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November 25, 2014

City Administration Building  
Attention: Mayor's Office  
113 W. Mountain  
Fayetteville, AR 72701

RE: Accident occurring November 10, 2014  
Candice J. Carlsen

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the noon hour on Monday, November 10, 2014, I was utilizing the paved exercise path at Lake Fayetteville, as I have done countless time in the past. While doing so, the top of a very large, towering tree broke off and landed on my head, crushing my body downward. In addition to overall body scrapes and contusions, I suffered from a gash in my head, a fractured right wrist, and my left leg was demolished. The force of the impact dislocated my left knee, tearing all of the ligaments and tendons within. Once the dislocation occurred, my two leg bones sheared against each other, crumbling the bone at the point of shearing and severing an artery. It did not take long for other cyclists, joggers, and hikers to happen upon me, and they contacted emergency services. It took an exceptionally long time for EMS to be able to find me on the path, and it took more time for them to figure out a way to get me from the scene of the accident to the ambulance. During all of this time, I was rapidly losing blood. By the grace of God, I survived and was eventually brought to Washington Regional where the medical professionals have been doing an astounding job trying to piece me back together. As of this date, I am still hospitalized and have thus far required 3 surgeries. My left leg is non-functional and is currently being held together by an external fixator. The prognosis is grim as to whether I will ever regain full function of my leg, but everyone is going to try everything they can, and I refuse to give up without a fight. I have multiple more surgeries ahead of me and many months of physical therapy.

My life has been dramatically and forever changed as a result of this event, and I may ultimately be permanently disabled. Coming from a very active lifestyle, this is a crushing concept to me. It is the City's responsibility to offer safe environments, particularly along exercise trails, as the very nature of exercise trails is for citizens to use them. The precarious condition of the tree should have been identified and taken care of to prevent this event. I am asking that the City do the right thing and step up and take care of all of my current and future medical expenses associated with this accident, including but not limited to hospital costs, surgery costs, doctor costs, emergency responder costs, physical therapy costs, and prescription costs. I am also asking that the City provide me compensation for the loss of use of my limb. Lastly, I am asking that the City implement location markers along the trails at Lake Fayetteville, and that a map of those location markers be provided to all first responding agencies.

Had such a system been in place allowing first responders to locate me quicker, I may not have developed compartment syndrome in my leg due to the prolonged blood loss and may not have had as extensive devastation to my limb. My hope is that no one in the future be subjected to such a delay.

Enclosed is a copy of my formal claim form and the emergency response expenses from Central EMS. I do not yet have any itemized bills for any of the other medical expenses, but will provide copies as they become available. I look forward to your timely response, as the medical costs are avalanching.

Best Regards,

Candice J. Carlsen

Enclosures