

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

Council Agenda  
Item No. XI. T  
5/20/2025

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 *Laura Stevens, Magdalena Saldivar and Patricia Castro v. City of Oklahoma City*, Oklahoma County District Court, Case No. CJ-2023-3562;

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. (2024 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 and property damage arising from an October 31, 2022, traffic collision between a vehicle driven by Plaintiff Laura Stevens and an Oklahoma City Utilities vehicle driven by a city employee. In Plaintiff Steven's vehicle were two passengers, Plaintiff Magdalena Saldivar and Plaintiff Patricia Castro.

Plaintiffs' counsel has provided supporting documentation for personal injuries to Plaintiffs in the following amounts: Laura Stevens \$85,250; Magdalena Saldivar \$77,941.12; and Patricia Castro \$5,509; for a total of \$168,700.12 in medical documentation. Plaintiff Stevens, the driver suffered injuries to her lower back receiving bilateral lumbar facet joint injections at L3-4, L405 and L5-S1 in treatment of her bilateral lumbar sprain, disc bulge and spondylosis. Plaintiff Saldivar, a front seat passenger, suffered sprains to her lumbar, cervical, and thoracic spine regions and received mechanical traction, L-Spine decompression and muscle stimulation. Plaintiff Castro, a backseat passenger, complained of injuries to her right knee, neck, upper and lower back affecting her ability to sit, stand, bend and walk. She was diagnosed with cervical radiculitis, cervical and thoracic sprain, deep and superficial muscle spasms and headaches. The property damage claim has been resolved through the lien holder and a private insurance claim. The Plaintiffs are represented by attorney Nicholas Elliott. The City is represented by Assistant Municipal Counselor Linda Samuel-Jaha.

Investigation into this incident shows that on Monday, October 31, 2022, the City's solid waste truck driver was leaving the Council landfill at South Council Avenue and Southwest 15<sup>th</sup> Street. When he turned left to leave the landfill he rear-ended Plaintiffs' vehicle.

Plaintiffs' counsel and counsel for the City have engaged in settlement negotiations. All three

Plaintiffs originally demanded \$175,000 each, for a total demand of \$525,000. After negotiations, Counsel for the City has agreed to recommend \$100,000, for Plaintiff Stevens, \$90,000 for Plaintiff Saldivar and \$9,000, for Plaintiff Castro for a total of \$199,000, as full and final settlement of all aspects of the City's involvement in this litigation, including any future medical expenses and property damage claims. Plaintiffs, through their counsel, have 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 these Plaintiffs without admitting liability in this case in the amount of \$199,000. 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.