



CLAIMANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Eric Weier
Address: 926 S 111th Street
West Allis WI 53214

Phone: 262-844-8114
Email: eweier84@gmail.com

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete this form, print and sign it, and serve a hard copy upon the West Allis City Clerk. If you have questions about how to fill out this form, please contact a private attorney who can assist you.

NOTICE OF CLAIM

Date of incident: 11/11/2020 Time of day: 07:00
Location: Front Yard at 926 S 111th Street West Allis WI 53214

Describe the circumstances of your claim here. You may attach additional sheets or exhibits. Some helpful information may be the police report, pictures of the incident or damage, a diagram of the location, a list of injuries, a list of property damage, names and contact information for witnesses to the incident, and any other information relevant to the circumstances.

This claim is in response to tree removal that the city conducted in order to fix a waterline issue. The process started in September, but a potential date of tree removal was not provided which did not allow me the opportunity to remove personal items of value out of my yard and away from my porch. When I came home from work on November 11th around 7PM I found out the tree had been cut down. In inspecting the work, I realized that they broke a ceramic sculpture that my fiance bought from Thomas' Greenhouse for the fall season. This sculpture was located up by my front porch which also had a small table and 2 chairs located on it.

Attached are emails between my alderperson and the City Water Utility as well as pictures of what was left of the broken sculpture which was left along the side of my driveway with the table that must have been moved off my porch. I am seeking reimbursement for the cost of the item in hopes that we can replace it for next year.

Check one:

- I am seeking damages at this time (complete Claim Amount section below)
- I am submitting this notice without a claim for damages. This claim is not complete and will not be processed until I submit a claim for damages on a later date.

Signed: 

Date: 01/04/2021

CLAIM AMOUNT

To complete this claim, attach an itemized statement of damages sought. If any damages are for repair to property, include at least 2 estimates for repairs.

The total amount sought is: \$ 169.99

SAVE

PRINT



420 Maple Avenue, Mukwonago, WI 53149

262-363-3807

12/23/20

Thomas' Greenhouse & Gardens



000005987

\$169.99 LARGE BLUE
SCARECROW W/ STRAIGHT

To whom it may concern

A Large Scarecrow Chimenea that is purchased at our store costs \$169.99 plus tax.

Please contact us at 262-363-3807 if you have any further questions.

Thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Becky Esser', written in a cursive style.

Becky Esser

Assistant Manger



Eric Weier <eweier84@gmail.com>

Re: Online Form Submittal: Alderperson Suzzette Grisham, Third Aldermanic District

7 messages

Suzzette Grisham <SGrisham@westalliswi.gov> Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 1:43 PM
To: "eweier84@gmail.com" <eweier84@gmail.com>
Cc: Mike Rushmer <mrushmer@westalliswi.gov>, Dave Wepking <dwepking@westalliswi.gov>, Danna Kuehn <DKuehn@westalliswi.gov>

Mr. Weier,
I am sorry to hear the frustration you are feeling regarding this issue.
I am forwarding your email/complaint to the respective department head to offer you the proper assistance.
I am asking for a follow up to assure this matter is resolved to your satisfaction.

Best regards,
Alderwoman Grisham

Get Outlook for Android

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:29:29 AM
To: Suzzette Grisham <SGrisham@westalliswi.gov>
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Alderperson Suzzette Grisham, Third Aldermanic District

Alderperson Suzzette Grisham, Third Aldermanic District

Use this form to send an email message to Alderperson Grisham.

If you are experiencing a life threatening emergency, call 911 to receive immediate attention. If you have an urgent or time sensitive matter that is not a life threatening emergency, please call the Police Communication Center non-emergency number, (414) 302-8000.

First Name	Eric
Last Name	Weier
Street address:	926 S 111th street
Email:	eweier84@gmail.com
Phone:	2628448114
Please respond by:	Email
Subject:	Complaint Around a Process
Message:	Good Morning:

I am not sure if you are my alderperson or if it is Danna, or both

of you, but I would like to express my frustration and disappointment in a process carried out by the City of West Allis Water Utility. Back in late July/August there was some work being done in front of my house. I found out from neighbors that there was an issue with a city water line and that it might have something to do with the tree in my front yard (a tree the city owns). About three weeks later I finally came home from work to a pink post-it note stuck to my door with a business card from Michael Brofka that said "Please call the West Allis water utility about your water service". When I called he said they had been trying to get ahold of me for a few weeks to let me know that they need to do emergency work on the water line and that the tree may need to come down in order to do that work. This is where my first issue comes up. Knocking on my door daily, during the day, is not "trying to get ahold of me". Either a letter should have been sent or a note left on my door long before the three plus weeks of "trying to get a hold of me". About a week later, they dug a huge hole in my front yard to examine the root system of the tree and they used a giant sheet of plywood to cover it. I then found out that the tree had to come down, but was told it would be a couple weeks. This was in September. Roughly 3 days after the hole was dug, I came home to find the hole filled, the road patched, and the temporary no parking signs removed. However, the giant piece of plywood was still laying in my yard. To this day, that piece of wood has not been picked up! Now fast forward to yesterday... Between mid September and Yesterday, there was no communication on the status of the work needed to done, however I came home around 7PM from work and found out that they cut the tree down. In inspecting the work, I realized last night that they damaged my personal property and broke a \$100 ceramic sculpture that my fiancé bought for the fall season. This sculpture was located up by the porch, not out in the yard. I also noticed that they moved the small table on my porch as well as some other items near the walkway and porch. I am extremely frustrated about this and would like to know what route I need to go in order to seek reimbursement for the cost of the damage. I am a very flexible person and had I received notice of the work that was going to be done, I would have made sure that everything on my porch was removed and out of the way just to be safe and to allow for adequate work space. I think it is appalling that the city would not communicate to its tax paying citizens about the work that will be going on that directly impacts their property and its disheartening to come home to damage and not even had a note apologizing for it. I did call Michael last night and left a message, but his voicemail says he is out of the office until Monday. I look forward to hearing from you.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

