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January 31, 2023

To the Honorable Common Council of the City of Milwaukee City Hall Room - 205

RE:

Communication from Sylvia Marin

C.I. File No. 1029-2022-1234

Property damage address: 873 W. Windlake Avenue

Dear Sir or Madam:

Ms. Sylvia Marin, owner of property at 873 W. Windlake Avenue and her son Joseph Zacaula, have presented a claim for damages for \$41,000 plus additional damages pending completion of work, because of reoccurring sewer backwater complaints over the past 5 years, with the most recent occurrence on September 6, 2022.

Our investigation reveals that on September 6, 2022, Sewer Maintenance indicated they received a call from a private plumbing contractor in search of an existing connection on the city sewer located at 873 W. Windlake Avenue. Sewer Maintenance responded as a courtesy and televised the re-laid 18" combined sewer that serves 873 and 901 W. Windlake Avenue. Sewer Maintenance further reported that the combined sewer was functioning properly and two existing connections were located for the plumbing contractor.

Sewer Maintenance conducted further research of records dating back to 2018 and responded to four backwater complaints regarding 873 and 901 W. Windlake Avenue on the following dates: November 27, 2018, January 8, 2019, and two calls on April 26, 2022. All calls were responded to in a timely manner and the city sewer main was found to be functioning properly. The homeowner was advised to hire a licensed plumber for internal building lateral issues.

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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There is no evidence that the city was negligent in this matter. As such, the City of Milwaukee would not be liable for damages and recommend that the claim be denied.

Very truly yours,

TEARMAN SPENCER

City Attorney

JENNIFER WILLIAMS
Deputy City Attorney

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TS/JLW/MTG/cdr

Enclosures

1029-2022-1234/283564