

6/8/15 Public Safety Denied
6/15/15 Council Denied

15-615

Dear Alderman Christopher Able,

My wife was recently billed by the City of Manitowoc for a hazardous fluid clean up fee on Invoice #22800 dated 12/18/2014 for \$73.50. She had no hazardous fluid leak. My wife Lori was rear ended by another vehicle while at a stop as outlined in the police report attached.

Our vehicle sustained minor cosmetic damage to the rear bumper and no fluid was leaked. The other driver was at fault as stated in the police report. The other driver's front end was demolished and was leaking fluid badly.

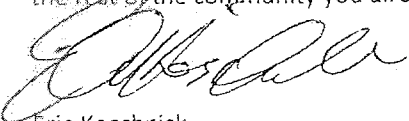
I called to clarify the clerical mistake of sending me the bill in error and was advised by Judy in the Fire Department and the fire chief Todd Blaze that city policy requires them to bill both victims and perpetrators. Then they advise all the people who call in to complain and are not at fault that they must then write letters to you. This seems like a very inefficient use of our tax dollars and a huge inconvenience for the citizens and you the alderman. What a mountain of paperwork and phone traffic this policy creates for us all. I was also asked to submit it to my insurance and let them pay it and/or sort it out. I will not be submitting this to my insurance company as it is not my nor their responsibility.

I have two requests:

- 1) Please remove this fee from my wife's name as we did not leak any fluid and were not at fault for the accident according to the police department report.
- 2) Please consider changing the city policy from sending a bill to every person at the scene of every accident making them all embark on a wild goose chase that has taken me 60 days and 6 phone calls spanning 3 departments to just get to this letter writing phase. Since the FD doesn't have access to the police report and cannot figure out who is responsible I humbly suggest that they should not be blindly billing anybody up front. As it stands now, if 5 cars were involved in an accident, the FD would bill 4 out of 5 of those people erroneously sending them down the same path I am now on. The Police Department does assign blame. I suggest the PD should notify the FD upon completion of the accident report who to bill. That would be a lot more efficient than the current system.

We hear a lot about waste in our government. This policy creates unnecessary paperwork and phone traffic for people like Judy, the alderpersons, the FD officials and PD officials and me. Having the PD notify the FD who to bill based on the accident report they have already taken the time and resources to complete would greatly reduce costs for the city and frustration for citizens at the same time by billing the correct party in the first place.

Thank you for any assistance with number one above and your consideration of acting on number 2 for the rest of the community you all serve.



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cc. Mayor Nickels