PALM BEACH COUNTY **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

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Meeting Date:	Jánuary 23, 2024	[X] Consent	[] Regular
Department:	PALM TRAN	[] Orumanice	[] Public Hearing
Submitted By:	COUNTY ATTORNEY		
HPP-ACTIVECTORNETSAMEMENTERPROPRIES AND NORMATION PROPRIESTORS AND ACTION AND ACTION AND ACTION AND ACTION AND ACTION AND ACTION ACTION AND ACTION AC	TO SET OF MAIN AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AN	n milled Late Agreement mercenner frem fan Late Artist mercenner (1994-1994) an syndrement (1992-1994) and the Artist Market (1994-1994) and t	
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Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve a Settlement Agreement, inclusive of attorney's fees and costs, in the total amount of \$120,000.00 in the personal injury action styled AMBER MCMILLIAN v. PALM BEACH COUNTY, Case No. 502018CA009991XXXXMBAG.

Summary: This is a personal injury lawsuit for damages arising from an automobile incident that occurred on November 11, 2016 at N.E. First Street and Railroad Avenue in Delray Beach, Florida. Plaintiff, Amber McMillian, was a passenger on a Palm Tran bus when the bus came to a sudden stop causing her to be propelled out of her seat. This incident resulted in permanent injuries to Plaintiff. Plaintiff has incurred \$205,331.22 in medical bills. Palm Beach County has entered into an agreement to settle the lawsuit with Mrs. McMillian in the total amount of \$120,000, inclusive of attorney's fees and costs, pending approval by the Pam Beach County Board of County Commissioners. Countywide (AMC)

Background and Justification: This case stems from a November 11, 2016, incident at or near N.E. First Street and Railroad Avenue in Delray Beach, Florida. Plaintiff, Amber McMillian, was a seated passenger on a Palm Tran bus driven by Carlos Hernandez. The bus came to a sudden stop behind a line of stopped cars and Mrs. McMillian was propelled out of her seat. Mrs. McMillian's body collided with the metal pole located at the front of the bus. Mrs. McMillian, along with three other passengers, was transported to Delray Beach Medical Center. As a result of the impact, Mrs. McMillian suffered several cervical and lumbar disc bulges and herniations. She received a 23% impairment rating for her cervical and lumbar spine and underwent lumbar surgery, epidural injections, a medial branch block, and a laser facet nerve ablation. Mrs. McMillian's medical bills are approximately \$205,331.22 to date. Mrs. McMillian was thirty-three (33) years old at the time of the incident. Based on the facts and circumstances of this lawsuit, it is recommended that the County approve the Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$120,000.00.

Attachments:

- Settlement Agreement 1.
- 2. Release of All Claims

o. Budget Av	aliability Statement	
Recommended E	By: 40 G	
	County Attorney	Date
Approved By:	N/A	
	County Administrator	Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Capital Expenditures					
Operating Costs	\$120,000				
External Revenues					
Program Income(County)					
In-Kind Match(County					
NET FISCAL IMPACT	\$120,000				
#ADDITIONAL FTE					
POSITIONS (CUMULATIVE)					

NET FISCAL IMPACT	\$120,000						
#ADDITIONAL FTE							
POSITIONS (CUMULATIVE)							
Is Item Included in C	Current Budget?		Yes X	No			
Does this item include	de the use of fe	deral funds?	Yes	No <u>X</u>			
Does this item include	de the use of sta	ate funds?	Yes	No X			
Budget Account N	o:						
Fund 5010 Agen	Fund 5010 Agency 700 Organization 7130 Object 4511						
B. Recommended	Sources of Fu	nds/Summa	ry of Fiscal	Impact:			
C. Departmental Fiscal Review:							
III. REVIEW COMM	ENTS:						
A. OFMB Fisca	al and/or Contr	act Dev. apo	1 Control Co	omments:			
_	,			ſ			
ABBUIL	12/20/23		Cond M.	Anin'	12/34		
OFMB CB 12/20	23	Co	ntract Dev.	& Control	(
B. Legal Suffic	ciency	(P)	10/00/0.	3			
ai							

Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review

Department Director

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

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into this 9 day of Dec 2023, by and between PALM BEACH COUNTY (the "COUNTY"), a political subdivision of the State of Florida, and AMBER MCMILLIAN ("MCMILLIAN") (collectively referred to as the "Parties").

