16458

	First Reading	lding	FINAL COUNCIL ACTION
22011	Committee		2nd 1st & 2nd 3rd
18 R 4255	Chair		Readings
(Do Not Write Above This Line)	Referred To		Consent Vote RC Vote
A RESOLUTION BY	Committee	Committee	
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF	Date	Date	
DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$205,000.00) (THE "SETTLEMENT AMOUNT") IN SETTLEMENT OF ALL	Chair	Chair	(U) 0CT 1.5 2018 U/
CLAIMS AGAINST DEFENDANT IN THE CASE OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA V. MORGAN LEWIS & BROCKIUS IN P. CIVIL ACTION FILE NO 2018/CV300048 PENDING	Action Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)	Action Fay Adv Hold (see rev. eide)	ATT ANTA DIVIL ANTARA
IN FULTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT; AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT AMOUNT TO BE	Mombare	Other	ALLANDA COLY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
PAID TO THE CITY ACCOUNT SET FORTH HEREIN; AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO	Sport	Members	
DISTRIBUTE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED EIGHTEEN DOLLARS AND THIRTY FIVE CENTS (\$121.218.35) OF THE SETTI EMENT			
			5
OFFICER TO DISTRIBUTE EIGHTY THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE DOLLARS AND SIXTY	Refer To		OCT 1 5 2018
FIVE CENTS (\$83,781.65) OF THE SETTLEMENT AMOUNT TO THE POLICE OFFICERS' PENSION FUND;		Refer To	MUNICIPAL CLERK
Adopted 15/18			
CONSENT REFER	Committee	Committee	MAYOR'S ACTION
REGULAR REPORT REFER ADOPTED BY	Date	Date	
ADVERTISE & REFER	Chair	Chair	
1ST ADOPT 2ND READ & REFER	For Adv Hold Goo may elded	Action Adv. Held (see see ed.)	
PERSONAL PAPER REFER COUNCIL	ray, Ady, Hold (see rey. side) Other	Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side) Other	APPROVED
	Members	Members	77.00
Date Referred			ULI 24 2018
10:			BY OBER SIGNATURE
Date Referred Referred To:			OF ERATION OF LAW
Date Referred:		Bofor To	
Referred To:	Refer To	Keler 10	



ARESOLUTION

BY JOSNE

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND AND **ZERO CENTS DOLLARS** (\$205,000.00) "SETTLEMENT AMOUNT") IN SETTLEMENT OF ALL CLAIMS AGAINST DEFENDANT IN THE CASE OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA v. MORGAN LEWIS & BROCKIUS LLP, CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 2018CV300948, PENDING IN FULTON COUNTY **SUPERIOR** COURT: AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT AMOUNT TO BE PAID TO THE CITY ACCOUNT SET FORTH HEREIN; AUTHORIZING THE FINANCIAL OFFICER TO DISTRIBUTE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED EIGHTEEN **DOLLARS** AND **THIRTY FIVE** (\$121,218.35) OF THE SETTLEMENT AMOUNT TO THE GENERAL EMPLOYEES' PENSION FUND; AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO DISTRIBUTE EIGHTY THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE DOLLARS AND SIXTY FIVE CENTS (\$83,781.65) OF THE SETTLEMENT AMOUNT TO THE POLICE OFFICERS' PENSION FUND: AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, <u>City of Atlanta v. Morgan Lewis & Brockius LLP</u> (the "Lawsuit") is a lawsuit filed by the City of Atlanta (the "City") seeking reimbursement from a law firm that accepted City pension assets to pay their attorneys' fees for litigation challenging two City pension modification ordinances passed in December 2017; and

WHEREAS, the City provides a defined benefit pension ("Pension") to eligible sworn members of the Atlanta Police Department, eligible sworn members of the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department, and certain other eligible City employees; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's Pension retirement program is divided into three different plans (collectively, the "Plans"), and each of the Plans has its own fund containing the Plan's assets: the Police Officers' Pension Fund, the Firefighters' Pension Fund, and the General Employees' Pension Fund; and

WHEREAS, each of the Plans is a tax qualified defined benefit plan subject to the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code § 401(a) (the "IRS Code"). Pursuant to the IRS Code,

Plan assets may be utilized solely to provide Pension benefits to participants and their beneficiaries, and to defray reasonable expenses of administering the Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to February 14, 2018, each of the Plans was administered by its own Board of Trustees, and each of the three Boards managed its respective Plan's investments separately and independently from the other two Plans; and

**WHEREAS**, in September of 2017, the City of Atlanta introduced legislation to create one Investment Board of Trustees for the three Plans (17-O-1589, the "Governance Ordinance"). The proposed Investment Board would include representatives from each of the three Plans, but would eliminate the three separate Boards of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the former Board of Trustees of the General Employees' Pension Fund hired the law firm Morgan Lewis & Brockius LLP (the "Defendant") to advise on legal issues related to pension fund investments. The IRS deems such legal services to be an expense of administering the Plan, and the Board's use of Fund assets to pay legal fees was compliant with the IRS Code; and

WHEREAS, upon the City's introduction of the Governance Ordinance, the former Board of Trustees of the General Employees' Pension Fund expanded the scope of Defendant's legal services to include opposing the Governance Ordinance, and paid for the expanded scope of legal services from the assets of the General Employees' Pension Plan; and

WHEREAS, on December 27, 2017, the Defendant, on behalf of the former Board of Trustees of the General Employees' Pension Fund and the former Board of Trustees of the Police Officers' Pension Fund, filed suit against the City in the Fulton County Superior Court (the "Trustees' Litigation") challenging the Governance Ordinance and a second ordinance that allowed a narrowly-defined group of long-term City employees to buy into the General Employees' Pension Plan (17-O-1826); and

