## Agenda Item #3D-2

# PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	September 11, 2012		Consent [ ] Regular  Public Hearing					
Department			g					
Submitted By:	COUNTY ATTORNEY							
Submitted For:								
I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF								
<b>Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve:</b> a Settlement Agreement, inclusive of attorney's fees and costs, in the total amount of \$85,000 in the personal injury action styled <u>John Napier vs. Palm Beach County</u> , Case No. 502012CA007767XXXXMB AO.								
red light. As a result "jaws of life" after the emergency treatment and a chiropractor. at three levels. His render him incurable impairment and now at increased risk for from his chiropractor \$3,878 lien. Staff, i	ult of the impact, Plaintiff has which he was transported int. Mr. Napier followed up He sustained herniated discorthopedic surgeon opined, even with operative interverse a cane to walk. It is spinal cord injury and paraper. Medical bills to date to not the coluding the Risk Manager	ad to by a with ses in ed th venti His n alysis otal s	as struck by a Palm Tran bus that ran a o be extricated from his truck with the ambulance to St. Mary's Hospital for a neurosurgeon, orthopedic surgeon, in his neck at five levels and in his back nat the multilevel nature of his injuries ion. He was left with a 20% permanent neurosurgeon opined that Mr. Napier is s. He is still receiving active treatment \$51,974, and there is an outstanding t Roundtable Committee, concurs that the County. Countywide (SCL)					
northbound on 7 <sup>th</sup> S traveling eastbound Street. As a result extensive chiropractic candidate for both his permanent impairm received a forty-hour	treet when he was struck by on Palm Beach Lakes Boot he followed up with seventic therapy to the various and back. His truction rating. The Palm Trains.	y a Fouleveral I ffectock wa n dri	apier, 63 years old, was driving a truck Palm Tran bus that ran a red light while ward at or near its intersection with 7 <sup>th</sup> health care providers and underwent ted areas of his body. He is a surgical as totaled and he was assigned a 20% iver was ticketed for the accident and ecommended that the County approve 100.					
	greement and Release of ability Statement	All C	claims					
Recommended by:		lu	ar 8 31/12					
	County Attorney		Date					
Approved by:	N/A		Date					

### II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A.	Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:					
	Fiscal Years	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
_	al Expenditures ating Costs	<del>\$85,</del> 000				
Progr	nal Revenues am Income (County) nd Match (County)					
NET	FISCAL IMPACT	<u>85,000</u>	<u></u>	<del></del>	<del></del>	
	ODITIONAL FTE SITIONS (Cumulative	•)		AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER		
Is Item Included in Current Budget?  Yes X  No						
Budget Account No.: Fund 5010 Department 700 Unit 7130 Object 4511						
Reporting Category						
B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:						
C. Departmental Fiscal Review:						
III. REVIEW COMMENTS						
A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Development and Control Comments:						
	Contract Development and Control  8 24 20 4 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 2 1					
B.	Legal Sufficiency:	24100	F-3	31-12 JWh	rule V	
Assistant County Attorney						
C.	Other Department I	Review:				

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

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Department Director

#### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012, by and between PALM BEACH COUNTY (the "COUNTY"), a political subdivision of the State of Florida, and JOHN NAPIER.

WHEREAS, John Napier sued the COUNTY in a lawsuit presently styled <u>John Napier v. Palm Beach County</u>, Case No. 502012CA007767XXXXMB AO, in the Circuit Court of Palm Beach County, Florida (the "Pending Lawsuit"), for damages arising from an incident that occurred on September 19, 2011, at or near intersection of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard, West Palm Beach, in 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 a reasonable time, Jeffrey Kirby, Esq., shall execute and deliver to the Palm Beach County Attorney's Office the 1) Settlement Agreement, 2) Release of All Claims, and 3) the Stipulation and Final Order of Dismissal with Prejudice.
- 3. Within a reasonable time of full execution and receipt hereof, <u>and subject to final administrative approval</u>, the COUNTY shall pay to John Napier the amount of Eighty Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000), by a check made payable to John Napier and Goldman, Daszkal, Cutler, Kirby & Galsterer, P.A.
- 4. Jeffrey Kirby, Esq. shall not disburse, and John Napier shall not accept, any proceeds from the settlement check described in paragraph 3 unless and until the Release of All Claims has been delivered to the COUNTY and the Final Order of Dismissal with Prejudice has been filed and served in accordance with paragraph 2 above.
- 5. John Napier acknowledges and agrees that he is responsible for the payment of any liens against this settlement and that the COUNTY shall not be

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responsible for any portion of said liens. John Napier, on behalf of himself and his officers, agents, employees, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, further agree to indemnify, defend, and hold the COUNTY, its officers, agents, elected officials, 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.

