



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#25-0404

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: April 15, 2025

TITLE: Motion Authorizing Settlement of General Liability Claim in *625 Fusion, LLC d/b/a Red Door Asian Bistro, et al. v. City of Fort Lauderdale and Robert Gonzalez*, Case No. CACE 19-cv-61308-RKA - \$150,000 - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve, as provided for by Sec. 2-151, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the settlement of the general liability claim in *625 Fusion, LLC d/b/a Red Door Asian Bistro, et al. v. City of Fort Lauderdale and Robert Gonzalez*, Case No. CACE 19-cv-61308-RKA, by paying the amount of \$150,000.

Background

This claim involves Civil Rights allegations filed by 625 Fusion, LLC, d/b/a Red Door Asian Bistro, against the City and a former employee, Robert Gonzalez, in his position as Chief Mechanical Inspector. Trial was scheduled to begin in March 2025 but was stayed pending settlement discussions.

Pursuant to Sec. 2-151, Code of Ordinances, the claim was reviewed, and a settlement was recommended by the City's Risk Management Committee on January 8, 2025. Further, the City Commission discussed the matter at an executive closed-door session on February 18, 2025.

Staff and defense counsel's evaluation of the potential financial exposure to the City determined that a settlement would provide the most cost-effective outcome. Through negotiations, a settlement was reached in the amount of \$150,000, subject to the approval of the City Commission.

Resource Impact

There will be a fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$150,000.

<i>Funds available as of March 21, 2025</i>			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME (Program)	CHARACTER/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
10-543-9050-519-50- 5113	Self-Insurance Claims	Non-Operating Expenses/General Liability Claims	\$150,000
TOTAL AMOUNT ►			\$150,000

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- Guiding Principles, Fiscal Responsibility

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are United*

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan*, specifically advancing:

- The Internal Support Focus Area
- Implementation Element
- Goal 1: The Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan shall accomplish the City's *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan* regarding the City's future growth and the six Cylinders of Excellence and shall be the City's primary policy document to guide all of its activities and development.

Prepared by: Matthew Cobb, Assistant Risk Manager, Human Resources

Department Director: Jerome Post, Human Resources