WHEREAS, MCMILLIAN sued the COUNTY in a lawsuit presently styled <u>AMBER MCMILLIAN v. PALM BEACH COUNTY</u>, Case No. 502018CA009991XXXXMBAG in the Circuit Court of Palm Beach County, Florida (hereinafter referred to as "Pending Lawsuit"), for damages arising from an incident that occurred on or about November 11, 2016, at or near N.E. First Street and Railroad Avenue in Delray Beach, Florida (the "Incident").

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

WHEREAS, the Parties hereto wish to amicably resolve the Pending Lawsuit 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 twenty days ("20") after the COUNTY receives a fully executed original of this Settlement Agreement, and subject to final Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioner approval, the COUNTY shall pay to MCMILLIAN the amount of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$120,000.00), by a check made payable to Layne Verebay PA Trust Account, Tax ID 65-0880351.
- 3. Within ten (10) days of receipt of the COUNTY'S payment, Layne Verebay, Esquire; Leslie Glenn, Esquire and MCMULLIAN shall execute and deliver to the Palm Beach County Attorney's Office (i) a Release of All Claims in the form of the attached hereto as Exhibit A, and (ii) the Stipulation and Final Order of Dismissal with Prejudice, in the form of the attached hereto as Exhibit B, which, in turn, the Palm Beach County Attorney's Office will file with the Court.
- 4. Layne Verebay, Esquire or Leslie Glenn, Esquire shall not disburse, and MCMILLIAN shall not accept, any proceeds from the settlement check described in Paragraph 2 above unless and until the Release of All Claims has been delivered to the COUNTY and the Stipulation for Final Order of Dismissal with Prejudice has been filed with the Court in the pending lawsuit.
- 5. MCMILLIAN acknowledges and agrees that she is responsible for the payment of any and all medical bills and liens concerning, pertaining, or relating to the Incident and Pending Lawsuit and that the COUNTY shall not be responsible for any portion of said liens. MCMILLIAN, on behalf of herself and her officers, agents, employees, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, further agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold the COUNTY and its

officers, commissioners, agents, elected officials, employees, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, harmless from and against all suits, actions, proceedings, claims, demands, and damages, including attorney's fees, arising out of or related to such liens or claims of lien.

- 6. Each party shall bear its respective attorney's fees and costs.
- 7. This Settlement Agreement does not constitute an admission of liability by any party. Rather, the COUNTY expressly denies liability, and has entered into this Settlement Agreement in order to buy its peace.
- 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. MCMILLIAN 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 that she may have against the COUNTY arising out of or relating to the Incident and Pending Lawsuit.
- 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
excepted as of the date first set forth above.	7ll & Show
AMBER MCMILLIAN	TODD J. BONLARRON
Plaintiff	Palm Tran
APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY By: Assistant County Attorney	PALM BEACH COUNTY, a Political Subdivision of the State of Florida By: Mayor, Board of County Commissioners
ATTEST: JOSEPH ABRUZZO, Clerk and Comptroller	
Ву:	

RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That the undersigned, AMBER MCMILLIAN, being of lawful age, for the sole consideration of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$120,000.00 in Case No. 502018CA009991XXXXMBAG to the undersigned in hand paid, the receipt and sufficiency whereof is hereby acknowledged, does hereby and for her executors, administrators, successors and assigns, release, acquit and forever discharge PALM BEACH COUNTY (the "COUNTY"), and its officers, agents, employees, heirs, executors, administrators, board members, successors and assigns (together "Releasees"), 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, whether known or unknown, 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, relating to or resulting from an alleged incident that occurred on or about November 11, 2016, at or near N.E. First Street and Railroad Avenue in Delray Beach, Florida.

