saturated soils resulted in catastrophic tree failures throughout the City.

It is the Forestry Department's position that no reasonable or prudent action on its part could have foreseen or prevented this damage from occurring. Therefore, we feel the City is not liable for damages in this case, and we recommend that the claim submitted by Mr. Craig in the amount of \$7,835.25 be denied.

HEIDI WICK SPOERL KATHRYN Z. BLOCK THOMAS D. MILLER PETER J. BLOCK **ALLISON N. FLANAGAN** PATRICK J. MCCLAIN HANNAH R. JAHN JULIE P. WILSON 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 MICHAEL RADAVICH JORDAN SCHETTLE **MATTHEW NEVARANTA** THERESA MONTAG TYLER M. HELSEL **NANCY A. DOMINSKI** RYAN J. HARRINGTON Assistant City Attorneys



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Very truly yours,

TEARMAN SPENCER City Attorney

Todd Faus

TODD FARRIS

Deputy City Attorney

TF/pk

Enclosure

Jeffrey Laufenberg(Forestry)

1068-2021-1525/280902