# PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	September 1, 2009	[X] Consent [ ] [ ] Public Hearing	Regular
Department		[ ] rublic riearing	
Submitted By:	COUNTY ATTORNEY		e.
Submitted For:			
ì	I. EXECUTIV	/E BRIEF	
inclusive of attorney	Staff recommends moting in the totoric state of the state	al amount of \$65,000 in t	ne personal injury
restrained passenge stopped at a red lig Palm Beach, Florida his neck, back, and including the Risk M	f was in a motor vehicle er in a car which was really that the intersection of Job Plaintiff was taken to the left knee and was treated lanagement Roundtable Coalm Beach County. Cou	ar ended by a County dog Road and Southern Bo emergency room. He su with several health care committee, concur that the	river while it was oulevard in Royal stained injuries to providers. Staff,
Cadillac that was re Cadillac was totaled \$29,000 in medical showed abnormal flu assistant and has ha a lost wage claim fo County driver receiv	ustification: Plaintiff, Geo ear ended by a County du d. Mr. Smith sustained s bills. He underwent thre uid in the knee. He alleged d to take a lesser paying jo r \$20,000. The accident we ed four points as well as a the Settlement Agreemen	ump truck. As a result of coft tissue injuries and had bee epidural injections and shape she can no longer work and of \$9.00 per hour and is was classified as a major written reprimand. It is re	of the impact, the as approximately d an MRI, which as an electrician's therefore making accident and the commended that
Attachments:			
1. Settlement A	greement and Release of	All Claims	
Recommended by:	Maureur Lulle County Attorney	Tor Denue Nieman Dat	8/6/09 re
Approved by:	N/A	; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ;	
		Dat	e

## II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A.	Five Year Summa	ry of Fiscal	Impact:				
	Fiscal Years	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
	oital Expenditures erating Costs	<u>\$65,000</u>		-			
Pro	ernal Revenues gram Income (Count Kind Match (County)	y)					
N	ET FISCAL IMPACT	\$65,000					
	ADDITIONAL FTE OSITIONS (Cumulativ	/e)	Ohi				
ls it	em Included in Curre	ent Budget?	Ye	es <u>X</u> No			
Bud	lget Account No.:	Fund <u>5010</u>	Departme	nt <u>700</u> Unit <u>7</u>	130 Object	<u>4511</u>	
		Reporting	Category_				
В.	Recommended So	urces of Fu	nds/Summ	ary of Fiscal	Impact:		
c.	Departmental Fisc	al Review:				· 	,
		III. <u>REV</u>	IEW COM	MENTS			
A.	OFMB Fiscal and/o	or Contract	Developme	ent and Contr	ol Comments	<b>3</b> :	
	OFME OFME	8/12/07	g Co	ntract Develo	- Jow pment and C	Cru F	12 fe
B.	Legal Sufficiency:	3/11/		Ĺ			•
	Dra CH	uly					
	Assistant Coun	ity Attorney					
C.	Other Department	Review:					
	Department	Director					
	-char miletif	<b>ト</b> ロ CC (C)					

THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT.

 ${\tt G:WPDATA \backslash OFFICE.FRM \backslash GENDA \backslash Agenda con-shl. doc}$ 

#### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into this 3/8/day of aggust, 2009, by and between PALM BEACH COUNTY (the "COUNTY"), a political subdivision of the State of Florida, and GEORGE EUGENE SMITH.

WHEREAS, GEORGE EUGENE SMITH sued the COUNTY in a lawsuit presently styled George Eugene Smith v. Palm Beach County, Case No. 502008CA041067XXXXMB AD, in the Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Palm Beach County, Florida (the "Pending Lawsuit"), for damages arising from an incident that occurred on June 10, 2008, at or near the intersection of Jog Road and Southern Boulevard in Royal Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida;

WHEREAS, the COUNTY has denied liability and raised several affirmative defenses in the Pending Lawsuit; and

WHEREAS, the parties hereto wish to amicably resolve that portion of the Pending Lawsuit that involves PALM BEACH COUNTY without further litigation of the claims made and defenses raised therein.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants hereinafter set forth, the sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

