

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LITIGATION SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 16, 2011**

Committee Members Present: Mr. Lawrence Rusconi, Chairman; Alderman Jorge Perez; Alderwoman Arlene DePino; and Mr. Mark Pietrosimone, Controller.

Corporation Counsel Staff Present: Victor Bolden, Corporation Counsel; Michael Wolak, Senior Assistant Corporation Counsel; and Nancy Pepe, Legal Assistant II.

Meeting Started: 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Ended: 5:43 p.m.

Mr. Rusconi called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Alderman DePino moved approval of the minutes of the March 2, 2011 meeting. Mr. Pietrosimone seconded the motion. Alderman Perez abstained because he was not present at the March 2, 2011 meeting. The motion passed.

Alderman Perez moved approval of Office No. L08-0235. Alderwoman DePino seconded the motion.

Office No. L08-0235 – Yariaslavia Briggs, et al v. City of New Haven – Attorney Wolak summarized the issues regarding this matter to the Committee Members. Attorney Wolak explained to the Committee Members that this case has two plaintiffs. This settlement is for Dennis Briggs only (who was a passenger). The other plaintiff involved in this motor vehicle accident (the driver) has much more serious injuries and it was decided to go to mediation on that portion of the case.

Alderman Perez asked if the officer involved was ticketed for following too close. Attorney Wolak explained that police officers are not ticketed, they are given warnings. Mr. Rusconi asked if the officer was given a verbal warning. Attorney Wolak stated yes, however, the officer was not disciplined by the Police Department. Attorney Perez asked why there was no discipline as it sounds as though someone was not paying attention and going too fast for the conditions. Attorney Wolak stated no records of any discipline could be found. The officer's personnel file was even looked at to see if any discipline was given. None was found. Alderman Perez asked if we know why. Attorney Wolak stated he did not know but perhaps it is because the Department is two Chiefs removed from the time this happened. Alderman Perez asked if this officer was still driving a city vehicle. Attorney Wolak stated that he believes this officer is now assigned to the canine unit. Mr. Pietrosimone asked if the only indication of the speed was what the driver indicated as being 40 mph. Attorney Wolak stated that's correct. The officer indicated to him that she did not think she was traveling that fast. Mr. Rusconi asked if the officer involved was injured, and if a workers' compensation claim was filed. Attorney Wolak stated he did not know but would check with the Worker's Compensation Division.

The motion to approve the recommendation passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.