



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 02/25/2025

REQUESTER: AshLynn Wilkerson, Assistant City Attorney

PRESENTER: AshLynn Wilkerson, Assistant City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE A SETTLEMENT OF TYIREE HYATT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000 TO RESOLVE HIS TORT CLAIM FILED SEPTEMBER 5, 2024.

BACKGROUND:

A claim was filed by Tyiree Hyatt, through his legal counsel James Biscone, for personal injury damages, for an initial demand of an amount in excess of \$75,000.00, resulting from an automobile accident with a City semi-truck at W State Highway 9 and 24th Ave. SW on the morning of June 28, 2024.

DISCUSSION:

City Attorney staff discussed the merits of this claim and potential settlement during an executive session held on January 28, 2025. The settlement offer is within the range discussed with Council in Executive Session.

Following Council approval of the settlement, a friendly suit will be initiated in the Cleveland County District Court so that the settlement may be reduced to a judgment to allow for it to be placed on the property tax rolls and paid over three years, as described in further detail below.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is believed that the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable and in the best interests of the City. It is recommended the settlement of this matter be approved by City Council and that this office be directed to reduce the settlement amount to judgment in accordance with 51 O.S. §159, and 62 O.S. §362. The settlement amount will then be placed on the property tax rolls for collection over the next three years. Under this process, one-third of the judgment amount plus interest at the statutory rate on the unpaid balance is collected through property tax roll assessments over that time period. This statutorily allowed procedure for payment of judgments against a municipality will minimize the impact of the settlement on City funds.