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November 29, 2017

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

Re: Verleshia S. Ellis v. City of Milwaukee, et al.  
Case No.: 14-C-0506

Dear Council Members:

Enclosed is a proposed resolution and fiscal impact statement authorizing payment of a settlement amount regarding the above-referenced matter. We request that the enclosed documents be referred to the appropriate committee for review.

Ms. Ellis brought suit regarding events which occurred on September 11, 2011. She claimed that on that night, she was subjected to an unlawful stop, search, and detention. The case was mediated before Judge Adelman in November, 2017. At that time, plaintiff's counsel indicated that they had incurred approximately \$300,000.00 in attorney fees and costs. Should the case proceed to trial, the amount of fees and costs would increase considerably.

As a result of mediation, Ms. Ellis and her attorneys agreed to settle the case for a total of \$150,000, which includes attorney fees and costs. Ms. Ellis has also agreed to stipulate that the case may be dismissed.



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Because of the unpredictability of a trial, and the City's risk for exposure to not only compensatory damages, but also to punitive damages and additional attorney fees and costs, we recommend that this matter be settled for that amount. Consistent with our recommendation, we have enclosed an appropriate resolution and fiscal impact statement for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



GRANT F. LANGLEY  
City Attorney



SUSAN E. LAPPEN  
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SEL/cdr

Enclosures

1032-2014-1412/244705