

**THE CITY OF OKLAHOMA CITY
OFFICE OF
THE MUNICIPAL COUNSELOR**

Council Agenda
Item No. XI. Y
4/9/2024

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Kenneth Jordan, Municipal Counselor

1. Resolution authorizing the Municipal Counselor to confess Judgment without admitting liability in the case of *Queneisha Williams v. City of Oklahoma City*, Oklahoma County District Court, Case No. CJ-2023-3559;

AND/OR

2. Enter into executive session on advice of the Municipal Counselor to receive confidential communications from its attorney regarding settlement discussions in this case as authorized by 25 O.S. (2023 Supp.) §307(B)(4), because disclosure would seriously impair the ability of the public body to conduct the litigation with settlement discussion in the public interest.

On June 27, 2023, Plaintiff filed this lawsuit against the City of Oklahoma City alleging a negligence cause of action resulting in personal injuries arising from a September 7, 2022, traffic collision between a vehicle driven by Timothy Clark and an Oklahoma City Police Department vehicle driven by an on-duty police officer. Plaintiff was a passenger in Timothy Clark's vehicle. Plaintiff's counsel has provided supporting documentation for personal injuries to Plaintiff in the amount \$15,425. The Plaintiff is represented by attorney Andrew D. Schwartz. The City is represented by Assistant Municipal Counselors Linda Samuel-Jaha and Sherri Katz.

Investigation into this accident shows that on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, Mr. Clark was traveling southbound on Lake Hefner Parkway exit ramp at Northwest 63rd Street in Oklahoma City at approximately 7:50 a.m. The Oklahoma City Police officer involved was also traveling southbound behind Mr. Clark's vehicle. This intersection has multiple "No Right Turn" on red signs posted. Mr. Clark made a right hand turn against the red light. After activating his emergency lights to make a traffic stop on Mr. Clark's vehicle, the officer looked back to his left, and then accelerated, rear-ending Mr. Clark's vehicle. As a result of this accident, Plaintiff alleges injuries to her neck, right shoulder and lower back to include bulging disc protrusions at L3/4, L4/5 and L5/S1, shooting pain in her right leg with future surgery possible.

Plaintiff and counsel for the City have engaged in settlement negotiations. Counsel for the City has agreed to recommend \$31,000, as full and final settlement of all aspects of City's involvement in this litigation, including any future medical expenses. Plaintiff, through her counsel, has agreed to accept this amount.

It is the recommendation of this office that the Mayor and Council authorize the Municipal Counselor to confess judgment in favor of Plaintiff without admitting liability in this case in the amount of \$31,000. If Council would like more information regarding this case, it is the recommendation of the Municipal Counselor that Council retire into executive session with the Municipal Counselor to receive confidential communications with its attorney regarding this possible settlement.