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February 28, 2013

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

Re: Communication from RICHARD SPARKS, LOLITA ALLEN and  
DONOVAN SPARKS

C.I. File Nos.: 1032-2013-362; 1032-2013-364; 1032-2013-365

Dear Council Members:

Claimants, Richard Sparks, Lolita Allen and Donovan Sparks, 1908 West Nash Street, Milwaukee, WI 53206, allege through their attorney, Hazel J. Washington, of Washington Law Office S.C., 2828 North 60th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210, that on November 14, 2012 they sustained damages when the Milwaukee Police Department shot their dog without provocation. They claim damages in the amount of \$300,000.00.

Police records indicate that on November 14, 2012 officers were dispatched to the area of N. 19th Street and W. Nash Avenue to conduct follow up on an unresolved “shots fired” investigation. After speaking with the residents of 1914 West Nash Street the police went to 1908 West Nash Street. They opened the gate that surrounds the yard, walked to the house and knocked or rang the doorbell. While waiting for an answer at the door, they heard something running on the side of the house. An officer saw a dog running at them, feared that the dog was going to attack them and jumped on top of the porch railing. The other officer did not have time to jump out of the way. The dog was charging at the officer with an open mouth, and the officer believed the dog was about to bite.

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The officer fired two shots, fatally injuring the dog (later identified as a pitbull mix).

The police exercised appropriate action in this matter and as such, the City would not be liable. Therefore we recommend that these claims be denied.

Very truly yours,

GRANT F. LANGLEY  
City Attorney

PATRICIA A. FRICKER  
Assistant City Attorney

PAF:cdr

Enclosure

1032-2013-362/189454