**GRANT F. LANGLEY** City Attorney

**MIRIAM R. HORWITZ ADAM B. STEPHENS MARY L. SCHANNING** JAN A. SMOKOWICZ **Deputy City Attorneys** 



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February 17, 2020

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

Re:

C.I. File No. 1029-2019-1248

Communication from: Robert and Daphne Kozlicki 3162 S. Vermont Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53207

Dear Council Members:

Robert and Daphne Kozlicki allege that in the autumn of 2017 a City contractor replaced the main sewer line and in the process, severed the sewer line which was attached to their lateral. Subsequently, the sewer periodically backed up into their basement. Claimed damages total \$7,085.95.

The Infrastructure Services Division indicates that in October 2017 the City hired a contractor to replace the existing combined sewer in South Vermont Avenue from East Oklahoma Avenue to East Rhode Island Avenue. As part of this project, the contractor bulkheaded a sewer that, based on available City records, was shown to have been abandoned in 1923. The contractor spent days exploring for the lateral for 3162 South Vermont Avenue, could not locate it and notified the City that they were going to stop looking for it and proceed to replace the combined main sewer.

On August 21, 2018 the Sewer Underground Operations Unit was notified of a backwater at this location. City personnel were dispatched and found that the combined sewer was operating properly and advised the home owner to contact a licensed plumber. On June 3, 2019 the claimants hired a plumber to investigate. They found that the lateral was connected to the sewer shown to have been abandoned in 1923.

SUSAN E. LAPPEN PATRICIA A. FRICKER **HEIDI WICK SPOERL** GREGG C. HAGOPIAN JAY A. UNORA KATHRYN Z. BLOCK **KEVIN P. SULLIVAN** THOMAS D. MILLER **ROBIN A. PEDERSON** JEREMY R. MCKENZIE PETER I BLOCK JENNY YUAN ALLISON N. FLANAGAN **HEATHER H. HOUGH** ANDREA J. FOWLER PATRICK J. MCCLAIN **NAOMI E. GEHLING BENJAMIN J. ROOVERS ELLENY B. CHRISTOPOULOS TYRONE M. ST. JUNIOR** HANNAH R. JAHN JULIE P. WILSON **GREGORY P. KRUSE** KIMBERLY A. PRESCOTT SHEILA THOBANI KATRYNA C. RHODES **NICOLE F. LARSEN** JAMES M. CARROLL **WILLIAM G. DAVIDSON MEIGHAN M. ANGER ALEXANDER R. CARSON** JENNIFER J. TATE Assistant City Attorneys



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Because settlement of this matter is deemed expeditious to the City of Milwaukee, we recommend settlement of this claim in the amount of \$7,085.95 and have enclosed an appropriate resolution for your convenience.

Very truly yours,

GRANT LANGLEY City Attorney

KATRYNA C. RHODES

Assistant City Attorney

KCR:mal

Enclosure

Robert Brooks (Infrastructure – w/o enc.)

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