



Huntsville, Alabama

305 Fountain Circle
Huntsville, AL 35801

Cover Memo

Meeting Type: City Council Regular Meeting **Meeting Date:** 12/18/2025

File ID: TMP-6353

Department: Legal

Subject:

Type of Action: Approval/Action

Resolution authorizing the City Attorney to settle the workers' compensation claim of Centrale Harris.

Resolution No.

Finance Information:

Account Number: 1000-19-00000-515190-0000000

City Cost Amount: \$6,500.00

Total Cost: \$6,500.00

Special Circumstances:

Grant Funded: N/A

Grant Title - CFDA or granting Agency: N/A

Resolution #: N/A

Location: (list below)

Address:

District: District 1 ☐ District 2 ☐ District 3 ☐ District 4 ☐ District 5 ☐

Additional Comments:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-____

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, that the City Attorney is hereby authorized, directed, and requested to settle the workers' compensation claim of Centrale Harris for the total sum of \$6,500.00.

ADOPTED this the 18th day of October 2025.

President of the City Council of
the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 18th day of October 2025.

Mayor of the City of
Huntsville, Alabama

MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

TO: Honorable David Little
Honorable Jennie Robinson
Honorable Bill Kling
Honorable Michelle Watkins
Honorable John Meredith



FROM: Trey Riley-City Attorney

DATE: December 4, 2025

RE: Workers' Compensation Claim of Centrale Harris, \$6,500.00.

THIS IS A PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ATTORNEY AND CLIENT. DISCLOSURE OF THIS COMMUNICATION OR ITS CONTENT CAN RESULT IN THE LOSS OF THE PRIVILEGE OF CONFIDENTIALITY. IF DISCLOSED, THE MATTERS STATED HEREIN COULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE INTERESTS OF THE MUNICIPALITY.

DATE OF EVENT/INJURY/ACCIDENT: February 14th, 2024

CLAIM NUMBER: Workers' Compensation Case

CLAIMANT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL? :

Yes, Channing Bradshaw with Wettermark-Keith. This is a workers compensation claim, resolved by agreement.

AMOUNT OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT: \$6,500.00

LOCATION OF EVENT: On the job/work related.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS/ACCIDENT/FACTS: The insured worker was stepping off a truck and fell, causing him to roll over and injure his left leg.

INITIAL MEDICAL COMPLAINT:

His initial diagnosis was a sprain of the left leg due to a fall.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MEDICAL TREATMENT:

Follow-up treatment and diagnosis revealed a left proximal hamstring tear. He was released at MMI on or about 1/14/25. He was given an impairment rating of 0% to the body.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION (AMOUNT OF) OF MEDICAL EXPENSES:

1. Medical bills/expenses incurred due to treatment from all providers for injuries sustained in this accident total: **\$6,395.81.**

CLAIM/LITIGATION HISTORY:

THE CLAIM WAS TIMELY FILED.

MONETARY EVALUATION:

A DETAILED EVALUATION IS OMITTED HERE as this is a workers' compensation case, and the injuries and compensation generally are scheduled. Mr. Harris was offered the amount of \$6,500.00 to resolve his WC claim, along with closing all future medicals.

RECOMMENDATION:

AN AGREED UPON SETTLEMENT AMOUNT OF \$6,500.00 TO RESOLVE ALL CLAIMS AGAINST THE EMPLOYER/CITY OF HUNTSVILLE WAS REACHED THROUGH INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE ATTORNEYS FOR THE PARTIES.

The amount of the settlement is well within reasonable limits and likely a much better result than would be rendered in a jury verdict.

I recommend the approval of the settlement of this property claim for the total amount of \$6,500.00, which will resolve all claims against the City of Huntsville.

Under Alabama's Workers' Compensation Laws, Mr. Harris is entitled to compensation based upon his physical impairment and potential future vocational loss. Informal Settlement negotiations took place once Mr. Harris was released from all treatment, and the parties agreed to settle all workers' compensation claims, with future medical benefits to close, for a lump sum payment of \$6,500.00. This settlement is contingent upon approval by the City Council and the court or Ombudsmen. The settlement amount is considerably less than would be expected if this matter was tried in Circuit Court and is a fair and reasonable settlement.

Based upon the foregoing, I recommend approval of the settlement of this workers' compensation case for the lump sum payment of \$6,500.00.

____ I RECOMMEND THE SETTLEMENT OF THIS CASE AS STATED HEREIN.

____ I RECOMMEND AGAINST THE SETTLEMENT OF THIS CASE.

Your signature on this confidential memorandum is not to be construed as formal approval or denial of the settlement offer, but only as a guide to this office in determining the appropriate course of action.

TR-

cc: Tommy Battle, Mayor