

May 6, 2026

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: [REDACTED]
VIN [REDACTED]
Honda Case # [REDACTED]
Recall 23V-751
Honda Recall XG1/GG0

To whom it may concern:

I write on behalf of [REDACTED]. He is the owner of a 2020 Acura MDX, VIN# [REDACTED]. The engine # J35Y57257354. The VIN prefix 5J8 confirms production occurred at the East Liberty Ohio plant. The plant that was the source of the recall. This engine had been proven to have connecting rod bearing defects. This resulted in Recall 23V-751, Honda Recall XG1/GG0.

The engine failure occurred suddenly and catastrophically without any prior warning signs. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was driving on the highway when the engine locked up.

[REDACTED] has repeated requested documentation demonstrating that his vehicle was somehow excluded from the recall. Additionally, [REDACTED]s provided Acura and McGrath's Acura with his vehicle maintenance records. These records confirm timely, periodic, preventive maintenance occurred, including an oil change just 26 days before the engine failure. [REDACTED] repeated asked for a complete engine inspection and repair/replacement. McGrath Acura's 04/23/26 email states that the engine has not been torn down and inspected. So, neither McGrath's Acura nor Acura can state the vehicle has not suffered the exact defect identified in the recall.

I have attached the 04/23/26, 04/25/26, 04/26/26 and 04/29/26 emails for your review.

On 05/04/26 McGrath's Accura told [REDACTED] to pick up his car immediately and pay \$200.95. After Friday 05/08/26, McGrath Accura will charge \$100 a day storage fee.

[REDACTED] has no choice but to tow the car to an independent mechanic to do a tear down and inspection. We will have that inspection photographed and documented and will send these materials to NHTSA upon receipt. Should Acura or McGrath's Acura with to be present at the teardown and inspection they must contact me immediately at mdctrallawyer@icloud.com

This letter is written on behalf of [REDACTED]. Decades in auto product liability cases has taught me that there are few, if any, isolated cases. Unfortunately, [REDACTED] may be left with no

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recourse but to file suit in the circuit court of Cook County. If this happens, we will send you a copy of the pleadings and discovery.

We are asking for an investigation and whatever relief is available. We will gladly provide any documentation or other assistance upon request.

Very truly yours,



Michael D. Carter

Michael D. Carter

Trial Lawyer


Chicago, IL 

Cc: Acura Customer Relations acr@ahm.acura.com
McGrath Honda/Michael McConnell mmcconnell@mcgrathag.com



Attachments:

04/23/26, 04/24/26, 04/25/26, 04/26/26 and 04/29/26 emails

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Repair Diagnosis Information Request: [REDACTED]
Date: April 26, 2026 at 3:36:31 PM CDT
To: "mdctriallawyer@icloud.com" <mdctriallawyer@icloud.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, Apr 25, 2026 at 12:07 PM
Subject: Re: Repair Diagnosis Information Request: [REDACTED]
To: Acura Client Relations <acr@ahm.acura.com>

Dear Alan,

I am forwarding the response I received today from Michael McConnell, Service Manager at McGrath Acura of Morton Grove, in which he states in writing that Recall 23V-751 is "not applicable" to my VIN and that the only course of action is goodwill assistance.

I want to formally note the following:

1. The dealer has provided no official Honda documentation proving my VIN [REDACTED] is excluded from Recall 23V-751
2. The NHTSA Part 573 filing states the VIN range is "not sequential" — the dealer's determination cannot be based on build month alone
3. My VIN prefix 5J8 confirms production at the East Liberty Plant in Ohio — the specific facility named in this recall
4. The engine failure I experienced is consistent exactly with the defect described in Recall 23V-751

I am respectfully requesting that American Honda Motor Co. directly review whether VIN [REDACTED] is covered under Recall 23V-751, independent of the dealer's determination. The dealer's written denial without supporting documentation is not sufficient grounds to deny a federally mandated recall repair.

If Honda confirms the VIN is excluded, I am requesting the official technical documentation supporting that determination.

I have been without a vehicle since April 19, 2026. I urge Honda to expedite this review.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

On Fri, Apr 24, 2026 at 2:39 PM [REDACTED] wrote:
Dear Alan,

I am following up on Case [REDACTED] regarding my 2020 Acura MDX (VIN: [REDACTED])

As requested by McGrath Acura of Morton Grove, please find attached the maintenance records for my vehicle. These records confirm that my vehicle has been consistently and regularly maintained throughout my ownership. Of particular note is the oil change performed on March 24, 2026 — just 26 days before the engine failure on April 19, 2026 — confirming the vehicle was in proper maintained condition at the time of the incident.

I want to reiterate my formal request that this case be evaluated for full coverage under NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign 23V-751 (Honda Internal Recall Numbers XG1/GG0) rather than as a discretionary goodwill consideration. The engine failure I experienced — sudden, complete, and without any prior warning or symptoms — is consistent exactly with the connecting rod bearing defect described in this recall.

