GRANT F. LANGLEY City Attorney

MIRIAM R. HORWITZ ADAM B. STEPHENS MARY L. SCHANNING JAN A. SMOKOWICZ Deputy City Attorneys



Milwaukee City Hall Suite 800 + 200 East Wells Street + Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-3551 Telephone: 414.286.2601 + TDD: 414.286.2025 + Fax: 414.286.8550

July 9, 2019

To the Honorable Common Council of the City of Milwaukee Room 205 – City Hall

09-CV-1033-PP

Room 205 – City Hall

Re: Proposed Settlement in of claims against the City of Milwaukee and its former employee in the lawsuit, Robert Lee Stinson v. City of Milwaukee, et al., Case No.

Dear Council Members:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution. We ask that it be introduced and referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Legislation with the following recommendation. A companion resolution to authorize contingent borrowing to fund the proposed settlement will be filed separately and should be referred to the Finance and Personnel Committee.

Robert Lee Stinson was convicted in the 1984 homicide of Ione Cychosz, but later cleared as a result of the advance in DNA testing technology. Mr. Stinson was released from prison after being incarcerated and imprisoned for approximately 24 years. Another person, Moses Price, was then prosecuted and pled guilty to the murder of Ms. Cychosz.

Mr. Stinson filed the above-noted civil rights lawsuit asserting various claims but essentially maintaining that he was deprived of the right to a fair trial in the prosecution that led to his 1985 conviction. Mr. Stinson asserted these claims against one of the detectives involved in the investigation of the homicide and two forensic dentists employed by the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner and the Milwaukee County District Attorney who both opined that Mr. Stinson's dentition was consistent with bite marks found on the homicide victim.



SUSAN E. LAPPEN

PATRICIA A. FRICKER

HEIDI WICK SPOERL GREGG C. HAGOPIAN

KATHRYN Z. BLOCK

KEVIN P. SULLIVAN

THOMAS D. MILLER ROBIN A. PEDERSON

PETER J. BLOCK JENNY YUAN ALLISON N. FLANAGAN HEATHER H. HOUGH ANDREA J. FOWLER

JEREMY R. MCKENZIE

PATRICK J. MCCLAIN

NAOMI E. GEHLING
CALVIN V. FERMIN
BENJAMIN J. ROOVERS
ELLENY B. CHRISTOPOULOS
RACHEL S. KENNEDY
TYRONE M. ST. JUNIOR
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After approximately eight days of a jury trial, our office reached a tentative settlement of the claims against the city and the former detective for the total amount of \$7,500,000, with further agreement that \$3,500,000 of that amount can be paid in August 2019 and \$4,000,000 of that amount can be paid in January 2020.

Because settlement in this matter is deemed expeditious, we request authorization to execute a settlement agreement on behalf of the city and it former detective, and have enclosed an appropriate resolution for your convenience.

Very truly yours,

GRANT FAMOLEY City Attorney

JAN A. SMOKOWICZ Deputy City Attorney

Enclosure

JAS

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