

City Clerk
Room 201
City Hall

Over the night of Thursday June 18th and the morning of June 19th the City of Milwaukee received a substantial amount of rain. When my husband got up to get ready for work he discovered that our basement had filled up with nearly 4 feet of raw sewage water. (I have photographs of the height of the water as of 4:30 AM.)

This water caused substantial damage to our basement, destroying our brand new furnace, water heater, wash machine and dryer. These were replaced in 2008, due to the flooding of that summer. It also saturated our electrical outlets, and all wooden shelves and bar, causing extreme warping and mold spread. In addition, all of our personal items stored in the basement were also destroyed.

I was forced to take off work on the 19th in order to begin the cleanup operation. I removed numerous baskets of clothing and spent over \$100 at the Laundromat in order to salvage some of our belongings. Most were damaged beyond cleaning and we took numerous trips to the City Dump in order to get rid of the debris.

We contacted our insurance company, Harleysville Insurance, and filed a claim under the sewer backup contingency. The claim (WO-855490) had a cap of \$5,000 and the amount of the damages far exceeded that amount. In addition, because of the claim, our insurance company has dropped us and our agent tells us we may never be able to get the sewer backup on any policy again.

The items lost in our basement were:

Washer	\$ 495.00
Dryer	\$ 529.00
Furnace	\$ 2,600.00
Water Heater	\$ 762.82
Jewelry Tower	\$ 145.00
Books	\$ 200.00
Clothing (Adult and Children's)	\$ 500.00
Shoes	\$ 150.00
2 Wooden Cabinets	\$ 150.00
Bar and 3 bar stools	\$ 225.00
Foot Stool	\$ 25.00
2 Folding Card Tables	\$ 80.00
Christmas decorations and wrapping paper	\$ 250.00
Toys	\$ 100.00
Bedding	\$ 300.00
2 Area Rugs (5' x 7')	\$ 350.00
Coffee Table (This End Up Furniture)	\$ 200.00
Library Table (This End Up Furniture)	\$ 235.00

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2 End Tables (This End Up Furniture)	\$ 352.00
Love Seat (This End Up Furniture)	\$ 453.00

In addition, the insurance company calculated the costs of the following as:

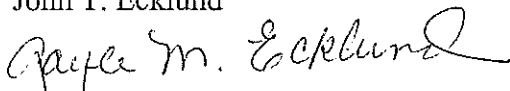
Clean and sanitize the basement was calculated at	\$2,260.48
Replace the shelving along the north and west walls	\$ 220.05
Clean and sanitize the staircase	\$ 199.68
Haul debris to the dump	\$ 204.38
2 days and many loads of laundry at the Laundromat	\$ 125.00

After several phone calls to the Alderman Michael Murphy's office, the City Engineer's Office and a face-to-face meeting with the Alderman, the City Engineer and another person from the DPW, it was learned that the electrical overflow box located on the corner of my property, installed by the DNR sometime in the 1960's, had failed to properly switch the rain water from going into the sewage line (or vice versa). The Engineer and his associate along with the Alderman concluded that the City has some culpability in the situation, and so we are filing a claim to recover our losses.

Respectfully submitted,



John T. Ecklund



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