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February 26, 2024

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

Re: Resolution Authorizing Settlement in the lawsuit entitled

Bell Ambulance v. City of Milwaukee

Case Number: 23-CV-7712

Dear Council Members:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution to authorize payment in the amount of \$60,000 to settle all claims of Bell Ambulance related to a motor vehicle accident involving a city vehicle that occurred on June 21, 2022, more particularly described in the lawsuit *Bell Ambulance v. City of Milwaukee* filed in Milwaukee County Circuit Court, case number 2023-CV-7712, as well as a fiscal impact statement.

Bell Ambulance filed suit on October 11, 2023, making claim for \$96,579.08 in property damage based in negligence. On June 21, 2022, a city police squad car collided with a Bell Ambulance vehicle at the intersection of 30<sup>th</sup> Street and Burleigh Street. Both vehicles sustained disabling damage. Bell Ambulance alleged that the operator of the squad car failed to drive with due regard for the safety of others in violation of Wis. Stat. § 346.02(2)(b) and (5).

This incident was captured on video from the vantage point of the squad car as well as the ambulance. The Milwaukee Police Department conducted an internal review and determined that the squad operator should receive corrective review of departmental policies relative to voluntary termination of pursuit and safe operation of department vehicles.

Based on the facts and circumstances developed in the course of discovery as well as the applicable legal standards the City Attorney's Office recommends that the proposed settlement is in the City's best interest.

**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 KATHERINE A. HEADLEY L. ANTHONY JACKSON STACY J. MILLER JORDAN M. SCHETTLE THERESA A. MONTAG **ALEXANDER E. FOUNDOS** TRAVIS J. GRESHAM **KYLE W. BAILEY JOSEPH M. DOBBS** WILLIAM K. HOTCHKISS **CLINT B. MUCHE JOANNA FRACZEK ZACHARY A. HATFIELD MEGHAN C. MCCABE MARIA E. MESOLORAS CYNTHIA HARRIS ORTEGA** Assistant City Attorneys



Honorable Common Council of the City of Milwaukee February 26, 2024 Page 2

Bell Ambulance will execute a settlement agreement and general release of all claims arising out of the incident. The settlement agreement and release shall expressly disclaim any admission of liability on behalf of the City of Milwaukee.

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

Very truly yours,

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TEARMAN SPENCER

City Attorney

PENNIFER L. WILLIAMS

Deputy City Attorney

CLINT MUCHE

Assistant City Attorney

CM/ojn

**Enclosures** 

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