Agenda Item #: 3D-1

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	May 14, 2024	[X] Consent [] Ordinance	[] Regular [] Public Hearing
Department:	Planning, Zoning & Building		
Submitted By:	COUNTY ATTORNE	ΣΥ	•

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve a Settlement Agreement, inclusive of attorney's fees and costs, in the total amount of \$100,000. in the personal injury action styled <u>DARIUS YOUNG v. PALM BEACH COUNTY</u>, Case No.: 2020-CA-000581-XXXX-MB (AF).

Summary: This is a personal injury lawsuit arising from a motor vehicle accident that occurred on October 16, 2018, when a County owned motor vehicle driven by an employee in the Planning, Zoning and Building Department rear-ended Mr. Young's motor vehicle. The accident occurred on Okeechobee Road in West Palm Beach. The accident resulted in personal injuries to Mr. Young, including medical bills of approximately \$229,000. After this accident, Mr. Young had surgery on his lower back. Palm Beach County has entered into an agreement to settle the lawsuit with Mr. Young in the total amount of \$100,000, inclusive of attorney's fees and costs, pending approval by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners. Countywide (AP).

Background and Justification: On October 16, 2018, the then 40 year old Plaintiff, Darius Young, was turning left, northbound, from Okeechobee Boulevard onto West Road when the car in front of him stopped, causing him to stop. The Building Division employee who was driving the County owned 2018 Ford SUV behind Mr. Young's vehicle was unable to stop in time and struck the rear of the Mr. Young's vehicle.

Following the accident, Mr. Young sought medical treatment from several providers, including: Brofsky Chiropractic, Accident & Wellness Center Therapy, Interventional Pain Services, Florida Anesthesia Consultants Relief MD, Interventional Pain Services, Louisiana Chiro, PGA Chiro Health Center and the Spine Institute. On August 18, 2023, Mr. Young had spine surgery for an anterior lumbar inter-body fusion. To date, Mr. Young has incurred medical costs in the amount of \$229,434.54 as a result of the accident.

This full and final settlement is warranted based on the County's liability exposure and Mr. Young's injuries. Therefore, it is recommended that the County approve the Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$100,000.00.

Attachments:

1.	Settlement Agreement
2.	Release of All Claims
2	Divident Availability Otats

3.	Budget Availa	bility Statement	Ω	
Recor	nmended By:	County Afforme		Date
Appro	oved By:	14/14		
		County Admini	strator	Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Fiscal Years	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capital Expenditures				
Operating Costs	\$100,000	-21-4		
External Revenues				
Program Income(County)			4	
In-Kind Match(County			and the state of t	771
NET FISCAL IMPACT	\$100,000			
#ADDITIONAL FTE				
POSITIONS (CUMULATIVE				Annu - An
Is Item Included in	Current Budget?	? Yes <u>X</u>	No	- Annual - A
Is this item using F Funds?	- ederal	Yes	No <u>X</u>	
Is this item using §	State Funds?	Yes	No _X	
Budget Account N	lo:		,	
	-	Organization <u>713</u>		
3. Recommended	Sources of Fur	nds/Summary o	f Fiscal Impact:	
. Departmental F	iscal Review:			
II. REVIEW COMN	TENTS:			
		act Dev. and Co	ntrol Comments:	
	al and/or Contra	.1/1	entrol Comments:	h 460. 10. 1
		1 /	und mach	<u> = 4/2u/24</u>
	al and/or Contra	.1/1	und mach	1 ₌ 4/24/24
OFMB Fisc DFMB 12 4 3. Legal Suffi	al and/or Contra	Contra	und mach	1 4/24/24
DFMB 12 4.3. Legal Suffi	al and/or Contra - 4/24/2004 A 4/04 24	Contra	und mach	1/24/24
A. OFMB Fisc DFMB 11 4 B. Legal Suffi	al and/or Contra	Contra	und mach	<u> </u>

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

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into this _____day of May, 2024, by and between PALM BEACH COUNTY (the "COUNTY"), a political subdivision of the State of Florida, and DARIUS YOUNG ("YOUNG").

