

# CITY OF OAKLAND



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November 10, 2020

**HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL**  
Oakland, California

**Subject: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO COMPROMISE AND SETTLE THE CASE OF JOSE ALVOS V. CITY OF OAKLAND, ET AL., ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. RG16843631, RELATED TO THE DECEMBER 2, 2016 TRAGIC FIRE AT THE PRIVATELY-OWNED WAREHOUSE COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE “GHOST SHIP,” AND THE CASES OF ELEVEN ADDITIONAL PLAINTIFFS WHO LIVED AT THAT LOCATION, FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THREE HUNDRED NINETY NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$399,000.00) TO ALL THESE PLAINTIFFS COMBINED**

President Kaplan and Members of the City Council:

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Charter, the City Attorney has prepared and requests the Council’s approval of a resolution authorizing the compromise and settlement of the case of Jose Alvos v. City of Oakland, et al., Alameda County Superior Court Case No. RG16843631, and related cases, all of which are brought by twelve Plaintiffs who lived at the “Ghost Ship,” in the total amount Three Hundred Ninety Nine Thousand Dollars (\$399,000.00) to all these Plaintiffs combined.

Plaintiffs’ lawsuits arise from the tragic fire on December 2, 2016 at a privately-owned warehouse that has been referred to as the “Ghost Ship.” Plaintiffs are twelve individuals who lived at that location and allege emotional distress and loss of personal property. The City previously entered settlement agreements with an individual who was severely injured in the tragic fire and the families of 32 of the 36 victims who did not survive the fire.

The City asserts, as the agreement provides, that it is not liable for these tragic losses. The City settled this case because of the cost-benefit analysis. The City’s total insurance coverage is \$22 million.

The Council unanimously authorized settlement of this case in Closed Session on Thursday, October 8, 2020 (moved by Councilmember Reid and seconded by Councilmember Taylor – 6 Ayes; 2 Absent; 0 Noes).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara J. Parker".

BARBARA J. PARKER  
City Attorney

Assigned Attorney:  
David Pereda

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