Agenda Item #: 3D-1

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	April 1, 2025	[X] Consent [] Ordinance	[] Regular [] Public Hearing
Department:	AIRPORTS DEPARTMENT		
Submitted By:	COUNTY ATTORNEY		

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 \$70,000, in the personal injury case styled <u>Ossamene Clervoyant v. Palm Beach County</u>, Case No. 2023CA00 3777XXXXMB.

Summary: This is a personal injury lawsuit arising from a motor vehicle accident that occurred on October 13, 2021, on James L. Turnage Boulevard in West Palm Beach, Florida. The accident resulted in personal injuries to Mr. Clervoyant, including medical bills of approximately \$134,069. Palm Beach County has entered into an agreement to settle the lawsuit in the total amount of \$70,000, inclusive of attorney's fees and costs, pending approval by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners. Countywide (AMP).

Background and Justification: On October 13, 2021, the Plaintiff, Ossamene Clervoyant, was driving his vehicle on Turnage Boulevard, which is located on the Department of Airports property. At that time, a Department of Airports employee was driving a County vehicle on Turnage Boulevard. While traveling in the same direction the sides of the vehicles collided with each other. The County deemed the accident preventable. As a result of the accident, Plaintiff sustained aggravations to prior injuries to his lower back at four different levels, ultimately resulting in a spinal fusion surgery to his low back at two levels on November 17, 2022. Total medical bills to date are approximately \$134,069.

This full and final settlement is warranted based on the County's liability exposure and Mr. Clervoyant's injuries. Therefore, it is recommended that the County approve the Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$70,000.

Attachments:

- 1. Settlement Agreement
- 2. Release of All Claims
- 3. Budget Availability Statement

Recommended By:		
-	County Attorney/	Date
Approved By:	N/A	
- -	County Administrator	Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Capital Expenditures					
Operating Costs	\$70,000				
External Revenues					
Program Income(County)					
In-Kind Match(County					
NET FISCAL IMPACT	\$70,000				
#ADDITIONAL FTE					
POSITIONS (CUMULATIVE)					

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Does this item include the use of federal funds? Is this item include the use of State Funds?	Yes <u>X</u> Yes Yes	No No <u>X</u> No <u>X</u>		
Budget Account No:				
Fund <u>5010</u> Agency <u>700</u> Organization <u>7130</u> Object <u>4511</u>				
B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:				
C. Departmental Fiscal Review:				
Martin Ma				

	III. REV	VIEW COMMENTS:
A.	OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract De	ev. and Control Comments:
OFME	7 Mary 3/13/2025 3 05/07/3/13	Sontract Dev. & Control
В.	Legal Sufficiency	263/4/25
	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 1st day of April, 2025, by and between PALM BEACH COUNTY (the "COUNTY"), a political subdivision of the State of Florida, and OSSAMENE CLERVOYANT ("CLERVOYANT").

WHEREAS, CLERVOYANT sued the COUNTY in a lawsuit presently styled <u>Ossamene Clervoyant v. Palm Beach County</u>, Case No. 2023CA003777XXXXMB, 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 13, 2021, on James L. Turnage Boulevard in Palm Beach County, Florida (the "Accident");

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 February 10, 2025, CLERVOYANT'S attorney, Steven C. Jones, 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 April 1, 2025.
- 3. Subject to the approval of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, the COUNTY shall pay to CLERVOYANT the amount of SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$70,000.00), by a check made payable to Demand The Limits, PLLC Trust Account f/b/o Ossamene Clervoyant; Tax ID: 82-4233004. Upon receipt of the settlement funds, the parties shall execute and file a Stipulation and Final Order of Dismissal with Prejudice.
- 4. Steven C. Jones, Esquire, shall not disburse, and CLERVOYANT 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. CLERVOYANT 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.
 - 6. Each party shall bear their own attorney's fees and costs.

Settlement Agreement
Ossamene Clervoyant v. Palm Beach County
Case No.: 2023-CA-003777

- 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. CLERVOYANT 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.
- 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.

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OSSSAMENE CLERY DYANT .	LAURA M. BEEBE
Plaintiff	Director, Airports Department
APPROVED AS TO FORM	PALM BEACH COUNTY,
AND LEGAL/SUFFICIENCY	a Political Subdivision of the State of Florida
Ву:	Ву:
Assistant County Aftorney	Mayor, Board of County Commissioners
ATTEST: JOSEPH ABRUZZO, Clerk and Comptroller	
By:	

OSSAMENE CLERVOYANT RELEASE OF CLAIMS TO PALM BEACH COUNTY FOR OCTOBER 13, 2021 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

OSSAMENE CLERVOYANT ("CLERVOYANT") sued PALM BEACH COUNTY ("COUNTY") in a lawsuit presently styled <u>Ossamene Clervoyant v. Palm Beach County</u>, Case No. 2023CA003777XXXXMB, 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 13, 2021, on James L. Turnage Boulevard in Palm Beach County, Florida (the "Accident");

The undersigned, CLERVOYANT, being of lawful age and for the sole consideration of SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$70,000.00) 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,

Case No.: 2023 CA003777

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, 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, Medicaid, 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.

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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 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 he 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.

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Release of All Claims

Ossamene Clervoyant v. Palm Beach County Case No.: 2023 CA003777

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

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I, OSSAMENE CLERVOYANT, have hereunto set my hand and seal this _____day of February, 2025.

IN THE PRESENCE OF:			
WITNESS SIGNATURE		OSSAMENE CLERV	OYANT
Garrett Gold (PRINT WITNESSES' NAME)		^	
STATE OF FL COUNTY OF Palm Beach)		
The foregoing Release of authorized in the State and County February 2025, by	aforesaid, to take	acknowledged before me, as acknowledgments, this,	day of
[] is personally known to me; OR Thas produced FL DL		as identification;	
and who			
did take an oath; OR did not take an oath.			
and who executed the above Releas All Claims to be freely and voluntar	-	_	ove Release of
[seal] PHILIPP LEHMANN-SUAREZ	Notary Public	25 3	·
Notary Public - State of Florida Commission # HH 426505 My Comm. Expires Jul 26, 2027	My commission	expires: 07/26/2027	Washington .

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BUDGET AVAILABILITY STATEMENT RISK MANAGEMENT

REQUEST DATE: 3/3/2025 REQUESTED BY: County Attorney

REQUESTED FOR: Ossamene Clervoyant v. Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

REQUESTED AMOUNT: \$70,000 AGENDA DATE: April 01, 2025

BUDGET ACCOUNT NUMBER:

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

BAS APPROVED BY: DATE: 3/3/2025

Brian Palacios, Finance Director