City of West Allis operations continue during COVID-19. City offices have reopened with limited hours. City Hall public hours are 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. Access to the building will only be available through the south entrance. Visitors to the building will be greeted at our new customer service center and, if needed, escorted to their destination within the building. Many City services can be accessed online at www.westalliswi.gov/eservices or by

appointment with specific departments.

The City of West Allis is subject to Wisconsin Statutes related to public records. Unless otherwise exempted from the public records law, senders and receivers of City of West Allis e-mail should presume that e-mail is subject to release upon request, and is subject to state records retention requirements. See City of West Allis full e-mail disclaimer at <http://www.westalliswi.gov/emaildisclaimer>

Eric Weier <eweier84@gmail.com>
To: Suzzette Grisham <SGrisham@westalliswi.gov>

Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 6:50 PM

Thank you for your reply. I look forward to hearing from someone. I will definitely follow up with you like you requested.

Thanks again
Eric
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Dave Wepking <dwepking@westalliswi.gov>
To: Suzzette Grisham <SGrisham@westalliswi.gov>, "eweier84@gmail.com" <eweier84@gmail.com>
Cc: Danna Kuehn <DKuehn@westalliswi.gov>

Sat, Nov 14, 2020 at 9:31 AM

Ald. Grisham and Mr. Weier,

I had the opportunity to look at the area in question yesterday morning at the residence where the water leak and City tree was removed. I have reached out to staff and I am awaiting for the Water Superintendent to return on Monday to seek additional clarification. My understanding is the Water Superintendent reviewed the issue of a possible service line leak under the area of the tree. Our Water Division staff attempted to hydro excavate on the back side of the tree but couldn't locate the leak. Our Forester was consulted by the Water Division and he recommended the City tree be removed so we could excavate further. Staff indicates the decision to remove the tree was communicated verbally and the removal would be addressed in the next two weeks. During this timeframe, the Water staff did place plywood over the filled hole as a safety measure but did not remove in a timely fashion. The forestry staff initially went to remove the tree but there was decorations placed in the yard and did cancel the removal. After Halloween they returned and one employee attempted to lift a decoration and the head of the decoration rolled off/fell. The Forester was informed but apologized that he didn't notify you directly when this occurred. He indicates he didn't have your contact information at that time and then had to address the wind storm the following day which lead him to forget. I apologize that staff didn't alert you right away for the damage when attempting to move the decoration via placing a note at your front door and giving you a contact number. Also, making you aware of the scheduled work would have allowed to remove those items within close proximity of the tree. I have discussed this with our staff today to rectify future issues. At this time, it appears the diggers hot line request will be approved and we will be removing the stump at your address this Monday.

If possible you can submit a claim submitting your damages that had occurred during the removal of the City tree or contact me directly.

Again, I apologize for the lack of communication of staff and will address for future service tasks for our patrons. Thank you for making us aware of this issue. Have a good weekend.

Dave Wepking
Director | DPW - Administrative Office
City of West Allis
6300 W. McGeoch Ave. | West Allis, WI 53219
Office: 414-302-8832 | Dept: 414-302-8888
thatwhywestallis.com

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Eric Weier <eweier84@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 8:56 AM

To: Dave Wepking <dwepking@westalliswi.gov>

Cc: Suzzette Grisham <SGrisham@westalliswi.gov>, Danna Kuehn <DKuehn@westalliswi.gov>

Good Morning Mr. Wepking:

Thank you for your response. I did leave a message with Mr. Brofka when I came home and found the damage. I look forward to speaking with him hopefully later today. We were notified on September 14th that the tree had to come down. I have pictures of the work and the hydro excavated root system from that day. We were told two weeks as the removal crew was a bit backed up. I apologize that when they did come, we had some Halloween decorations up which kept them from being able to do their work. We waited until into the first full week of October to put anything up, thinking that either the work was no longer going to occur this year, as we were over the two week window originally communicated or that we would be notified of a new scheduled time frame.