- 1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by reference.
- 2. Within thirty (30) days of full execution and receipt hereof, and subject to final administrative approval, the COUNTY shall pay to GEORGE EUGENE SMITH the amount of SIXTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$65,000), by a check made payable to George Smith and Charles A. Williams, his attorney.
- 3. Within ten (10) days of receipt of the COUNTY's payment, Charles A. Williams, Esq. shall (i) execute and deliver to the Palm Beach County Attorney's Office a Release in the form of that attached hereto as Exhibit A, and (ii) execute and deliver to the Palm Beach County Attorney's Office a Stipulation and Final Order of Dismissal with Prejudice, in the form of that attached hereto as Exhibit B, which, in turn, the Palm Beach County Attorney's Office will also execute and thereafter forward to the Court for execution, service by mail and filing.
- 4. Charles A. Williams, Esq. shall not disburse, and George Eugene Smith shall not accept, any proceeds from the settlement check described in paragraph 2 unless and until the Release has been delivered to the COUNTY and the Final Order of Dismissal with Prejudice has been filed and served in accordance with paragraph 3 above.
- 5. George Eugene Smith acknowledges and agrees that he is responsible for the payment of any liens against this settlement and that the COUNTY shall not be responsible for any portion of said liens. George Eugene Smith, on behalf of himself and his officers, agents, employees, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, further agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold the COUNTY, its officers, agents, elected officials, and employees, their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns,

harmless from and against all suits, actions, proceedings, claims, demands, and damages, including attorneys fees, arising out of or related to such liens or claims of lien.

- Each party shall bear its respective attorney's fees and costs.
- 7. This Settlement Agreement does not constitute an admission of liability by either party.
- 8. In any litigation brought to enforce the terms or remedy a violation of this Settlement Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees in addition to any other recovery.
- 9. George Eugene Smith declares and acknowledges that the terms of this Settlement Agreement have been completely read, fully understood, discussed with counsel, and voluntarily accepted as a full and final compromise of any and all claims he may have against the COUNTY.
- 10. This Settlement Agreement shall be binding on the parties hereto, their assigns, transferees, heirs, and other successors in interest.
- 11. The parties represent that no claim that has been, or could have been, raised in the Pending Lawsuit, and no claim to which this Settlement Agreement applies, has been assigned or otherwise transferred to any other person or entity not a party hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Settlement Agreement to be executed as of the date first set forth above.

as of the date that set fold spoof.	
WITNESS:	PLAINITFF:
Print Name:	George Eugene Smith
ATTEST: Sharon R. Bock, Clerk and Comptroller	PALM BEACH COUNTY, a Political Subdivision of the State of Florida
Ву:	By:
APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY	Jeff Koons, Chairman Board of County Commissioners

#### RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

#### KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That the Undersigned, GEORGE EUGENE SMITH, being of lawful age, for the sole consideration of SIXTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$65,000), to the Undersigned in hand paid, the receipt and sufficiency whereof is hereby acknowledged, does hereby and for his executors, administrators, successors and assigns, release, acquit and forever discharge PALM BEACH COUNTY, (hereinafter referred to as "the Releasees"), and their officers, agents, employees, heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, none of whom admit any liability to the Undersigned, but all of whom expressly deny any such liability, from any and all claims, demands, rights, damages, costs, loss of service, expenses, compensation, actions, causes of action or suits of any kind or nature whatsoever, which the Undersigned may now have or which may hereafter accrue or develop, particularly on account of or in any way growing out of any and all known and unknown, foreseen and unforeseen, bodily and personal injuries, and property damages, and any and all consequences thereof, resulting or to result from an alleged event or incident that occurred on or about June 10, 2008, at or near the intersection of Jog Road and Southern Boulevard in Royal Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida.

