

Rachelle Blitch

From: Rachelle Blitch
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 1:53 PM
To: 'Allison C. De Franze'
Subject: RE: Smith claim

Thank you, Allison!

From: Allison C. De Franze <allisond@cvmic.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 1:37 PM
To: Rachelle Blitch <rblitch@whitewater-wi.gov>
Subject: Re: Smith claim

Hi Rachelle,

I am in receipt of the claim that has been filed by Elizabeth Smith against the City of Whitewater in the amount of \$36.93, for damages related to an incident where a city-owned inflatable pumpkin became loose and blew off a roof, striking Ms. Smith's parked and unoccupied vehicle below. As you are aware, the City of Whitewater is self-insured for this loss, and should the city decide to settle this matter, the settlement would come from city funds.

I have confirmed with city staff that the pumpkin was weighed down in a manner that the city believed would secure and adequately hold the pumpkin in place. However, due to high winds, the inflatable pumpkin became detached, blew off the roof, and struck the parked vehicle below. Therefore, it is my opinion that the city is liable for the damage to Ms. Smith's vehicle, and that the claim be paid in the amount of \$36.93.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Thank you!

From: Rachelle Blitch <rblitch@whitewater-wi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 12:59 PM
To: Allison C. De Franze <allisond@cvmic.com>
Subject: FW: Smith claim

Below is the statement from our Parks & Rec Director.

From: Kevin Boehm <kboehm@whitewater-wi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 11:41 AM
To: Rachelle Blitch <rblitch@whitewater-wi.gov>
Subject: Re: Smith claim

On October 3, staff placed an inflatable pumpkin decoration on the roof of the City of Whitewater Municipal Building. The roof is a flat roof, and to secure the inflatable, approximately 120 pounds of weight were placed inside the pumpkin. An additional 90 pounds of weight were attached to the ropes

designed to secure the inflatable when positioned on the ground. Based on the combined weight and the nature of the roof, we believed this would adequately hold the inflatable in place.

The following day, I was notified that the inflatable pumpkin had fallen from the roof. I was further informed by the responding officer that the inflatable struck a vehicle parked below.
