

File No. 13636

Baltimore, November 27, 1911.

Howard C. Wilcox, Esq.,
1201 Calvert Building, City.

Dear Sir:

10115

Your letter of the 25th inst., stating that a horse belonging to Mr. Daniel B. Busick had slipped and fallen on St. Paul street near Chase street and broken its leg, which made it necessary for it to be killed, and making claim on the City for the value of the horse, received.

I do not think the City is liable for injury to horses caused by slipping on smooth streets. It is a fact, of course, that horses do, frequently, slip on smooth streets, but the public wants smooth streets and the occasional inconvenience or loss to some people by horses slipping and injuring themselves on smooth streets is believed to be much more than overbalanced by the general inconvenience of the public in having smooth streets over which the horses may travel. Our horses have been used to cobble streets so long that some people think they have the cobble grip and do not know how to go along on a smooth street, but I hope that the time will soon come when there will be enough smooth streets in Baltimore so that the horses will get used to traveling on them without slipping.

In the meantime, I do not think the City is liable for any injury to a horse caused by slipping on a smooth street, and must, therefore, decline to recognize the claim which you prefer.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) S. S. Field,
City Solicitor.

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