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January 23, 2023

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

Re:

Communication from Jerome Knight

C.I. File No. 1068-2022-1562

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.

Claimant alleges that he sustained damage to his vehicle while it was parked in the area of 2100 West Villard Avenue when a large branch from a City tree fell on it on October 25, 2022.

Our investigation revealed that on October 25, 2022, the Forestry Department received a request for emergency service regarding a tree branch that fell on a vehicle at 5070 North 51<sup>st</sup> Street. The Forestry crew arrived, noted the damage to the vehicle, and removed the branch from the scene. The failed branch was alive, but there was decay present at the point of failure. Forestry did not receive any other service requests for this address in the past six years.

**HEIDI WICK SPOERL** KATHRYN Z. BLOCK THOMAS D. MILLER PETER J. BLOCK PATRICK J. MCCLAIN HANNAH R. JAHN JULIE P. WILSON MEIGHAN M. ANGER ALEXANDER R. CARSON ALEXANDER T. MUELLER ALEXANDER D. COSSI LISA A. GILMORE NICHOLAS R. SINRAM TAVISS K. SMITH KATHERINE A. HEADLEY L. ANTHONY JACKSON STACY J. MILLER MICHAEL C. RADAVICH JORDAN M. SCHETTLE THERESA A. MONTAG TYLER M. HELSEL **NANCY A. DOMINSKI ALEXANDER E. FOUNDOS** CHRISTOPHER P. JACKSON JAMES D. LEWIS TRAVIS J. GRESHAM KYLE W. BAILEY JOSEPH M. DOBBS WILLIAM K. HOTCHKISS Assistant City Attorneys



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On October 25, 2022, Milwaukee had a weather system move through the City with .58 inches of rain and winds peaking at 46 MPH. This contributed to widespread tree damage throughout the city. It is our position that the Forestry Department followed standard operating procedures in this case, and were not negligent in this matter. Therefore, we recommend that the claim submitted by Jerome Knight in the amount of \$7,838.81 be denied.

Very truly yours,

TEARMAN SPENCER

City Attorney

JENNIFER L. WILLIAMS

Deputy City Attorney

JLW/PK/cdr

Enclosures

1068-2022-1562/283400