FURTHERMORE, the Undersigned agrees that each party shall bear its own costs and attorney's fees, and the Undersigned shall bear sole responsibility for any and all hospital, physician, diagnostic, rehabilitation, training, maintenance, medical or pharmaceutical expenses, bills, statements, liens or subrogable interests, of any nature whatsoever, which are or may be outstanding and payable on the date of execution of this Agreement, or which may be incurred and payable in the future. The Undersigned further agree to indemnify and save harmless the Releasees from any requests for payment or attempts for collection therefrom. Should legal action be instituted against the Releasees for payment or collection of the aforementioned expenses, the Undersigned agrees to indemnify and save harmless the Releasees for any attorneys fees, costs, and/or judgments which may be entered against the Releasees.

FURTHERMORE, the Undersigned understands and agrees that this settlement is the compromise of a doubtful and disputed claim, and that the payment made shall not be construed as an admission of liability on the part of the Releasees, and that the Releasees deny any liability therefore and merely intend to avoid further litigation and buy their peace.

FURTHERMORE, the Undersigned hereby declares and represents that any injuries sustained are or may be permanent and progressive and that recovery therefrom is uncertain and indefinite and in making this Release the Undersigned understands and agrees that the Undersigned relies wholly upon the Undersigned's own judgment, belief, and knowledge of the nature, extent, effect, and duration of any injuries and liability therefore, without reliance upon any statement or representation by the Releasees, or by his representatives or by any physician or surgeon employed by him. The Undersigned further declares and represents that no promise, inducement, or agreement not herein expressed has been made to the Undersigned, and that this Release contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto, and that the terms of this Agreement are contractual and not merely a recital.

FURTHERMORE, the Undersigned states that while he hereby releases any and all claims against the Releasees and their officers, agents, employees, heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, for both past and future losses, including medical expenses, health care expenses, and related expenses, the necessity for future medical

treatment and expenses incurred is speculative and unknown at this time and therefore, as a result, the Undersigned reserves the right to pursue and recover all future medical expenses, health care expenses, and related expenses, from any person, firm, or organization who may be responsible for payment of such expenses, including any first-party health or automobile insurance coverage, but such reservation specifically does not include the Releasees.

FURTHERMORE, notwithstanding the language contained in this Release, this Release shall not be construed as releasing any medical providers for potential claims which may arise based upon treatment and care rendered as a result of the accident which is the subject of this Release. Moreover, this Release shall not be construed as releasing any health insurance carrier or other insurer from medical and lost wage benefits to which the Releasor is entitled.

THE UNDERSIGNED hereby declares that the Undersigned has completely read, fully understood, and voluntarily accepted the foregoing Release of All Claims for the purpose of making a full and final compromise settlement and adjustment of any and all claims disputed or otherwise, on account of the injuries and damages set forth above, and for the express purpose of precluding forever any further or additional claims against the Releasees arising out of the aforementioned incident.

THE UNDERSIGNED hereby accepts the tendered settlement draft as final payment of the consideration set forth above.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I, GEORGE EUGENE SMITH, have hereunto set my hand and seal this 31 day of 2009.
WITNESS PLAINTIFF:  PLAINTIFF:  GEORGE EUGENE SMITH
STATE OF FLORIDA ) COUNTY OF PALM BEACH )
The foregoing Release of All Claims was acknowledged before me, an officer duly authorized in the State and County aforesaid to take acknowledgments, this 3 day of August, 2009, by
is personally known to me; OR  [ ] has produced as identification; and who  [ ] did take an oath; OR [ ] did not take an oath
and who executed the within Release of All Claims, and who acknowledged the within Release of All Claims to be freely and voluntarily executed for the purposes therein recited.  [seal]  Notary Public in and for Palm Beach County, Florida
KEITH W. HATHBUN Commission DD 828201

### STATEMENT OF ATTORNEY FOR RELEASOR

I, Charles A. Williams, Esq., state that I am the attorney for George Eugene Smith, the above-signed Releasor, that I have explained to George Eugene Smith all the terms of this Release and the Settlement Agreement upon which it is based and that George Eugene Smith has represented to me that he understands all those terms and their significance. George Eugene Smith has signed this Release knowingly, voluntarily and on my advice.

Dated 8.3.09

Chaties A. Williams, Esq.

Attorney for George Eugene Smith

Florida Bar No. 309321