

CITY OF OAKLAND



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Office of the City Attorney Barbara J. Parker
City Attorney

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March 5, 2013

HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL Oakland, California

Subject: Delphine Allen et al v. City of Oakland, et al.

United States District Court No. C00-4599 TEH

Our File No: R20752

Re: Attorney Fees Proposed Settlement (PSA)

President Kernighan and Members of the Council:

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Charter, the City Attorney has prepared a resolution authorizing settlement of the attorneys' fees and costs arising out of the receivership proceedings in the above-captioned matter in the total amount of Six Hundred Eighty-One Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars and Forty Cents (\$681,628.40) made payable, in separate drafts, to Plaintiffs' counsel as follows: James B. Chanin, in the amount of Two Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand One Hundred Forty Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$285,140.20); Julie M. Houk, in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Three Dollars and No Cents (\$252,603.00); and John L. Burris, in the amount of One hundred Forty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$143,885.20).

This settlement amount was approved by the City Council at the Tuesday, February 5, 2013 closed session.

Allen, et al v. City of Oakland, et al, is a lawsuit that arose from alleged wrongdoings of a team of four Oakland Police Officers (known as the "Riders") during the late nineteen nineties and early 2000. The City settled the damages portion of the case for approximately \$11,000,000.00 in 2003. The City paid \$2.1 million out of pocket and the balance was covered by insurance. Resolution of the injunctive relief portion of the case was subject to the City's implementation of reforms agreed to by the City and plaintiffs' attorneys. In January 2012, the Court ordered that the parties file written briefs as to whether a receivership should be imposed on the Oakland Police Department in order to ensure compliance. The court scheduled a December 2012, hearing on the receivership issues.

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On December 5, 2012, the parties jointly submitted a proposed order to the Court to resolve the issues in the receiver motion and the City's opposition papers. The Court subsequently issued a December 12, 2012 order that provided for appointment of a Compliance Director by the Court to assist the City with completing the reforms, specified the powers and duties of the Compliance Director and a procedure to address disputes, and provided for the award of attorneys' fees to plaintiffs for preparing the receivership motion.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARÁ J. PARKER

City Attorney

Attorney Assigned: Randolph Hall

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MEETING OF THE OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Office of the City Attorney

OFFICE OF THE CIT + GLERA

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution NoC.M.S.	

RWH: ssl

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO SETTLE ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS ARISING OUT OF THE RECEIVERSHIP PROCEEDINGS IN THE CASE OF DELPHINE ALLEN ET AL. V. CITY OF OAKLAND, ET AL., UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CASE NO. C00-4599-TEH, CITY ATTORNEY'S FILE NO: R20752, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT DOLLARS AND FORTY CENTS (\$681,628.40) MADE PAYABLE, IN SEPARATE DRAFTS, TO PLAINTIFFS' COUNSEL AS FOLLOWS: JAMES B. CHANIN, IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FORTY DOLLARS AND TWENTY CENTS (\$285,140.20); JULIE M. HOUK, IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED THREE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$252,603.00); AND JOHN L. BURRIS, IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED FORTY-THREE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND TWENTY CENTS (\$143,885.20) (POLICE SERVICES AGENCY)

WHEREAS, federal law entitles the prevailing parties in litigation pursuant to 42 United States Code section 1983, to a reasonable award of attorney fees and costs, and

WHEREAS, the above captioned action, Delphine Allen, et al. v. City of Oakland, et al., United States District Court Case No. C00-4599-TEH, City Attorney's File No: R20752, is an action brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. section 1983 ("Allen, et al. v. City of Oakland, et al."), and

WHEREAS, during the Spring, Summer and Fail of 2012, John L. Burris, James B. Chanin and Julie M. Houk incurred attorney fees and expenses incident to preparing for the court ordered December 13, 2012 hearing in Allen, et al. v. City of Oakland, et al., to determine if the court should impose a receivership or some other form of court oversight over the City of Oakland in order to ensure full compliance with the Negotiated Settlement Agreement ("NSA") in this captioned action, and

WHEREAS, as a result of joint effort by City of Oakland and by John L. Burris, James B. Chanin and Julie M. Houk, agreement was reached that court oversight to achieve NSA compliance should be in the form of a Compliance Director, and

MEETING OF THE OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL WHEREAS, the court agreed with the parties' recommendation that a Compliance Director should be selected and appointed to direct compliance with NSA compliance, and

WHEREAS, the agreement that a Compliance Director should be appointed to oversee NSA compliance meant that John L. Burris, James B. Chanin and Julie M. Houk were prevailing parties statutorily entitled to an award of reasonable attorney fees and costs, and

WHEREAS, on or about January 8, 2013, John L. Burris, James B. Chanin and Julie M. Houk presented a demand for attorney fees and costs they incurred during preparation for the above referred to December 13, 2012 hearing, and

WHEREAS, City Attorney negotiations with John L. Burris, James B. Chanin and Julie M. Houk reduced the fees and costs demand to Six Hundred Eighty-One Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars and Forty Cents (\$681,628.40), and

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2013, the City Council approved, in closed session, settlement of the attorney fees and costs demands of John L. Burris, James B. Chanin and Julie M. Houk for the total amount of Six Hundred Eighty-One Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars and Forty Cents (\$681,628.40) and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City Attorney is authorized and directed to settle attorney fees and costs arising out of the receivership proceedings in the case of Delphine Allen et al. v. City of Oakland, et al., United States District Court Case No. C00-4599-TEH, City Attorney's File No. R20752, in the total amount of Six Hundred Eighty-One Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars and Forty Cents (\$681,628.40) made payable, in separate drafts, to Plaintiffs' counsel as follows:

James B. Chanin, in the amount of Two Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand One Hundred Forty Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$285,140.20); Julie M. Houk, in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Three Dollars and No Cents (\$252,603.00); and John L. Burris, in the amount of One hundred Forty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$143,885.20); and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Attorney is authorized and directed to settle attorney fees and costs arising out of the receivership proceedings in the case of Delphine Allen et al. v. City of Oakland, et al., United States District Court Case No. C00-4599-TEH, City Attorney's File No. R20752, in the total amount of Six Hundred Eighty-One Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars and Forty Cents (\$681,628.40) made payable, in separate drafts, to Plaintiffs' counsel as follows:

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FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Attorney is further authorized and directed to take whatever steps as may be necessary to implement this settlement.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING YOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, KALB, GALLO, KAPLAN, MCELHANEY GIBSON, **R**EID, SCHAAF and PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

LaTonda Sirnmu

City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the City of Oakland, California

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MEETING OF THE
OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL