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**City of Racine, Wisconsin
Common Council**

AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

4 **COMMITTEE:** Finance and Personnel **LEGISLATION ITEM #: 0647-24**

5 **AGENDA DATE:** August 12, 2024

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7 **DEPARTMENT:** City Attorney’s Office

8 **Prepared By:** Deputy City Attorney Marisa L. Roubik

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10 **SUBJECT:** Communication sponsored by Alder Horton on behalf of the City Attorney’s Office submitting
11 the claim of Carlos Sanchez for consideration for disallowance.

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13 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

14 Carlos Sanchez claims reimbursement in the amount of \$216,852.67 for water damage at a property
15 he recently purchased at 1625 Edgewood Avenue, Racine, WI 53404, allegedly caused by the Racine Water
16 Utility, on or about April 17, 2024. The City disputes its liability for the claimed damages. As such, the
17 City Attorney’s Office recommends that this Committee disallow this claim.

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19 **BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:**

20 The claimant, Carlos Snachez, of 6341 Lindsay Lane, Mt. Pleasant, WI 53406, filed this claim for
21 reimbursement in the amount of \$216,852.67 for water damage at a property he recently purchased at 1625
22 Edgewood Avenue, Racine, WI 53404, allegedly caused by the Racine Water Utility, on or about April 17,
23 2024.

24 In 2022, a pipe burst on the second floor of this private property and flooded the property with
25 water for an unknown period of time. Apparently, there was no handle on the shut off valve to the water
26 supply inside the property; therefore, Utility workers had to turn off the water to this property at the curb
27 stop on December 27, 2022, which is when this burst pipe was reported. This property apparently sat vacant
28 until the claimant, Carlos Sanchez, purchased it on or around April 11, 2024. On April 16, 2024, the Racine
29 Water Utility was sent out to change the water meter, and, after doing so, the Utility workers turned the
30 water to this property back on at the curb stop. On April 17, 2024, the claimant called the Water Utility to

31 report water leaks at the property, and the Utility workers returned and turned the water to this property off
32 at the curb stop.

33 The City alleges that the claimed damages occurred in 2022 as a result of the burst pipe. As such,
34 the City disputes its liability for the claimed damages.

35 For the reasons set forth above, the City Attorney's Office recommends that this Committee
36 disallow this claim.

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38 **BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

39 Assuming the recommendation to disallow this claim is adopted, this item would have a \$0.00
40 impact on the City's budget.

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42 **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

43 That the disallowance of this claim be recommended for approval.

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