



Kenneth W. Jenkins
County Executive

Office of the County Attorney

John M. Nonna
County Attorney

January 29, 2026

Westchester County Board of Legislators
County of Westchester
800 Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue, Room 600
White Plains, New York, 10601

Re: Request for Authorization to Settle the Lawsuit, Melanie Gabari v. The County of Westchester, Jeffrey Munson, George Munson, and Carol Munson, Index No. 64752/2019, Supreme Court, Westchester County, in the amount of \$750,000.00, inclusive of attorney's fees.

Dear Honorable Members of the Board:

Attached for your consideration is an Act, which if enacted by your Board, would authorize settlement of the lawsuit of Melanie Gabari v. County of Westchester, Jeffrey Munson, George Munson and Carol Munson, in Supreme Court Westchester County, Index No. 64752/2019, in the amount of \$750,000.00, inclusive of attorney's fees.

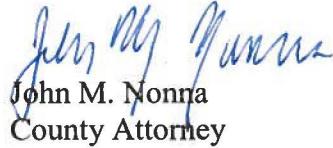
This case is brought pursuant to the Child Victim's Act ("CVA"), a revival law. The legislation was enacted in 2019 and allowed for victims of childhood sexual abuse to file lawsuits despite expired statutes of limitations. The facts indicate that the County's Department of Social Services ("DSS") placed the plaintiff in a foster home due to her birth mother's mental issues. Plaintiff alleges that during her placement with foster parents George and Carol Munson, she was sexually abused by foster mother Carol Munson and subsequently by their son, Jeffrey Munson. Plaintiff contends that she resided in the home during the years 1981-1990, and that while she was between the ages of 11 and 14, she was "repeatedly physically and sexually abused by Jeffrey and Carol Munson, her foster brother and foster mother. She also contends that foster father George Munson was aware of these occurrences, but did nothing to stop them. During the time period of the abuse, she alleges that she made repeated complaints of abuse to her DSS caseworker, who she claims took no action to investigate, mitigate, and/or stop the abuse. She alleges that the both the physical and sexual abuse began occurring shortly after she arrived at the Munson home in 1981, when she would have been just five years old. She subsequently ran away from the Munson home. As part of her damages, plaintiff contends that she suffered in her marital relationship leading to divorce, has difficulty in any personal relationships, endured pain and suffering for many years through the sexual abuse, and otherwise has had to seek psychiatric help to counteract issues relating to anxiety and depression.

As a result of her allegations, plaintiff claims that the County had actual notice of her abuse and did nothing. Had this matter proceeded to a trial, plaintiff had intended to call a liability expert, damages expert, and the County's now retired DSS caseworker who was allegedly notified about the abuse. The County's defense would rest upon the crucial question of notice. Though plaintiff's caseworker would testify that plaintiff never told her about being abused, the jury could find that plaintiff's recollection was credible, that she in fact told the DSS caseworker about the abuse, but that the caseworker was not entirely telling the truth in making her denial as to notice of the abuse.

The settlement takes into consideration the uncertainty of litigation and the potential costs of trial, the exposure to a substantial jury verdict, subsequent proceedings and a potential appeal. Co-defendants have agreed to contribute \$150,000.00 as part of the settlement, with the total settlement actually being \$900,000.00. The County is also expected to receive approximately \$70,000.00 from Liberty Insurance Company through the applicable insurance policy covering the time period of plaintiff's alleged abuse.

Plaintiff is represented by the law firm of Weitz & Luxembourg, 700 Broadway, New York, New York, 10003 Co-defendants' are represented by the law firm of Meagher & Meagher, 111 Church Street, White Plains, New York 10601.

Very Truly Yours,


John M. Nonna
County Attorney

TAL/tal

BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Your Committee is in receipt of a proposed Act, which if enacted by Your Board, would authorize the settlement of the lawsuit, Melanie Gabari v. County of Westchester, Jeffrey Munson, George Munson and Carol Munson, in the amount of \$750,000.00, inclusive of attorney's fees.

