



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the City Attorney's Office**

Date: June 4, 2010
To: Ways & Means/Budget Committee
Referral to:

Subject: *Giovanni Veliz v. City of Minneapolis*
Ct. File No. 27-CV-09-29542
Hennepin County District Court

Recommendation: That the City Council approve settlement of all claims of Mr. Giovanni Veliz in the matter of *Giovanni Veliz v. City of Minneapolis*, Court File No. 27-CV-09-29542, Hennepin County District Court, in the amount of \$3,000.00, from Fund/Org. 06900 1500100 145400 and authorize the City Attorney's Office to execute any documents necessary to effectuate the settlement.

Previous Directives:

Prepared by: Gregory P. Sautter Phone: (612) 673-2683

Approved by: Susan Segal
Susan L. Segal
City Attorney

Presenter in Committee: Susan L. Segal, City Attorney

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget or Operating Budget.
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase.
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves.
- Business Plan: Action is within the plan. Action requires a change to plan.
- Other financial impact (Explain): Budget
- Request provided to department's finance contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator.

Community Impact: Other

Background/Supporting Information

Giovanni Veliz brought claims of race and national origin discrimination and retaliation related to his non-selection for the Metropolitan Gang Strike Force (MGSF), in January and February of 2008. At the time Veliz had an active lawsuit related to earlier claims of discrimination and retaliation related to his prior nonselection for the MGSF. The earlier case was tried before a jury to a defense verdict in favor of the City.

Soon after the City verdict in the first case, Veliz brought a charge of discrimination regarding the 2008 MGSF selection before the Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR). The MDHR investigated the case and closed its investigation without further action. Veliz then brought this suit alleging only state claims. The City has denied liability in this action.

After extensive negotiations, and in consultation with the MPD, the parties have agreed to a tentative settlement where Veliz agrees to dismiss all of his claims, with prejudice, for the payment from the City of \$3,000.00 with no admission of liability. The Police Department agrees with the City Attorney that this settlement is in the City's best interest and recommends that the City Council approve it.