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January 31, 2023

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

RE:

Resolution Authorizing Settlement in the lawsuit entitled

Cameron Murdoch v. City of Milwaukee, et al.

Case No.: 21-CV-202

Dear Council Members:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution to approve a settlement for \$270,000 to settle the claims raised by Cameron Murdoch in the lawsuit *Cameron Murdoch v. City of Milwaukee*, et al, U.S. District Court Case No. 21-CV-202 as well as a fiscal impact statement.

Murdoch filed this civil rights lawsuit, claiming he was unlawfully arrested on June 2, 2020 while participating in a peaceful protest march in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd. Murdoch claimed in particular that officers used excessive force to effectuate his arrest, failed to intervene to prevent the violation of his constitutional rights, and then made defamatory statements to the public following his arrest. Murdoch also alleged the city of Milwaukee had a policy or widespread practice that led to the violation of his constitutional rights.

After the completion of discovery, the parties agreed to undertake settlement negotiations in an effort to resolve the matter short of trial. Through his counsel, Murdoch has agreed to accept \$270,000 in settlement of all of his claims, including his claims for reasonable attorneys' fees and costs under federal civil rights law.

Based on the review of all the issues in this case, it is our recommendation that the proposed settlement is in the City's best interest. Because of the unpredictability of a trial, and the City's risk for exposure to compensatory and punitive damages, as well as additional attorney fees and costs, we recommend this matter be settled for that amount.

**HEIDI WICK SPOERL** KATHRYN Z. BLOCK THOMAS D. MILLER PETER J. BLOCK PATRICK J. MCCLAIN HANNAH R. JAHN JULIE P. WILSON MEIGHAN M. ANGER ALEXANDER R. CARSON **ALEXANDER T. MUELLER ALEXANDER D. COSSI** LISA A. GILMORE **NICHOLAS R. SINRAM TAVISS K. SMITH** KATHERINE A. HEADLEY L. ANTHONY JACKSON STACY J. MILLER MICHAEL C. RADAVICH JORDAN M. SCHETTLE THERESA A. MONTAG TYLER M. HELSEL **NANCY A. DOMINSKI ALEXANDER E. FOUNDOS CHRISTOPHER P. JACKSOI JAMES D. LEWIS** TRAVIS J. GRESHAM **KYLE W. BAILEY** JOSEPH M. DOBBS WILLIAM K. HOTCHKISS Assistant City Attorneys



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Because settlement in this matter is deemed expeditious, we recommend payment of the proposed settlement amount, and have enclosed an appropriate resolution for your convenience.

Very truly yours,

EARMAN SPENCER

City Attorney

ENNIFER L. WILLIAMS

Deputy City Attorney

L. ANTHONY JACKSON

aneko, much

Assistant City Attorney

TS/JLW/LAJ/cdr

Enclosures

1032-2020-1687.001/283639