

A RESOLUTION

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BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF ALL CLAIMS IN THE CASE OF *LAURA SKOP V. CITY OF ATLANTA, THOMAS PADGETT AND TIMOTHY BROWN*, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA, CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 1:05-CV-1754-BBM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$268,000.00; AUTHORIZING SAID PAYMENT TO BE CHARGED TO AND PAID FROM FUND 1A01 (GENERAL FUND), ACCOUNT 529017 (PROPERTY LIQUIDATION) AND CENTER NUMBER T31001 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL); AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO DISTRIBUTE THE SETTLEMENT AMOUNT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, *Laura Skop v. City of Atlanta, et al.* is a case in which Plaintiff Laura Skop sued the City of Atlanta and Atlanta police officers Thomas Padgett and Timothy Brown ("City Defendants") for violations of federal law concerning false arrest and malicious prosecution that allegedly occurred when she was arrested on July 10, 2003; and

WHEREAS, Plaintiff alleged that her arrest lacked probable cause and resulted in physical injury, humiliation, and irreparable damage to her professional reputation; and

WHEREAS, the City Attorney aggressively litigated this case for more than two years, including an appeal to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals on the issue of qualified immunity, and the case is now scheduled to be tried by a jury; and

WHEREAS, the City Attorney has carefully reviewed the facts and the law and determined that the City Defendants' potential financial exposure in defending Plaintiff's claims at trial is in excess of the settlement amount; and

WHEREAS, the settlement of the case shall not be deemed to be an admission of liability or wrongdoing on the part of the City Defendants or any other current or former employee or agent of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff is willing to settle all claims against the City Defendants for two hundred sixty-eight thousand dollars (\$268,000.00), an amount that includes all costs and attorneys' fees and a dismissal with prejudice as to all claims; and

WHEREAS, the City Attorney recommends this settlement because it is in the best interests of the City;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, as follows:

SECTION 1. That the City Attorney is hereby authorized to conclude the settlement of all claims of Laura Skop against the City of Atlanta, Thomas Padgett, and Timothy Brown, as set forth in Civil Action File No. 1:05-CV-1754-BBM, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, for the aggregate amount of two hundred sixty-eight thousand dollars (\$268,000.00), including execution of settlement documents; and

SECTION 2. That the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to pay to Laura Skop and her attorney William Atkins, the total sum of \$268,000.00, which shall be paid from **Fund 1AO1 (General Fund), Account 529017 (Property Liquidation) and Center Number T31001 (Non Departmental).**