

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 1, 2022

HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL
Oakland, California

Subject: Tekeste Ghebreslasie v. City of Oakland, Rachelle Louise Stephens and DOES 1 – 20, inclusive

Alameda County Superior Court Case No. RG18929921
City Attorney File No. 32645
(Human Services Agency – Car Accident/Personal Injury)

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 Five Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$500,000.00), payable to California Trial Law Group PC on behalf of Tekeste Ghebreslasie.

This action arises out of a three-car rear-end accident that occurred on February 27, 2018. Plaintiff alleges that City employee Rachelle Stephens rear ended Plaintiff's car which resulted in (1) a permanent spinal injury that causes ongoing neck and back pain and (2) a traumatic brain injury that resulted in cognitive deficits. Medical professionals continue to treat Plaintiff for back pain, neck pain, and post-concussion syndrome with headaches and fatigue. Plaintiff also alleges these injuries and symptoms prevent Plaintiff from working fulltime which results in lost wages.

The City has determined that settlement in the amount of \$500,000.00, without admitting liability and to avoid further litigation, is in the best interest of the City.

The Council authorized settlement of this case in Closed Session on Thursday, October 20, 2022 (moved by Councilmember Dan Kalb and seconded by Councilmember Carroll Fife - 8 Ayes).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara J. Parker".

BARBARA J. PARKER
City Attorney

Assigned Attorney:
Maria Bee
Outside counsel – Haapala, Thompson & Abern