- 6. FURTHERMORE, the undersigned Plaintiff, John Napier, being of lawful age, agrees to hold harmless and indemnify the Defendant, Palm Beach County, for any pre-settlement Medicare conditional payments and/or reimbursements demanded or required by the Medicare Secondary Payer Recovery Contractor (MSPRC), CMS, collection agencies, or any other governmental entity, currently known, discovered, or demanded in the future.
- 7. FURTHERMORE, the undersigned Plaintiff, John Napier, being of lawful age, agrees to be responsible for any claims or liens by Medicare and agrees that he will defend and hold harmless the Defendant, Palm Beach County, from any liens, suits, or actions arising under the Medicare Secondary Payer Statute (MSPRC), CMS, collection agencies, or any other governmental entity, currently known, discovered, or demanded in the future.
  - 8. Each party shall bear its respective attorneys fees and costs.
- 9. This Settlement Agreement does not constitute an admission of liability by any party.
- 10. 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.
- 11. John Napier 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 they may have against the COUNTY.
- 12. This Settlement Agreement shall be binding on the parties hereto, his assigns, transferees, heirs, and other successors in interest.
- 13. 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.

WITNESS:	PLAINTIFF:
Micole Tapaluccio Print Name	JOHN NAPIER Nasies
ATTEST: Sharon R. Bock, Clerk & Comptroller	PALM BEACH COUNTY, a Political Subdivision of the State of Florida
By:	By:
APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY  By: Jan Junday Assistant County Attorney	

#### **RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS**

#### KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That the Undersigned, JOHN NAPIER, being of lawful age, for the sole consideration of EIGHTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$85,000), 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 September 19, 2011, at or near the intersection of 7<sup>TH</sup> Street and Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard in West 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 agrees 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 attorney's 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 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.

FURTHERMORE, the undersigned Plaintiff, John Napier, being of lawful age, agrees to hold harmless and indemnify the Defendant, Palm Beach County, for any pre-settlement Medicare conditional payments and/or reimbursements demanded or required by the Medicare Secondary Payer Recovery Contractor (MSPRC), CMS, collection agencies, or any other governmental entity, currently known, discovered, or demanded in the future.

FURTHERMORE, the undersigned Plaintiff, John Napier, being of lawful age, agrees to be responsible for any claims or liens by Medicare and agrees that he will defend and hold harmless the Defendant, Palm Beach County, from any liens, suits, or actions arising under the Medicare Secondary Payer Statute (MSPRC), CMS, collection agencies, or any other governmental entity, currently known, discovered, or demanded in the future.

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, John Napier, have hereunto set my hand and seal this  $\frac{7}{100}$  day of  $\frac{1}{100}$  day of  $\frac{1}{100}$  2012.

IN THE PRESENCE OF:

PLAINTIFF:

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF PALM BEACH )

troward

KIM M. BERNTSEN MY COMMISSION # DD 838981 EXPIRES: December 21, 2012 Bonded Thru Nolary Public Underwriter

The foregoing Release of All Claims was acknowledged before me, an officer duly authorized in the State and County aforesaid to take acknowledgments, this — day of August, 2012, by John Major whole is personally known to me; OR [ ] has produced as

identification; and who freely and voluntarily executed the within Release of All Claims for the purposes therein recited.

[seal]

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

#### STATEMENT OF ATTORNEY FOR RELEASOR

I, Jeffrey Kirby, Esq., of the Law Office of Goldman, Daszkal, Cutler, Kirby & Galsterer, P.A., state that I am the attorney for John Napier, the above-signed Releasor, that I have explained to John Napier all the terms of this Release and the Settlement Agreement upon which it is based and that John Napier has represented to me that he understands all those terms and their significance. John Napier has signed this Release knowingly, voluntarily, and on my advice.

Further, as Plaintiff's counsel, I agree on behalf of myself and as representative of the law firm of Goldman, Daszkal, Cutler, Kirby & Galsterer, P.A., to hold harmless and indemnify the Defendant, Palm Beach County, for any pre-settlement Medicare conditional payments and/or reimbursements demanded or required by the Medicare Secondary Payer Recovery Contractor (MSPRC), CMS, collection agencies, or any other governmental entity, currently known, discovered, or demanded in the future.

Dated 8 | 14 | 13

Jeffrey Kirby, Esq.
Attorney for John Napier
Florida Bar No. 860654

#### BUDGET AVAILABILITY STATEMENT RISK MANAGEMENT

REQUEST DATE:	8/22/12	_REQUESTEI	DBY: County Attorney's Office
REQUESTED FOR:_	<u>John L. Napier v. PBC</u>		
REQUESTED AMOU	JNT: <u>\$85,000</u>	_AGENDA DA	ATE: <u>9/11/12</u>
BUDGET ACCOUNT	F NUMBER:		
FUND: <u>5010</u>	DEPT: <u>700</u>	UNIT <u>: 7130</u>	OBJ: <u>4511</u>
BAS APPROVED BY	T: Jessica Kolb	(coll-	DATE: <u>8/22/12</u>

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Attachment # \_\_\_\_\_