This matter is pending in the Westchester County Supreme Court, before the Honorable Doris M. Gonzalez. The lawsuit tentatively settled, pending this Board's approval, for a total amount of \$750,000.00, inclusive of attorney's fees.

Ilana Wolk and Nicholas Wise Esqs., Weitz & Luxenberg, PC, 700 Broadway, New York N.Y. 10003, is representing the plaintiff, Melanie Gabari.

This matter arises in the context of the Child Victim's Act ("CVA"), a revival law. The legislation was enacted in 2019 and allowed for victims of childhood sexual abuse to file lawsuits despite expired statutes of limitations. In this case, plaintiff alleges that she was abused at her foster home of George and Carol Munson, by foster parent Carol Munson and foster brother Jeffrey Munson, with knowledge of the abuse by foster parent George Munson that the sexual abuse was occurring. During the time period of the abuse, plaintiff alleges that she made repeated complaints of abuse to her Department of Social Service ("DSS") caseworker, who she claims allegedly took no action to investigate, mitigate, and/or stop the abuse. She alleges that the both the physical and sexual abuse began occurring shortly after she arrived at the Munson home in 1981, when she would have been just five years old. As part of her damages, plaintiff contends that she suffered permanent psychological and emotional damages, that the abuse affected her marital relationship leading to divorce, that she has difficulty in any personal relationships, she endured pain and suffering for many years through the period of the sexual abuse, and otherwise has had to seek psychiatric help to counteract issues relating to anxiety and depression.

The settlement takes into consideration the uncertainty of litigation and the potential costs of trial, the exposure to a substantial jury verdict, subsequent proceedings and a potential appeal. The accompanying Act will authorize settlement of the lawsuit titled, Melanie Gabari v. County of Westchester, Jeffrey Munson, George Munson and Carol Munson, in Supreme Court Westchester County, Index No. 64752/2019, in the amount of \$750,000.00, inclusive of attorney's fees.

Your Committee has carefully considered the subject matter, the settlement proposal, the attached Act and recommends authorizing the County Attorney or his designee to settle the lawsuit, titled, Melanie Gabari v. County of Westchester, Jeffrey Munson, George Munson and Carol Munson, in the amount of \$750,000.00, inclusive of attorney's fees. An affirmative vote of a majority of the Board is required to pass this legislation.

Dated: White Plains, New York

, 2026

COMMITTEE ON

ACT NO. -2026

AN ACT authorizing the County Attorney to settle the lawsuit of Melanie Gabari v. The County of Westchester, Jeffrey Munson, George Munson, and Carol Munson, Westchester County Supreme Court Index No. 64752/2019, in the amount of \$750,000.00, inclusive of attorney's fees

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester as follows:

Section 1. The County Attorney is authorized to settle the lawsuit of Melanie Gabari v. The County of Westchester, Jeffrey Munson, George Munson, and Carol Munson, Westchester County Supreme Court Index No. 64752/2019, in the amount of \$750,000.00, inclusive of attorney's fees.

Section 2. The County Attorney or his designee is hereby authorized and empowered to execute and deliver all documents and take such actions as the County Attorney deems necessary or desirable to accomplish the purpose of this Act.

Section 3. This Act shall take effect immediately.

1 SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.
2 COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER: PART DG

2 -----x
3 MELANIE GABARI

4 -against-
5

Index No.

64752/2019

6 WESTCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT
7 OF SOCIAL SERVICES, ET AL,

8 Defendant.
9 -----x

10 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
11 White Plains, New York 10601
12 December 2, 2025

13 B E F O R E: HONORABLE DORIS GONZALEZ,
14 SUPREME COURT JUDGE

15 A P P E A R A N C E S:

16 WEITZ & LUXENBERG, PC
17 Attorneys For the Plaintiff
18 700 Broadway
19 New York, NY 10003
20 BY: ILANA WOLK AND NICHOLAS WISE, ESQ.

21 BLEAKLEY PLATT & SCHMIDT
22 Attorneys for the Defendant
23 One N Lexington Ave
24 White Plains, NY 10601
25 BY: WILLIAM HARRINGTON AND DAVID H. CHEN, ESQ.

