



Pinellas County

315 Court Street, 5th Floor
Assembly Room
Clearwater, Florida 33756

Staff Report

File #: 25-0072A

Agenda Date: 02/11/2025

Subject:

Proposed settlement in the case of Wrenn Smotherman v. Pinellas County; Workers' Compensation Case No. 21-012773RLY.

Recommended Action:

Approval of the final settlement in the amount of \$335,000.00, in the case of Wrenn Smotherman v. Pinellas County.

Strategic Plan:

N/A

Summary:

This is a settlement of a workers' compensation claim based on injuries sustained during the course and scope of employment on March 9, 2021. The Claimant's injuries were previously deemed compensable. The Claimant is seeking permanent total disability, or, in the alternative, temporary total/partial disability. Should the Claimant prevail in this case, the County anticipates being ordered to pay him between approximately \$79,000.00 and \$1.5 million, in addition to significant attorney's fees and costs. Additionally, because of the nature of the injuries, the County will be responsible for the costs of future medical treatment and potential home modifications. The cost of future medical treatment is anticipated to be \$100,000.00.

Claimant has agreed to settle for \$335,000.00, inclusive of attorney's fees and costs. If settlement is approved, the County will not be liable to the Claimant for any additional workers' compensation benefits.

Approval of the settlement is recommended by Davies, Risk Management, and the County Attorney's Office, and has additionally been reviewed and recommended by the County's outside counsel.

Background Information:

N/A

Fiscal Impact:

The amount to be paid is no more than \$335,000.00.

Staff Member Responsible:

Jewel White, County Attorney

Christy Donovan Pemberton, Managing Assistant County Attorney

Jeffrey Klein, Assistant County Attorney

Keith Bentley, Division Director, Risk Management

Partners:

N/A

Attachments:

N/A

PCAO 500169



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