

CITY OF OAKLAND



ONE FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • 6TH FLOOR • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Office of the City Attorney
Barbara Parker
City Attorney

(510) 238-3601
FAX: (510) 238-6500
TDD: (510) 839-6451

November 16, 2021

HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL
Oakland, California

Subject: Michele Williams v. City of Oakland, and DOES 1 through 20
Alameda County Superior Court Case No. RG19042561
City Attorney File No. 30925
(Department of Public Works – Negligence)

President Fortunato Bas and Members of the City Council:

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Charter, the City Attorney has prepared and requests your approval of a resolution authorizing compromise and settlement of the above-entitled claim for the sum of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$400,000.00), payable to Plaintiff Michele Williams, through Plaintiff's attorney, the Law Office of Emmanuel Enyina.

Michele Williams alleges that the City's storm drain pipe located in an easement in the back yard of her residence deteriorated and broke apart, creating a large sinkhole next to the exterior wall of the home. Plaintiff alleges that as a result of the sinkhole, the entire west side of the home (running parallel and adjacent to the City storm drain) is between 3.5 to 6.9 inches lower than the east side of the home.

Plaintiff sued the City for negligence and claimed property damages, emotional distress damages, and attorney's fees. The City has determined that settlement in the amount of \$400,000 to Plaintiff, without admitting liability and to avoid further litigation, is in the City's best interest.

The City Council authorized settlement of this case in Closed Session on Thursday, October 21, 2021 (moved by Councilmember Loren Taylor and seconded by Councilmember Gallo - 6 Ayes, 2 Absent – Councilmember Dan Kalb, Councilmember Treva Reid).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara J. Parker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BARBARA J. PARKER
City Attorney

Assigned Attorney:
Han Tran

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