MEAGHER & MEAGHER, PC
Attorneys For Defendants
111 Church Street
White Plains, NY 10601
BY: CHRISTOPHER MEAGHER AND CEILIDH MEAGHER, ESQ.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY LAW DEPARTMENT
Room 600, 148 Martine Ave
White Plains, NY 10601
BY: JOHN M. NONNA, ESQ.

Erica Mercorella
Senior Court Reporter

PROCEEDINGS

1 THE CLERK: This is index number, 64752 of 2019.

2 Melanie Gabari verses the County of Westchester.

3 THE COURT: Please note your appearances, please.

4 Slowly.

5 MS. WOLK: Good afternoon, your Honor. Ilana
6 Wolk, with Weitz and Luxenberg, 700 Broadway, New York, New
7 York. I represent the plaintiff, Melanie Gabari.

8 MR. WISE: Also for plaintiff, Melanie Gabari,
9 Nicholas Wise, Weitz and Luxenberg, 700 Broadway, New York,
10 New York 10003.

11 MR. HARRINGTON: William Harrington, Bleakly,
12 Platt and Schmidt, 1 North Lexington Avenue, White Plains,
13 New York, 10601 on behalf of the County of Westchester.

14 MR. CHEN: Good afternoon, your Honor. David Chen
15 from the Office of Bleakly, Platt and Schmidt, County of
16 Westchester.

17 MR. NONNA: Good afternoon, your Honor. John
18 Nonna, County Attorney for the Westchester County Law
19 Department, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, 10601.

20 MS. MEAGHER: Good afternoon, your Honor. Ceilidh
21 Meagher with the Law Office of Meagher and Meagher, PC.
22 111 Church Street, White Plains, New York, 10601, for
23 defendant Munsons.

24 MR. MEAGHER: Thank you, your Honor. Christopher
25 Meagher with Meagher and Meagher, PC on behalf of Carol

PROCEEDINGS

1 Munson, the Estate of George Munson and Jeffery Munson.

2 THE COURT: Okay. So are we happy to report a
3 settlement?

4 MR. WISE: We are, and this was -- and before we
5 get started, I want to thank the Court on behalf of all of
6 the parties, for the many hours you put in and your staff
7 put in over the last two days.

8 THE COURT: I appreciate that.

9 MR. WISE: We would not have reached this without
10 the Court's assistance and without the staff.

11 THE COURT: Thank you.

12 MR. WISE: So we have reached a settlement, the
13 terms of which are as follows:

14 There is a settlement with the County of
15 Westchester for 750,000 dollars to settle all claims. The
16 County of Westchester has advised that they got approval
17 from the County Board of Legislature and for funding, there
18 is a settlement with Jeff Munson, the Estate of George
19 Munson and Carol Munson. That settlement there is a
20 condition precedent that the settlement with the County of
21 Westchester first has to be approved. The terms of the
22 settlement with the Munson defendants are as follows:

23 There will be 100,000 dollars paid within 90 days.
24 There will be an additional 50,000 dollars paid to a
25 charity of the plaintiff of Melanie Gabari's choosing.

PROCEEDINGS

1 Said charity will be associated with victims of child
2 abuse. That charity will be a 501(c)(3) charity. Releases
3 for the Munsons will be held in escrow by Weitz and
4 Luxenberg, PC.

5 The payment to the charity will not come or be
6 made by whomever until the Law Office of Meagher and
7 Meagher and the entire 150,000 dollars in their escrow
8 account. The settlement with the county is subject to the
9 approval of the County Board of Legislatures, and with
10 respect to all defendants, this is in full satisfaction of
11 all claims by the plaintiff, all sexual abuse claims by the
12 plaintiff from 1981 through 1990.

13 THE COURT: Is there anything with respect to
14 county and art programs?

15 MR. WISE: There is. I have spoken both with
16 counsel for the county as well as the County Attorney.
17 It's a little complex, but we have a handshake and I have
18 little doubt that it's not going to be done.