WHEREAS, the Defendant's attorneys' fees and costs arising from the Trustees' Litigation were paid from the assets of the General Employees' Pension Plan and the Police Officers' Pension Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, of the Plan assets paid to Defendant, \$83,781.65 was paid from the Police Officers' Pension Fund, and the remainder was paid from the General Employees' Pension Fund; and

**WHEREAS,** the City asserts that use of Pension Plan assets to pay the Trustees' Litigation attorneys' fees violated the IRS Code, jeopardized the tax-exempt status of the Pension Funds, and caused harm to Pension Plan participants and their beneficiaries, and to the City; and

**WHEREAS,** Defendant ceased acceptance of additional payment from Plan assets in February of 2018, and the Trustees' Litigation was voluntarily dismissed without prejudice on July 23, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Defendant has agreed to repay the Plans \$205,000 ("Settlement Amount") in full settlement of the Lawsuit brought by the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Attorney has done an extensive review of the applicable facts and law and considers it to be in the best interest of the City to accept this Settlement Amount for full and final settlement of the Lawsuit.

WHEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA hereby resolves as follows:

<u>SECTION 1.</u> The City Attorney is hereby authorized to settle the case of <u>City of Atlanta v. Morgan Lewis & Brockius LLP, et al.</u>, <u>Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, Case No. 2018CV300948</u>, for the amount of Two Hundred Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$205,000.00), and to execute all documents needed to effectuate the settlement.

SECTION 2. The Chief Financial Officer is authorized to accept payment of the Settlement Amount, which shall be deposited into Fund, Center and Account number 7751.200601.3890007 (Recoveries). Such payment shall be in full consideration of the City's dismissal of the Lawsuit.

SECTION 3. Once the Settlement Amount is received, the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to transfer One Hundred Twenty-One Thousand Two Hundred Eighteen Dollars and Thirty-Five Cents (\$121,218.35) of the Settlement Amount from Fund, Center and Account number 7751.200601.3890007 (Recoveries) to the General Employees' Pension Fund. The Chief Financial Officer is further authorized to transfer Eighty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-One Dollars and Sixty-Five Cents (\$83,781.65) of the Settlement Amount from from Fund, Center and Account number 7751.200601.3890007 (Recoveries) to the Police Officers' Pension Fund.

A true copy,

Municipal Clerk

ADOPTED by the Atlanta City Council
APPROVED per City Charter Section 2-403

OCT 15, 2018 OCT 24, 2018

Last Updated: 10/16/18

A RESOLUTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ANDREA BOONE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$205,000.00) (THE "SETTLEMENT AMOUNT") IN SETTLEMENT OF ALL CLAIMS AGAINST DEFENDANT IN THE CASE OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA v. MORGAN LEWIS & BROCKIUS LLP, CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 2018CV300948, PENDING IN FULTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT; AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT AMOUNT TO BE PAID TO THE CITY ACCOUNT SET FORTH HEREIN; AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO DISTRIBUTE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED EIGHTEEN DOLLARS AND THIRTY FIVE CENTS (\$121,218.35) OF THE SETTLEMENT AMOUNT TO THE GENERAL EMPLOYEES' PENSION FUND; AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO DISTRIBUTE EIGHTY THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE DOLLARS AND SIXTY FIVE CENTS (\$83,781.65) OF THE SETTLEMENT AMOUNT TO THE POLICE OFFICERS' PENSION FUND; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

<b>⇒</b> VOTE RECORD - RESOLUTION 18-R	-4255					
<b>∪</b> ADOPTED						
□ ADVERSED						
□ FAVORABLE						
☐ ACCEPTED AND FILED						
☐ REFERRED TO COMMITTEE						
☐ HELD IN COMMITTEE						
□ TABLED			YES/AYE	NO/NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
□ DEFERRED	MICHAEL JULIAN BOND	VOTER	U			
□ RECONSIDERED	MATT WESTMORELAND	VOTER	U			
□ FILED	ANDRE DICKENS	VOTER	U			
☐ FILED BY COMMITTEE	CARLA SMITH	VOTER	U			
☐ FAVORABLE ON SUBSTITUTE	AMIR R FAROKHI	VOTER	U			
☐ FAVORABLE AS AMENDED	IVORY LEE YOUNG JR.	VOTER				U
□ QUESTION CALLED	CLETA WINSLOW	VOTER	U			
□ SUBSTITUTED	NATALYN MOSBY ARCHIBONG	VOTER	U			
□ AMENDED	JENNIFER N IDE	VOTER	U			
☐ REFERRED TO ZRB AND ZC	HOWARD SHOOK	VOTER	U			
☐ REFERRED WITHOUT OBJECTION	JP MATZIGKEIT	SECONDER				
☐ ADOPTED AS AMENDED	DUSTIN HILLIS	VOTER	0			
□ ADOPTED SUBSTITUTE						
ADOPTED SUBSTITUTE AS AMENDED	ANDREA L BOONE	MOVER	O			
	MARCI COLLIER OVERSTREET	VOTER	O			
☐ FORWARDED	JOYCE M SHEPERD	VOTER	O			
REFERRED TO SC						
☐ FILED WITHOUT OBJECTION						
□ FAILED						
□ ADVERSED IN COMMITTEE						
☐ QUADRENNIALY TERMINATED						
FORWARDED W/NO						



## 18-R-4255 Adopted by the Atlanta City Council October 15, 2018

## **APPROVED**

OCT 24 2018

WITHOUT SIGNATURE BY OPERATION OF LAW

**MAYOR'S ACTION**