FURTHERMORE, the undersigned agrees that each party shall bear their own costs and attorney's fees, and the undersigned shall bear sole responsibility for any and all property damage, 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 release, 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 with respect to the collection of the medical bills.

FURTHERMORE, the undersigned Plaintiff, AMBER MCMILLIAN, agrees to hold harmless and indemnify the Releasees 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 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 by AMBER MCMILLIAN may have been permanent and progressive and that recovery therefrom was uncertain and indefinite and in making this Release the undersigned understands and agrees that the undersigned relied wholly upon the undersigned's own judgment, belief and knowledge of the nature, extent, effect and duration of any injuries and liability thereof, without reliance upon any statement or representation by the Releasees, or by their representatives or by any physician or surgeon employed by them.

FURTHERMORE, the undersigned states that she hereby releases any and all claims against the Releasees, and their officers, agents, employees, heirs, executors, administrators, board

members, successors and assigns, for both past and future losses, including medical expenses, health care expenses and related expenses. As a result, though future medical expenses cannot be incurred, the undersigned reserves the right to pursue and recover any 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 incident 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 AMBER MCMILLIAN 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, AMBER MCMILLIAN, have hereunto set my hand and seal this 2 day of December 2023. IN THE PRESENCE OF: WILNESS SIGNATURE AMBER MCMILLIAN Layne Vereboy (PRINT WITNESS' NAME) STATE OF FI SS. COUNTY OF Brown The foregoing two-page Release of All Claims was acknowledged before me, an officer duly authorized in the State and County aforesaid, to take acknowledgments, this 2 day of Decent - 2023, by Ambo Me Millia In person or virtually (circle on) who: M is personally known to me; OR _____ as identification; has produced _____ 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] Layne Verebay Notary Public in and for Notary Public __ County, _ State of Florida Comm# HH131666 Expires 6/22/2025

My commission expires: ____

_	EXHIBIT	_
	В	

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 502018CA009991XXXXMB AG

AMBER MCMILLIAN, Plaintiff,

v.

PALM BEACH COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, Defendant.

STIPULATION FOR FINAL ORDER OF DISMISSAL WITH PREJUDICE

COMES NOW Plaintiff, AMBER MCMILLIAN, through her attorney, joined by Defendant, PALM BEACH COUNTY, through its attorney, and show unto the Court that all matters in controversy have been compromised and settled to the satisfaction of the Parties. It is agreed that the action of the Plaintiff against Defendant, PALM BEACH COUNTY, be dismissed with prejudice, each party to bear its own costs and attorney's fees. The Court retains jurisdiction until all settlement proceeds are disbursed and to enforce the terms of the settlement.

Dated:		Dated	
Ву:		By:	
•	Anaili M. Cure, Esquire	•	Layne Verebay, Esquire
	Assistant County Attorney		Counsel for Plaintiff
	Florida Bar No.: 119558		Florida Bar No.: 442526
	Counsel for Defendant		Layne Verebay, P.A.
	300 N. Dixie Hwy., Suite 359		7800 W. Oakland Park Blvd., B-104
	West Palm Beach, FL 33401		Sunrise, FL 33351
	ACure@pbcgov.org		LVerebay@aol.com
	ARodrigu@pbcgov.org,		JackieCotter@att.net
	SWebber@pbegov.org		

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Dated:	
Ву:	
	Leslie D. Glenn, Esquire
	Co-Counsel for Plaintiff
	Florida Bar No.: 0957658
	Leslie Duberstein Glenn, P.A.
	370 Camino Gardens Blvd., Suite 300
	Boca Raton, FL 33432-5817
	courtfilings@ldgpa.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 502018CA009991XXXXMB AG

AMBER MCMILLIAN, Plaintiff,

v.

PALM BEACH COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, Defendant.

FINAL ORDER OF DISMISSAL WITH PREJUDICE

THIS CAUSE having come before the Court upon the foregoing Stipulation for Final Order of Dismissal with Prejudice, and the Court being otherwise fully advised in the premises, it is hereby:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the above-styled cause is hereby DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorney's fees. The Court retains jurisdiction until all settlement proceeds are disbursed and to enforce the terms of the settlement.