I know that accidents can happen, especially when trying to take down a tree as large as the one we had in our yard. My frustration comes more from feeling like there was virtually no communication on this process, which did not allow me to take the steps to protect my personal items from potential damage. Not to mention the initial work started in late August/early September when we received two water shut off notices. I was given more updates around what might happen from retired neighbors than the actual city as they were home and talked to the workers. Roughly 10 days after the last shut off notice, is when I received a posit-it note on the door saying I should call the water utility as they had been "trying" to contact me. However those attempts were not via phone or written notice. I hope the the City of West Allis reviews their protocol and works to develop systems going forward that allows for communication of work that needs to be done. I have family that live in Milwaukee and one of them just had a city tree taken down as well and the City of Milwaukee left written notice of the work as well as projected time frames. When the initial time frame was not able to be met, they received an updated notice.

Please let me know how I would submit a claim or what I need to do/include in that claim. Unfortunately who ever did the removal, cleaned up and took with them the broken pieces, so I can't even see if I could try and glue them together. I was just left with the base of the broken part. Again, I appreciate you reaching out and I look forward to positive changes to come with communication around city work. West Allis has a lot to be proud of, which is why I chose to purchase a house here.

Thanks again,

Eric Weier

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Dave Wepking <dwepking@westalliswi.gov>

Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 9:07 AM

To: Eric Weier <eweier84@gmail.com>

Cc: Suzzette Grisham <SGrisham@westalliswi.gov>, Danna Kuehn <DKuehn@westalliswi.gov>, Mike Brofka

<mbrofka@westalliswi.gov>, Mike Rushmer <mrushmer@westalliswi.gov>

Good Morning Mr. Weier,

Mr. Brofka and Mr. Rushmer will be contacting you shortly regarding the unfortunate event that occurred. I will have Mr. Rushmer verify the damaged pieces and forward them to you. You can send a communication indicating what was damaged and replacement costs for such.

Thank you.

Dave Wepking

Director | DPW - Administrative Office

City of West Allis

6300 W. McGeoch Ave. | West Allis, WI 53219

Office: 414-302-8832 | Dept: 414-302-8888
thatwhywestallis.com

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Mike Brofka <mbrofka@westalliswi.gov>
To: Eric Weier <eweier84@gmail.com>
Cc: Suzzette Grisham <SGrisham@westalliswi.gov>, Danna Kuehn <DKuehn@westalliswi.gov>, Mike Rushmer <mrushmer@westalliswi.gov>, Dave Wepking <dwekking@westalliswi.gov>

Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 8:19 AM

Mr. Weier,

Thank you for speaking with me yesterday about the broken item and your communication concerns. The Forestry Superintendent indicated that all of the broken pieces were left at your property. Please use the link listed below to fill out the form we spoke about to file a claim for reimbursement. We will be taking a look at our various means of communicating to residents and will use your feedback in evaluating how we can improve.

We will be at your property again tomorrow to fix the water leak. We will be leaving a door hanger indicating the time of shutoff and instructions on how to remove any air in your internal plumbing after we repair the service line. Thank you for your understanding and please let me know if there is anything else we can do.

<https://www.westalliswi.gov/1622/Claims-Process>

Michael Brofka
Water Systems Superintendent | DPW - Water Division
City of West Allis
6300 W. McGeoch Ave. | West Allis, WI 53219
Office: 414-302-8827 | Dept: 414-302-8827
thatwhywestallis.com

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Mike Brofka <mbrofka@westalliswi.gov>
To: Eric Weier <eweier84@gmail.com>
Cc: Suzzette Grisham <SGrisham@westalliswi.gov>, Danna Kuehn <DKuehn@westalliswi.gov>, Mike Rushmer <mrushmer@westalliswi.gov>, Dave Wepking <dwekking@westalliswi.gov>

Wed, Nov 18, 2020 at 1:54 PM

Good afternoon Mr. Weier,

The City's Water crew was able to complete the repair of your water service today. The leak was on the house side of the water shutoff, which would normally be something that the owner would have to fix. Because the shutoff was embedded in the tree we couldn't determine whose side the leak was on until we started to excavate the area. We found a kink in the copper, which caused the material to weaken and start to leak. This looks like something that may have occurred when installed back in the early 1950's. We were able cut the bad area out and replace it with new copper water line. We also wanted to take a look at your sanitary lateral, which is usually located in the immediate area of the water service. We didn't have any water surfacing on this leak, so we wanted to investigate whether or not it was going into your sanitary lateral. We found a piece broken on the sanitary lateral and repaired that as well. I have attached pictures for your reference. We will be back in tomorrow to place topsoil in the area. We weren't able to complete this today due to the street lighting cables also being embedded in the old stump. The City's Electrical division will be out tomorrow to make any necessary repairs to the line and we will follow them. We will also rake any pieces of wood that might have gotten into your lawn from the stumping machine. The topsoil will settle during the winter, so we will be back out in the spring to

place more topsoil and seed the entire excavation area. Please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns.

Michael Brofka
Water Systems Superintendent | DPW - Water Division
City of West Allis
6300 W. McGeoch Ave. | West Allis, WI 53219
Office: 414-302-8827 | Dept: 414-302-8827
thatswhywestallis.com

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2 attachments



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