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January 27, 2023

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

RE: Resolution Authorizing Settlement in the lawsuit entitled
Leonard White v. City of Milwaukee, et al.
Case No.: 21-CV-0146

Dear Council Members:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution to approve a settlement for \$10,000 to settle the claims raised by Leonard White in the lawsuit *Leonard White v. City of Milwaukee, et al.*, U.S. District Court Case No. 21-CV-0146, as well as a fiscal impact statement.

On February 5, 2021, Mr. White filed a complaint with the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, case number 21-CV-0146, alleging, among other things, a violation of his due process and equal protection rights under the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In addition to suing the City of Milwaukee directly, Mr. White sued Milwaukee police department officers Thomas Kotnik, Gregory Rupnick, Michael Schwandt and Kim Lastrilla.

Mr. White alleges that officers in 2018 during a burglary investigation made false statements that he was wanted for rape and child molestation, and distributed wanted signs of his image containing the false accusations. A citizen in Milwaukee then made a Facebook post based on the alleged false information that proceeded to go viral. As a result of the defendants' conduct, White alleges he was harassed, assaulted by men who saw the Facebook post and shot by an individual who called Mr. White a rapist.

The matter was scheduled for mediation, however the Court ordered mediation was not successful. Following the mediation, and after the final pre-trial conference, the parties' reached a resolution for \$10,000 to settle the lawsuit.



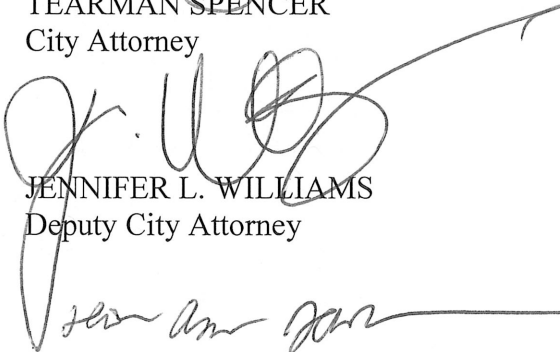
Based on the status of these claims, it is the City Attorney's recommendation that the proposed settlement is in the City's best interest. In exchange for the settlement, Mr. White will execute a settlement agreement and general release of all claims arising out of his lawsuit.

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

Very truly yours,



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TS/JLW/LAJ/cdr

Enclosures

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