To summarize the key points supporting full recall coverage:

1. My VIN [REDACTED] prefix 5J8 confirms production at the East Liberty Plant in Ohio — the specific facility identified in Recall 23V-751
2. The NHTSA Part 573 filing states the VIN range is "not sequential" — there is no build-month cutoff
3. My vehicle was properly maintained — oil changed March 24, 2026, just 26 days before the failure
4. The engine failure was sudden and catastrophic with absolutely no prior warning signs
5. McGrath Acura of Morton Grove has confirmed the engine is blown and provided Estimate [REDACTED] totaling \$9,782.94 — currently classified as "Customer Pay"
6. The estimate may increase as the diagnosis was performed without full internal engine teardown

I have been without a vehicle since April 19, 2026 and have not been provided a loaner car. I respectfully request that Honda expedite a decision on full recall coverage and instruct McGrath Acura of Morton Grove to proceed with the repair at no cost to me.

Please confirm receipt of the attached maintenance records and advise on next steps.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

On Thu, Apr 23, 2026 at 2:15 PM
Dear Alan,

[REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you for following up on my case. Please find the requested information below.

Involved Dealership:
Acura Morton Grove

Details of My Request:

When was the first time you noticed the issue?

April 19, 2026. There were no prior warning signs, unusual noises, warning lights, or performance issues of any kind. The vehicle suddenly shifted into neutral while driving on a Chicago street and never started again. The failure was sudden and without any prior indication.

How often does the issue happen?

This was a single catastrophic event — the vehicle has not started since April 19, 2026. It is currently at Acura Morton Grove.

Name and title of the person assisting at the dealer:
Paul Tran, Service Consultant, Acura Morton Grove

What is the reason/explanation provided by the dealer as to what caused the issue?
The dealer completed a diagnosis and confirmed the engine is blown. The dealer has stated they will only disclose the detailed repair information and estimates directly to Acura Client Relations, and declined to provide me with written repair estimates.

What repairs/services have been completed?

A diagnostic inspection was performed. No repairs have been completed to date.

What repairs/services have been suggested?

No specific repair recommendation has been communicated to me directly. The dealer indicated all repair details are being coordinated through Acura Client Relations.

What are the estimated costs for the repair?

The dealer refused to provide me with any repair cost estimate, stating that cost information will only be disclosed to Acura Client Relations.

Additional Notes:

I would like to formally note that my 2020 Acura MDX (VIN [REDACTED]) falls within the vehicle range covered by NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign 23V-751 (Honda Recall XG1/GG0) for connecting rod bearing defects causing engine failure. My VIN prefix 5J8 confirms production at the East Liberty Plant in Ohio — the specific facility identified in this recall. The sudden catastrophic engine failure I experienced on [REDACTED] is consistent with the defect described in this recall.

I am respectfully requesting that this case be evaluated for full coverage under Recall 23V-751 rather than as a discretionary goodwill consideration.

I am also without a vehicle since April 19 and have not been provided a loaner car. I would appreciate Honda's assistance in resolving this as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

On Thu, Apr 23, 2026 at 10:53 AM Acura Client Relations <acr@ahm.acura.com> wrote:

We appreciate you taking the time to contact us regarding your concern/request).

Our team would like to gather additional details to assist with your request.

For us to evaluate your request, we first need a diagnosis from a certified authorized dealer. The service department at a certified dealership is in the best position to diagnose your vehicle and determine the best and most corrective action. We encourage you to contact the service department of your preferred dealership for assistance with a diagnosis.

You can find your local Dealer here:

<http://owners.acura.com/service-maintenance/dealer-search>

After the diagnosis is completed by an authorized dealership, please reply this email with the following information:

- **Involved dealership**
- **Details of your request:**
 - **When was the first time (approximate date) you noticed the issue?**
 - **How often does the issue happen within a time frame (e.g., once a month)?**
 - **What is the name & title of the person(s) assisting you at the dealer?**
 - **What is the reason/explanation provided by the dealer, as to what caused this issue?**
 - **What repairs/services have been completed (if any)?**
 - **What repairs/services have been suggested?**
 - **What are the costs estimated for the repair (if any)?**

Please attach any documents (e.g., repair orders) you received from the dealer when attempting to resolve this issue. We look forward to hearing back from you to assist with your request. Sincerely, ALAN

American Honda Motor Co., Inc. Case [REDACTED] **Attention:** If you are not the intended recipient, please delete the message and notify the sender. Thank you for your cooperation.

[REDACTED]

From: Michael McConnell <mmcconnell@mcgrathag.com>

Subject: Re: [REDACTED]. VIN [REDACTED] Honda Case [REDACTED]

Date: April 27, 2026 at 8:09:37 AM CDT

To: Michael Carter <michaeldeancarter@icloud.com>

I have attached the VIN Inquiry for the vehicle showing what open recalls have been assigned to this VIN, I also provided a printed copy to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] We have completed 24-014, 23-001 and 25-001. The vehicle was assembled at the East Liberty Plant; the engine may have come from another plant. As you have stated, the VIN range is not sequential and some vehicles do not have the Rod Bearing recall.

Sincerely,

Michael McConnell

McGrath Acura of Morton Grove

(847)307-7422

mmcconnell@mcgrathag.com

From: Michael Carter <michaeldeancarter@icloud.com>

Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2026 4:41 PM

To: Michael McConnell <mmcconnell@mcgrathag.com>;
acr@ahm.acura.com <acr@ahm.acura.com>

Subject: [REDACTED]. Honda
Case # [REDACTED]

MURPHY | CARTER
GILBRETH ENRIGHT

ATTORNEYS

150 North Wacker, Suite 3050
Chicago, IL 60606



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US POSTAGE IMPITNEY BOWES



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National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590