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January 18, 2023

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

Re: Communication from Progressive Universal Insurance Company on behalf of Stephanie Morales

C.I. File No. 1068-2022-1712

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 is seeking payment on behalf of their insured, Stephanie Morales for vehicle damage that occurred when a large branch from a City tree fell on it while it was parked at 2803 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street on October 20, 2022.

Our investigation revealed that on October 20, 2022, the Forestry Department received a request for emergency service regarding a tree on a parked car at 2803 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street. The Forestry crew arrived and found that a large branch from the city tree had fallen on the subject vehicle. The Forestry team removed the branch from the car and scheduled the remaining portion of the tree to be completely removed on October 21, 2022. There was decay present at the site of the tree failure but it was not visible from the outside of the tree. Forestry did not receive any 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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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 Progressive Insurance on behalf of Stephanie Morales in the amount of \$5,248.60 be denied.

Very truly yours,

TEARMAN SPENCER

City Attorney

JENNIFER L. WILLIAMS

Deputy City Attorney

JEW/PK/cdr

**Enclosures** 

1068-2022-1712/283296