



Kenneth W. Jenkins
County Executive

Office of the County Attorney

John M. Nonna
County Attorney

August 19, 2025

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

Re: Request for authorization to settle the lawsuit of GCVA WCH-DOE v. WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER, WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH CARE CORPORATION & WESTCHESTER COUNTY, in Supreme Court Westchester County, Index No. 59280/2021, in the amount of \$875,000.00, 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 the settlement of the lawsuit of GCVA WCH-DOE v. WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER, WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH CARE CORPORATION & WESTCHESTER COUNTY, in Supreme Court Westchester County, Index No. 59280/2021, in the amount of \$875,000.00, 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 \$875,000.00 inclusive of attorney's fees.

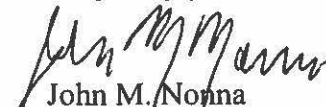
Lucas B. Franken, Esq. of Pfau Cochran Veretis Amala, 120 Broadway, Floor 26 New York, New York 10271, is representing the plaintiff, John Doe.

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 alleges he was abused during a private exam in 1995, when he was about 15 years old, by Doctor Steven Tames, MD ("Dr. Tames") who was allegedly employed by Westchester Medical Center. At the time, Westchester Medical Center was owned and operated by the County. Plaintiff alleges Dr. Tames ordered the plaintiff to masturbate and ejaculate in the exam room, which resulted in permanent psychological and emotional damages.

Plaintiff claims that prior to the 1995 abuse in question, the County had actual and constructive notice of Dr. Tames' tendencies to sexually abuse children under the guise of medical treatment, and the County was negligent in failing to supervise and continuing to employ Dr. Tames, which allowed him to sexually abuse the plaintiff. The County has denied these allegations.

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 GCVA WCH-DOE v. WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER, WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH CARE CORPORATION & WESTCHESTER COUNTY, in the amount of \$875,000.00 inclusive of attorney's fees.

Very truly yours,



John M. Nonna
County Attorney

JMN/mjc

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 GCVA WCH-DOE v. WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER, WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH CARE CORPORATION & WESTCHESTER COUNTY, in the amount of \$875,000.00, 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 \$875,000.00 inclusive of attorney's fees.

Lucas B. Franken, Esq. of Pfau Cochran Veretis Amala, 120 Broadway, Floor 26 New York, New York 10271, is representing the plaintiff, John Doe.

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 alleges he was abused during a private exam in 1995, when he was about 15 years old, by Doctor Steven Tames, MD ("Dr. Tames") who was allegedly employed by Westchester Medical Center. At the time, Westchester Medical Center was owned and operated by the County. Plaintiff alleges Dr. Tames ordered the plaintiff to masturbate and ejaculate in the exam room, which resulted in permanent psychological and emotional damages.

Plaintiff claims that prior to the 1995 abuse in question, the County had actual and constructive notice of Dr. Tames' tendencies to sexually abuse children under the guise of medical treatment, and the County was negligent in failing to supervise and continuing to employ Dr. Tames, which allowed him to sexually abuse the plaintiff. The County has denied these allegations.

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 GCVA WCH-DOE v. WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER, WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH CARE CORPORATION & WESTCHESTER COUNTY, in the amount of \$875,000.00 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 GCVA WCH-DOE v. WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER, WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH CARE CORPORATION & WESTCHESTER COUNTY, in the amount of \$875,000.00 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

, 2025

COMMITTEE ON

ACT NO. -2025

AN ACT authorizing the County Attorney to settle the lawsuit of GCVA WCH-DOE v. WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER, WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH CARE CORPORATION & WESTCHESTER COUNTY, in Supreme Court Westchester County, Index No. 59280/2021, in the amount of \$875,000.00, 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 GCVA WCH-DOE v. WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER, WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH CARE CORPORATION & WESTCHESTER COUNTY, in Supreme Court Westchester County, Index No. 59280/2021, in the amount of \$875,000.00, 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:GCVA-G950380

☐ 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 \$ 875,000

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 0600 1950 4280 04

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual Amount N/A

Describe: Settlement of GCVA WCH-DOE G950380

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: August 18, 2025

Reviewed By: PH

Budget Director

Date: 8/02/25