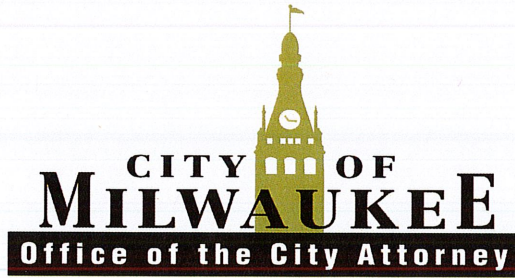


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January 31, 2022

Honorable Judiciary and Legislation Committee  
City Hall, Room 205

**RE: Resolution authorizing settlement of claims in the lawsuits entitled *St. Bernadette Catholic Congregation v. City of Milwaukee*, Milwaukee County Case No. 2020CV3226, and *St. Bernadette Catholic Congregation v. City of Milwaukee*, Milwaukee County Case No. 2021CV3433 File No. 211538**

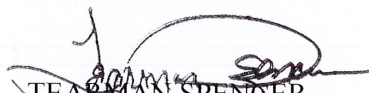
Honorable Committee:

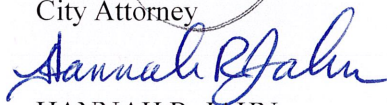
The above-referenced lawsuits were commenced in 2020 and 2021 by St. Bernadette Catholic Congregation (Plaintiff) regarding its 2019 and 2020 property tax assessments for its property at 8200 West Denver Avenue (Property), containing a church, school, and former convent used as housing. While the Property was partially taxed during those years, the Plaintiff claimed the Property should have been fully exempt. The Plaintiff requested property tax refunds totaling \$42,760.37 for both years.

The Plaintiff and the City Assessor have agreed to a reduction in the assessable area of the Property, which results in a refund of \$28,000.00 for both years. Although the City would initially have to pay this amount, after the Wisconsin Department of Revenue charges back the reduction in property taxes to other taxation districts, the City's portion would be approximately one-third, or \$9,333.33.

In consultation with the City Assessor, the City Attorney now recommends settlement of this matter for the proposed refund, inclusive of all interest and costs. In exchange for this settlement and payment, the Plaintiff will dismiss the cases. The City Assessor plans to resolve the objection to the 2021 assessment as well by issuing a correction, exempting the property fully for 2021 and all future years, as long as the use, occupancy, and ownership remain the same.

Very Truly Yours,

  
TEARMAN SPENCER  
City Attorney

  
HANNAH R. JAHN  
Assistant City Attorney

