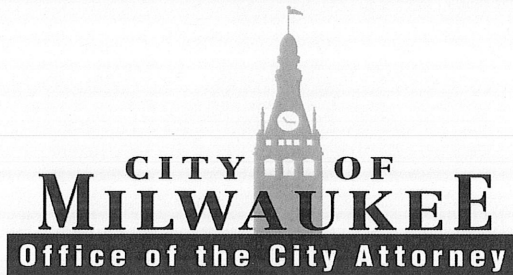


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February 20, 2024

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

RE: Resolution Authorizing Settlement in the lawsuit entitled
Caitlin Hagness v. City of Milwaukee, et al.
Case No.: 23-CV-00891

Dear Council Members:

Enclosed, please find a proposed resolution to approve a settlement for \$7,500 to settle the claims raised by Caitlin Hagness in the lawsuit *Caitlin Hagness v. City of Milwaukee, et al.*, U.S. District Court Case No. 23-CV-00891, as well as a fiscal impact statement.

Ms. Hagness, the Plaintiff, filed this civil lawsuit alleging 42 U.S.C. § 1983 violations of her First Amendment rights, Fourth Amendment rights for excessive force and unlawful arrest, and 14th Amendment rights, and Eighth Amendment for Cruel and Unusual Punishment.

Plaintiff was protesting with others on May 31, 2020 at approximately 10:45 p.m. Previously, Mayor Tom Barrett had issued a curfew order that was in effect at this point. Plaintiff was talking and yelling, along with others, at a line of police officers. Plaintiff was not threatening the officers in any way. Plaintiff was then grabbed by an unidentified officer and pulled behind the line of officers. A cellphone video captured the Plaintiff being grabbed and pulled behind the line of officers.

Based on the evidence and prior litigation with similar issues, the City of Milwaukee will likely be unsuccessful in dismissing the case at the summary judgment stage, and the Plaintiff will accrue a significant amount of attorney's fees. With that information and the fact that the incident was captured on video, the parties negotiated at



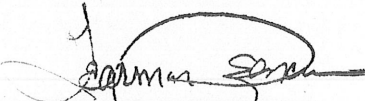
To the Honorable Common Council
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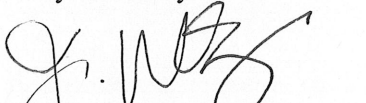
an early stage in the proceeding in an attempt to reduce potential exposure. Plaintiff demanded \$25,000, without factoring in attorney's fees. Following a negotiation period, the parties reached an agreement of \$7,500 to settle the lawsuit.


Based on the status of these claims, it is the City Attorney's recommendation that the proposed settlement is in the City's best interest. In exchange for the settlement, Ms. Hagness will execute a settlement agreement and general release of all claims arising out of her lawsuit.

We request that this matter be assigned for a hearing in open session before the Judiciary and Legislative Committee and the Finance and Personnel Committee to be followed by an open session in order to effectuate settlement of this matter.

Very truly yours,


TEARMAN SPENCER
City Attorney


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Deputy City Attorney


WILLIAM K. HOTCHKISS
Assistant City Attorney

TS/JLW/WH/mcl

Enclosures

1032-2023-963.001/289885