

this time about a fire that had occurred days before that resulted in the death of Ms. Parker's daughter. Ms. Parker claimed that her daughter had intentionally set herself on fire. The NFD investigator felt that Ms. Parker's description of the fire and her daughter's actions did not match the evidence at the scene. The investigator concluded that the fire was intentionally set and Ms. Parker's daughter was deceased before the fire was set. The investigator further concluded that Ms. Parker set the fire.

The NFD investigator worked closely with an assistant district attorney who specializes in arson cases. The assistant district attorney set the case before a grand jury and the grand jury returned an indictment for Ms. Parker. Ms. Parker was arrested in October 2021. The case against Ms. Parker was voluntarily dismissed on December 7, 2022. Ms. Parker has brought suit against the NFD investigator and assistant district attorney for malicious prosecution.

The parties have participated in settlement negotiations and have agreed upon the settlement amount of \$175,000, subject to approval from the Metropolitan Council. Though the Department of Law asserts a strong defense to liability, it recommends settlement of this claim to mitigate the cost and risk of an adverse result at trial. Regardless of the outcome of a trial, the Metropolitan Government would be responsible for outside counsel to represent the NFD investigator involved. The Metropolitan Government also would be responsible for attorneys' fees for Ms. Parker if she were to prevail at trial. It is estimated that the combined attorneys' fees could exceed \$600,000. The Department of Law recommends settlement of Ms. Parker's claims against the Metropolitan Government for \$175,000.

Fiscal Note: The total settlement amount is \$175,000. This settlement along with Resolution Nos. RS2025-1110 and RS2025-1127 would be the 6th, 7th, and 8th payments, after approval by Metropolitan Council, from the Judgment and Losses Fund in FY25 for a cumulative total of \$1,925,427. The fund balance would be \$16,480,454 after these payments.