

Lopez, Donna

From: Margaret [dejaveux@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, November 07, 2014 12:18 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Lopez, Donna; jan.devereux@gmail.com
Subject: policy order re property damage during street construction

Dear City Councillors,

I understand there's a policy order on Monday's agenda to respond to residents' complaints about property damage during street reconstruction.

In the spring of 2013 the shaking from the excavation on my street (Lake View) for the Storm / Sewer drain separation project caused a large bathroom mirror to fall off the wall and (on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend) my main sewer stack and elbow joint to crack in two places, leaking sewage in my basement. I also had numerous cracks appear in my walls as well as things on my shelves knocked over and broken.

Jeya Niranjan, the Cambridge DPW Supervising Engineer came and looked at my cracked pipes and thought he might be able to have his guys there on site fix the problem and replace the plumbing right then. He called the DPW Project Manager for permission, but she refused, without even looking at the damage, saying neither the broken pipes or the fallen mirror could have been caused by them.

The next day Dave McCarthy, the onsite engineer for MWH Global and also Bob Tuminowski from PGioioso (the construction company) came to look at the damage. They both agreed I should get it fixed asap and file a claim against P Gioioso.

I had to find a plumber on Memorial Day weekend to replace the whole stack, and find a place for us all to stay while we had no toilet. I still have not had the mirror fixed. I forwarded to Gioioso my invoice and the contractor's failure analysis which suggested it was indeed the vibrations, and I attached photos. Gioioso denied my claim immediately without even submitting it to their insurance company insisting they had nothing to do with my damage.

During the excavation my whole house was shaking - plants bouncing, knick-knacks falling down, stuff on the walls swaying... and then the big mirror fell and then my pipes cracked. Since neither the DPW nor Gioioso feels the digging has anything to do with this work, it appears they feel this damage is just... *coincidence!*

I'd be very interested to know if there are any funds for those of us who have suffered damage due to the construction.
Thank you,
Margaret Desjardins