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December 9, 2020

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

RE: C.I. File Nos. 1029-2020-1541; 1029-2020-1542

Communication from Meghan Reidy

Matthew Spannknebel 7031 West Waterford Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53220

Dear Council Members:

Meghan Reidy and Matthew Spannknebel allege that on August 2, 2020 they sustained damages when a sewer backed up into the basement of their residence located at 7031 West Waterford Avenue. Claimed damages total \$17,504.95.

The Infrastructure Services Division records indicate that on September 22, 2020 Sewer Maintenance responded to a backwater call at this address. They checked and found that the City's sanitary sewer was working properly. The property owners reported that they had a backwater on August 2, 2020. The Division records also indicate that the sewer is on a regular 3 year cleaning schedule and was last cleaned, prior to these incidents, on April 29, 2020. Past cleaning records do not indicate any unusual problems.

The Division also indicates that from August 2 through August 3, 2020, the City received an average of 3.4 inches of rain. Due to the heavy rainfall, some sewer systems within the City were overwhelmed.

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There is no evidence that the City was negligent. The City would not be liable. Therefore, we recommend that these claims be denied.

Very truly yours,

TEARMAN SPENCER

City Attorney

KATRYNA C. RHODES

**Assistant City Attorney** 

KCR:cdr

Enclosure

c: Robert Brooks (Infrastructure)

1029-2020-1541/272597