WHEREAS, YOUNG sued the COUNTY in a lawsuit presently styled <u>Darius Young v. Palm Beach County</u>, Case No. 2020 CA 000581 MB AF, in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Court of Palm Beach County, Florida (the "Pending Lawsuit"), for damages arising from a motor vehicle accident that occurred on October 16, 2018, on Okeechobee Boulevard and Meridian Road in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida (the "Incident");

WHEREAS, the COUNTY has denied liability, causation, and damages, and has raised several affirmative defenses 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. By April 15, 2024, YOUNG's attorney, Colin Richards, Esquire, shall deliver to the Palm Beach County Attorney's Office the following executed documents: 1) Settlement Agreement, and 2) Release of All Claims. These documents shall be held in trust by the County pending approval of the Settlement Agreement by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners on May 14, 2024.
- 3. Subject to the approval of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, the COUNTY shall pay to YOUNG the amount of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$100,000.00), by a check made payable to Lolin Ridney Att score Tax ID: \$1-56 7 38. Upon receipt of the settlement funds, the parties shall execute and file a Stipulation and Final Order of Dismissal with Prejudice.
- 4. Colin Richards, Esquire, shall not disburse, and YOUNG shall not accept, any proceeds from the settlement check described in Paragraph 3 above unless and until the executed Settlement Agreement and Release of All Claims have been delivered to the COUNTY and the executed Stipulation and Final Order of Dismissal with Prejudice has been filed.
- 5. YOUNG acknowledges and agrees that he is responsible for, and will resolve, the payment of any and all bills and liens relating to the Accident and Pending Lawsuit, and that the COUNTY shall not be responsible for any portion of said bills and liens.
 - Each party shall bear their own attorney's fees and costs.

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ATTACHMENT 1

Settlement Agreement Darius Young v. Palm Beach County Case No.: 2020 CA 000581

- 7. This Settlement Agreement does not constitute an admission of liability by any party. Rather, the Parties expressly deny liability, and have entered into this Settlement Agreement in order to buy their 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. YOUNG 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 arising out of or relating to the Accident and Pending Lawsuit.
- 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.

DARIUS YOUNG laintiff	WHITNEY CARROLL Executive Director, Planning, Zoning and Building
APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY By: Assistant Clunty Attorney	PALM BEACH COUNTY, a Political Subdivision of the State of Florid By: Mayor, Board of County Commissioners
ATTEST: OSEPH ABRUZZO, Clerk and Comptroller	
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DARIUS YOUNG RELEASE OF CLAIMS TO PALM BEACH COUNTY FOR OCTOBER 16, 2018, MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

DARIUS YOUNG ("YOUNG") sued PALM BEACH COUNTY ("COUNTY") in a lawsuit presently styled <u>Darius Young v. Palm Beach County</u>, Case No. 2020-CA-000581, in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Court of Palm Beach County, Florida (the "Pending Lawsuit"), for damages arising from a motor vehicle accident that occurred on October 16, 2018, on Okeechobee Boulevard and Meridian Road in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida (the "Accident");

The undersigned, YOUNG, being of lawful age and for the sole consideration of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$100,000.00) to the undersigned in hand paid, the receipt and sufficiency whereof is hereby acknowledged, does hereby for himself and for his agents, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, release, acquit and forever discharge COUNTY, and its officers, agents, employees, commissioners, heirs, executors, administrators, successors, insurers, 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, 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 only the Accident and the Pending Lawsuit.

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

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ATTACHMENT 2

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, which relate or pertain to the Accident and Pending Lawsuit.

FURTHERMORE, the undersigned agrees to resolve any 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 therefore and merely intend to avoid further litigation and buy their peace.

FURTHERMORE, the undersigned hereby declares and represents that any injuries

sustained 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

relied 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 their representatives or by any physician or surgeon

employed by them. 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,

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successors and assigns, for both past and future losses related only to the Accident and Pending

Lawsuit, 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 the

Pending Lawsuit and 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 only the RELEASEES arising out of the

aforementioned Accident. The undersigned has had the benefit of consultation with the attorney

of his choice with respect to the review and execution of this Release of All Claims and is executing

this release knowingly, freely and voluntarily.

THE UNDERSIGNED hereby accepts the tendered settlement draft as final payment of

the consideration set forth above.

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and who executed the above Release of All Claims, and who acknowledged the above Release of All Claims to be freely and voluntarily executed for the purposes therein recited.

[seal]

[4

did take an oath; OR

did not take an oath.

Notary Public
My commission expires:

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Notary Public State of Florida Katherine Heater My Commission HH 324668 Expires 10/23/2026

BUDGET AVAILABILITY STATEMENT RISK MANAGEMENT

REQUEST DATE: <u>4/16/2024</u>

REQUESTED BY: County Attorney

REQUESTED FOR: <u>Darius Young v. Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners</u>

REQUESTED AMOUNT: \$100,000

AGENDA DATE: May 14, 2024

BUDGET ACCOUNT NUMBER:

FUND: <u>5010</u> DEPT: <u>700</u> UNIT: <u>7130</u> OBJ: <u>4511</u>

BAS APPROVED BY:

Brian Palacios, Finance Director

DATE: <u>4/16/2024</u>

ATTACHMENT 3

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