

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 Laura Neville, As Administrator of the Estate of Bryce Neville v The County of Westchester and William Johnson, in the amount of \$250,000.00, inclusive of attorney's fees.

This matter is pending in the Westchester County Supreme Court before the Honorable Joan B. Lefkowitz. The lawsuit tentatively settled, pending this Board's approval and approval by the Westchester County Surrogate's Court for a total amount of \$250,000.00. inclusive of attorney's fees.

Michael Sussman, Esq. of Sussman & Associates, 1 Railroad Avenue, Goshen New York 10924, is representing the plaintiff, Laura Neville.

This matter arises out of an altercation that took place on January 30, 2020 at the Westchester County Department of Correction. The plaintiff's decedent, Bryce Neville ("Neville") and Co-defendant, William Johnson, ("Johnson") were housed in the Youth Offenders Program ("YOP") in the New Jail. Johnson entered the program in July 2019 and Neville entered the program on January 24, 2020. On January 30, 2020 at approximately 6:36 p.m. Johnson struck Neville with a single punch to the head, causing Neville to fall to the ground

and strike his head. A second inmate was standing nearby with the apparent task of distracting Neville so that he didn't see the punch before it landed. Neville was transported to the Westchester County Medical Center where he was treated for his injuries and later died on February 3, 2020. The cause of death was determined to be blunt force trauma to the head and the manner of death was determined to be homicide.

Plaintiff claims that the County should have known that Johnson posed a risk of harm to Neville as well as other members of the YOP and that the County was negligent in failing to protect Neville. Finally, Plaintiff claims that it was the County's negligence that was the proximate cause of the plaintiffs' injuries and death. 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 Laura Neville, As Administrator of the Estate of Bryce Neville v The County of Westchester and William Johnson, in the amount of \$250,000.00 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 Laura Neville, As Administrator of the Estate of Bryce Neville v The County of

Westchester and William Johnson, in the amount of \$250,000.00, 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

June 2, 2025

James J. Zellerbach
William Johnson
John J. Zellerbach
John J. Zellerbach
John J. Zellerbach
John J. Zellerbach
John J. Zellerbach
John J. Zellerbach

James J. Zellerbach
John J. Zellerbach
John J. Zellerbach

COMMITTEE ON

Law & Major Contracts

Budget & Appropriations

Dated: June 2, 2025
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.

Emiliana May

COMMITTEE ON

Law & Major Contracts

ACT NO. -2025

AN ACT authorizing the County Attorney to settle the lawsuit of Laura Neville, As Administrator of the Estate of Bryce Neville The County of Westchester and William Johnson, Westchester County Supreme Court Index No. 64253/2020, in the amount of \$250,000.00, 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 Laura Neville, As Administrator of the Estate of Bryce Neville v The County of Westchester and William Johnson, in the amount of \$250,000.00, 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: Neville, Bryce

☐ 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 \$ 250,000

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 0700 4450 4280 04

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual Amount N/A

Describe: Settlement of the Law suit of Laura Neville As Admin of the Estate
of Bryce Neville G200019

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: Jane Hogan-Felix

Title: Assistant Chief Deputy County Attorney

Department: Law

Date: April 21, 2025

Reviewed By: *Christine Payant*

Deputy Budget Director

Date: 4/22/25