

## ACT 8 - 2026

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 of SYREETA L. JEFFERSON v. WESTCHESTER COUNTY; ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK; ST. CABRINI HOME; MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS; REDEMPTORISTS OF THE BALTIMORE PROVINCE a/k/a THE REDEMPTORISTS; and DOES 1-10, 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.

Jenny Rossman, Esq. of Herman Law, 475 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10017, is representing the plaintiff, Syreeta L. Jefferson.

This matter arises in the context of The Child Victim's Act ( the "CVA"). 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, the plaintiff was placed in the foster home of Bessie Peterson from 1984, when she was about eight years old, and remained there until approximately 1988. She alleges that beginning that first year and continuing for about three years, she was sexually abused by Ms. Peterson's boyfriend. Plaintiff alleges that Ms. Peterson would put a lock on the refrigerator so Plaintiff could not eat and that the boyfriend would use food to bribe Plaintiff

into doing sexual acts. Plaintiff alleges that he forced her to perform oral sex on him and have intercourse. Plaintiff alleges that this ongoing abuse resulted in permanent psychological and emotional damages.

Plaintiff claims that the County had actual notice of the sexual abuse she was suffering because she told her assigned Westchester County caseworker, Ms. Rosario, about the abuse. Plaintiff also alleges that she would run away from the Peterson home and go to the Department of Social Services Yonkers office and tell workers in the office about the abuse. She alleges that someone would always drive her back to the Peterson home. The Department of Social Services denies that they had knowledge of the abuse and denies that they were told about 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 potential appeal. The accompanying Act will authorize settlement of the lawsuit entitled of SYREETA L. JEFFERSON v. WESTCHESTER COUNTY; ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK; ST. CABRINI HOME; MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS; REDEMPTORISTS OF THE BALTIMORE PROVINCE a/k/a THE REDEMPTORISTS; and DOES 1-10, 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 entitled SYREETA L. JEFFERSON v. WESTCHESTER COUNTY; ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK; ST. CABRINI HOME; MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS; REDEMPTORISTS OF THE BALTIMORE PROVINCE a/k/a THE REDEMPTORISTS; and

DOES 1-10, 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  
February 9th, 2026

*To Do*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
Anant Narain  
Russell Williams John F

*Colin O'Neil*  
*[Signature]*  
Anant Narain  
Russell Williams John F

Budget & Appropriations

Litigation

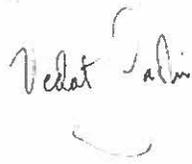
COMMITTEE ON

Dated: February 9, 2026

White Plains, New York

*The following members attended the meeting remotely and approved this item out of Committee with an affirmative vote. Their electronic signature was authorized and is below.*

**Budget & Appropriations**

Handwritten signature of Vedat Galin in cursive script.

**Litigation**

Handwritten signature of Vedat Galin in cursive script.

ACT NO. 8 -2026

AN ACT authorizing the County Attorney to settle the lawsuit of SYREETA L. JEFFERSON v. WESTCHESTER COUNTY; ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK; ST. CABRINI HOME; MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS; REDEMPTORISTS OF THE BALTIMORE PROVINCE a/k/a THE REDEMPTORISTS; and DOES 1-10, in Supreme Court Westchester County, Index No. 58713/2021, 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 SYREETA L. JEFFERSON v. WESTCHESTER COUNTY; ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK; ST. CABRINI HOME; MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS; REDEMPTORISTS OF THE BALTIMORE PROVINCE a/k/a THE REDEMPTORISTS; and DOES 1-10, in Supreme Court Westchester County, Index No. 58713/2021, 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.

# FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: Lawsuit Settlement: S.L.J G860202  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 0510 1050 4280 04

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual Amount N/A

Describe: Public Official Liability Settlement of Jefferson(S.L.J) G860202 (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

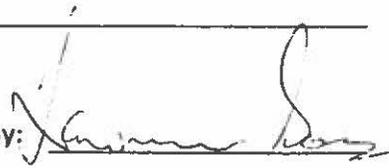
Next Four Years: N/A

Prepared by: Christine M. Feimer

Title: Senior Assistant County Attorney

Department: Law

Date: January 20, 2026

Reviewed By:   
Budget Director

Date: 1/21/26

STATE OF NEW YORK            )  
  )    ss.  
WESTCHESTER COUNTY        )

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have compared the foregoing Act, Act No. 8 - 2026, with the original on file in my office, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole, of the said original Act, which was duly adopted by the County Board of Legislators, of the County of Westchester on February 9, 2026, and approved by the County Executive on February 10, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Corporate Seal of said County Board of Legislators on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.



Malika Vanderberg

The Clerk of the Westchester County  
Board of Legislators

County of Westchester, New York