19 MR. NONNA: Agreed.

20 THE COURT: Anything else that you would like to
21 add?

22 MR. HARRINGTON: Yes, just one thing, your Honor.
23 To echo the County, thanks for your patience and your hard
24 work and your staff. It's very much appreciated and we
25 understand the difficulty of managing this docket and few

PROCEEDINGS

1 judges can do it, and you are doing it particularly well
2 and we appreciate your time and all of the advice you given
3 us over the last two days.

4 THE COURT: Thank you.

5 MR. MEAGHER: The same gratitude from the Munson
6 defendants to the Court, and all part personnel who had
7 been courteous and patient over the last couple of days.

8 THE COURT: I appreciate that guys, but it's my
9 job. So --

10 MR. MEAGHER: You do it particularly well.

11 MR. NONNA: Let me thank you for doing your job.
12 I agree, we should not go with names if we don't have to,
13 they charge extra money for administrating the mediation
14 when you can have judges that don't charge more.

15 THE COURT: Exactly. And what did you -- what was
16 the demand when you left, 3.5 million? Did it move at all
17 or anything? Wait a minute, did you have to go into the
18 city for that?

19 MR. NONNA: It was virtual.

20 THE COURT: I appreciate that everyone, but it is
21 part of my job. But it's the inventory also that we have
22 to understand deserves that much time with all of the
23 nuances that we haven't been provided with, that we have to
24 work with. But on another note, I have started this
25 stipulation which says you withdraw all motions in limine

PROCEEDINGS

1 from 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Please sign it off.

2 I have a question, why by notice of motion?

3 They're supposed to be done by order to show cause.

4 MR. HARRINGTON: Your Honor, the advice that you
5 provided, some judges want one way, some want it another.

6 THE COURT: That is cause some people don't know
7 how to do trial, you know when trial work is involved, it's
8 all by order to show cause with quick turn over.

9 MR. HARRINGTON: I understand all of those things,
10 your Honor. Thank you.

11 THE COURT: I kept seeing them come in with days
12 of notice of motion, which means there is a long period of
13 time to answer, respond to 60 day decisions. Order to show
14 cause, is an urgency to it, and I also can decline to sign
15 those too, before -- what date do you want for follow-up or
16 control date? Control date, January, the last week of
17 January, January 30th?

18 MR. HARRINGTON: That would be great.

19 MR. WISE: That would be great.

20 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

21 MR. WISE: At 9:30. January 30th or --

22 THE COURT: No appearances really needed but if
23 there are any issues, usually after my foreclosure
24 calendar, so 10:30 to 11:00, my CVA calendar is always on
25 Wednesday.

PROCEEDINGS

1 Now, what I can't wait to do is to send the e-mail
2 that I settled it without adjourning it. Have a good day
3 everybody. Appreciate your time of coming and spending the
4 day. Very much appreciating it.

5 *****

6 This is certified to be a true and accurate
7 transcript of the stenographic notes.

8

9

10

11

Erica Mancarella

12

ERICA MERCORELLA

13

Official Court Reporter

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: Lawsuit Settlement:Gabari, Melanie NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

SECTION A - FUND

GENERAL FUND AIRPORT FUND SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

SECTION B - EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Expense \$ 750,000

Total Current Year Revenue \$ -

Source of Funds (check one): Current Appropriations Transfer of Existing Appropriations
 Additional Appropriations Other (explain)

Identify Accounts: 6N Fund: 615 59 0520 1150 4280 04

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual Amount N/A

Describe: Public Official Liability Settlement of Gabari, Melanie G870281- (CVA Claim)

Potential Related Operating Budget Revenues: Annual Amount N/A

Describe: _____

Anticipated Savings to County and/or Impact on Department Operations:

Current Year: N/A

Next Four Years: N/A

Prepared by: Taryn A. Chapman-Langrin

Title: Deputy County Attorney

Department: Law

Date: January 15, 2026

Reviewed By:

MML

Budget Director

Date:

1/28/26