



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#26- 0245

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: March 19, 2026

TITLE: Motion Authorizing Settlement of General Liability Claim in *Paula Wren v. City of Fort Lauderdale*, Case No. CACE 25-004231 (03) – \$185,000 – **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve, as provided for by Section 2-151, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the settlement of the general liability claim in *Paula Wren v. City of Fort Lauderdale*, Case No. CACE 25-004231 (03), by paying the amount of \$185,000.

Background

Paula Wren filed litigation against the City on March 28, 2025, for injuries arising from a trip and fall incident on a broken sidewalk that occurred on July 24, 2024, near 80 SW 1 Avenue. She sustained injuries from the fall that required medical treatment, surgery, and rehabilitative therapy, all of which were incurred at significant expense.

Pursuant to Section 2-151 of the Code of Ordinances, the claim was reviewed, and a settlement was recommended by the City Commission during an executive closed-door session on December 16, 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 \$185,000, subject to the approval of the City Commission.

Resource Impact

If approved, there will be a fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$185,000 which is available in the City's self-insurance fund account listed on the following page.

<i>Funds available as of March 5, 2026</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME (Program)	CHARACTER/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-543-9050-519- 50-5113	Self-Insurance Claims	Non- Operating Expenses/ General Liability Claims	\$ 11,113,589	\$5,345,126.20	\$185,000
TOTAL AMOUNT ►					\$185,000

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 Vision Plan 2035 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: Laydy Payano, Claims Adjuster, Human Resources
Guy Hine, Risk Manager, Human Resources

Department Director: Jerome Post, Human Resources