



City of Racine, Wisconsin

Common Council

AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

INTRO TO COUNCIL DATE: January 20, 2026

6 STANDING COMMITTEE DATE: January 26, 2026

7 FINAL ACTION COUNCIL DATE: February 3, 2026

9 DEPARTMENT: City Attorney's Office

Prepared By: Deputy City Attorney Marisa Roubik

SUBJECT: Communication sponsored by Alder Land on behalf of the City Attorney's Office submitting the claim of Frank Coulter for consideration for disallowance.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Frank Coulter filed a claim with the City requesting \$700.00 for damages to his vehicle allegedly arising from a fire at a privately owned neighboring property, on or about October 29, 2025, which purportedly caused "scratches" and "fire holes" on the top of the claimant's vehicle. At the time of the fire, the claimant's vehicle was parked on the private property behind Mr. Coulter's residence, at 1642 Washington Avenue, the fire in question occurred at the neighboring private property, at 1646 Washington Avenue, and the City's involvement in this incident was limited to fighting the fire at 1646 Washington Avenue so as to minimize further property damage and prevent loss of life—no City employees interacted with the claimant's vehicle in the course of fighting this fire. The City is not liable for any alleged damages caused to the claimant's vehicle as a result of a fire on his neighbor's private property. For this reason, it is the recommendation of the City Attorney's Office that this claim be disallowed.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:

Frank Coulter filed a claim with the City requesting \$700.00 for damages to his 2011 Chevrolet Equinox allegedly arising from a fire at a privately owned neighboring property, on or about October 29, 2025, which purportedly caused “scratches” and “fire holes” on the top of the claimant’s vehicle.

31 It should be noted that the City does not have any record of a fire occurring on or about October
32 29, 2025, in the vicinity of the claimant's residence. Furthermore, the claimant filed his claim with the City
33 on or about October 6, 2025, which pre-dates the date that Mr. Coulter claims this alleged fire took place.
34 Nonetheless, the City does have a record of a fire occurring on or about October 1, 2025, at the privately
35 owned property located at 1646 Washington Avenue, which is next door to Mr. Coulter's residence. The
36 property at 1646 Washington Avenue, where the fire occurred, is owned by CCM-Washington Racine,
37 LLC, 901 S 70th Street, West Allis, WI 53214.

38 At the time of the fire on October 1, 2025, the claimant's vehicle was parked on the private property
39 behind Mr. Coulter's residence, at 1642 Washington Avenue, the fire in question occurred at the
40 neighboring private property, at 1646 Washington Avenue, and the City's involvement in this incident was
41 limited to fighting the fire at 1646 Washington Avenue so as to minimize further property damage and
42 prevent loss of life—no City employees interacted with the claimant's vehicle in the course of fighting this
43 fire. The City is not liable for any alleged damages caused to the claimant's vehicle as a result of a fire on
44 his neighbor's private property.

45 As such, it is the recommendation of the City Attorney's Office that this claim be disallowed.

46 **BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

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

50 **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

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