DONE AND ORDERED in	Chambers, a	it West Palm	Beach,	Palm Beach	County,	Florida,	, this
 day of	_2023.						
		LUIS DE	ELGADO)	<u> </u>		•
		Circuit Ju	udge				

Copies furnished to:

Anaili M. Cure, Esquire, Palm Beach County Attorney's Office, 300 N. Dixie Highway, Suite 359, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401, at ACure@pbcgov.org; ARodrigu@pbcgov.org; SWebber@pbcgov.org

Layne Verebay, Esquire, 7800 W. Oakland Park Blvd., B-104, Sunrise, Florida, 33351, Lverebay@aol.com and Jackiecotter@att.net, and Co-Counsel, Leslie D. Glenn, Esquire, 370 W. Camino Gardens Blvd., Suite 300, Boca Raton, FL 33432, courtfilings@ldgpa.com

RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That the undersigned, AMBER MCMILLIAN, being of lawful age, for the sole consideration of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$120,000.00 in Case No. 502018CA009991XXXXMBAG to the undersigned in hand paid, the receipt and sufficiency whereof is hereby acknowledged, does hereby and for her executors, administrators, successors and assigns, release, acquit and forever discharge PALM BEACH COUNTY (the "COUNTY"), and its officers, agents, employees, heirs, executors, administrators, board members, successors and assigns (together "Releasees"), 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, whether known or unknown, 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, relating to or resulting from an alleged incident that occurred on or about November 11, 2016, at or near N.E. First Street and Railroad Avenue in Delray Beach, Florida.

FURTHERMORE, the undersigned agrees that each party shall bear their own costs and attorney's fees, and the undersigned shall bear sole responsibility for any and all property damage, 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 release, 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 with respect to the collection of the medical bills.

FURTHERMORE, the undersigned Plaintiff, AMBER MCMILLIAN, agrees to hold harmless and indemnify the Releasees 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 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 by AMBER MCMILLIAN may have been permanent and progressive and that recovery therefrom was uncertain and indefinite and in making this Release the undersigned understands and agrees that the undersigned relied wholly upon the undersigned's own judgment, belief and knowledge of the nature, extent, effect and duration of any injuries and liability thereof, without reliance upon any statement or representation by the Releasees, or by their representatives or by any physician or surgeon employed by them.

FURTHERMORE, the undersigned states that she hereby releases any and all claims against the Releasees, and their officers, agents, employees, heirs, executors, administrators, board

members, successors and assigns, for both past and future losses, including medical expenses, health care expenses and related expenses. As a result, though future medical expenses cannot be incurred, the undersigned reserves the right to pursue and recover any 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 incident 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 AMBER MCMILLIAN 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, AMBER MCMILLIAN, have hereunto set my hand and seal this 2 day of December 2023. IN THE PRESENCE OF: WITNESS SIGNATURE AMBER MCMILLIAN Layne Verebet (PRINT WITNESS' NAME) STATE OF F SS. COUNTY OF Brown The foregoing two-page Release of All Claims was acknowledged before me, an officer duly authorized in the State and County aforesaid, to take acknowledgments, this 2 day of Decent 2023, by Andr Memillia in person/or virtually (circle on) who: M is personally known to me; OR ______ as identification; [] has produced _ 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] Layne Verebay Notary Public in and for Notary Public __ County, _ State of Florida Comm# HH131666 Expires 6/22/2025

My commission expires: ____

BUDGET AVAILABILITY STATEMENT RISK MANAGEMENT

REQUEST DATE: <u>12/7/2023</u>

REQUESTED BY: County Attorney

REQUESTED FOR: Amber McMillian v. Palm Beach County, Case No. 502018CA009991XXXXMB AG

REQUESTED AMOUNT: \$120,000

AGENDA DATE: January 23, 2024

BUDGET ACCOUNT NUMBER:

FUND: 5010 DEPT: 700 UNIT: 7130 OBJ: 4511

BAS APPROVED BY:_

Brian Palacios, Finance Director

DATE: <u>12/7/2023</u>