

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE (the "Agreement") is made and entered into this 2nd day of December, 2021, by and among the Estate of Malcolm J. Bryant, through its personal representatives Lamar Estep and Malique Bryant (the "Plaintiff"), and The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore (the "City"), the Baltimore Police Department ("BPD"), Detective William F. Ritz ("Ritz") and Barry Verger ("Verger"), as named in the Plaintiff's Amended Complaint (collectively, the "Defendants"). The Defendants together with the Plaintiff are referred to herein as the "Settling Parties."

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff filed a Complaint and Amended Complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland against the Defendants, substantially or similarly styled *The Estate of Malcolm J. Bryant v. Baltimore Police Department, et al.*, Case No. 1:19-cv-00384-LKG (the "Litigation"), arising out of the alleged wrongful investigation, arrest, prosecution, and conviction of Malcolm J. Bryant (the "Occurrence"); and

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff alleges that Malcolm J. Bryant sustained personal injuries, including physical sickness and injury, loss of liberty, severe emotional distress, economic losses and/or other damages, whether presently known or unknown, related to the Occurrence (hereinafter "Plaintiff's Losses"); and

WHEREAS, the Defendants deny and dispute the allegations asserted in the Litigation; and

WHEREAS, the Settling Parties now desire to fully compromise and settle finally and forever the Litigation and any other existing or future claims or disputes asserted or which could have been asserted of whatever nature, including without limitation, any and all claims,

causes of action, costs and demands of whatever name or nature, in any manner by the Plaintiff arising, growing out of, or on account of any Plaintiff's Losses, the Litigation or the Occurrence against the City, BPD, Ritz, Verger, or any other persons, known or unknown, or any of the Defendants.

AGREEMENT

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and agreements set forth herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Settling Parties hereby covenant and agree as follows:

1. **Recitals:** The foregoing recitals are incorporated into and made part of this Agreement.

2. **Payment:** Within sixty (60) days of the approval of this Agreement by the Baltimore City Board of Estimates, the City shall make the sum total payment to counsel for the Plaintiff, Neufeld, Scheck & Brustin, LLP, of Eight Million Dollars and Zero Cents (\$8,000,000.00) (the "Settlement Sum"), as full and final payment for making the release herein and abiding by the terms set forth in this Agreement.

3. **Dismissal:** Within five (5) business days after payment of the Settlement Sum, the Plaintiff shall file with the Court a Joint Stipulation of Dismissal with Prejudice as to the Defendants.

4. **Approval by City's Board of Estimates:** The Settling Parties understand that payment of the Settlement Sum as set forth in this Agreement is subject to, and contingent upon, the prior approval of the City's Board of Estimates. In the event that the Board of Estimates rejects the settlement, this Agreement will become void and of no legal effect,

whereupon the Settling Parties could continue to seek relief through the Litigation regarding the Occurrence.

5. **Warranty of Capacity to Enter Into Release:** The Plaintiff represents and warrants that no other person or entity has any interest in the claims, demands, allegations or causes of action referred to in this Settlement Agreement except as otherwise set forth herein and that it has the sole right and exclusive authority to execute this Settlement Agreement, to receive the sum specified in it and to release all claims on its behalf, and that it has not sold, assigned, transferred, conveyed or otherwise disposed of any claim, demand, obligation or causes of action referred to in this Settlement Agreement. If any person should assert a claim on behalf of the Plaintiff for damages against any of the Defendants claiming that the Plaintiff did not have the right or authority to enter into this Settlement Agreement or receive the monies hereunder, the Plaintiff agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Defendants from any and all claims or contentions, damages, costs, liability and attorneys' fees as a consequence or result of such claim or lawsuit.

6. **General Mutual Release and Covenant not to Sue:**

Plaintiff Releasing Defendants: In consideration of the payment of the Settlement Sum and other good and valuable consideration, the Plaintiff, its heirs, assigns, agents, representatives, attorneys and successors in interest hereby unconditionally release and forever discharge and covenant not to sue the Defendants, their officials, agents, employees, employers, agencies, departments, directors, officers, members, representatives, assigns, attorneys, successors in interest, and all other persons, firms, entities, governmental entities, and corporations from/for any and all Claims which the Plaintiff may now or hereafter have or claim to have, arising out of, or in any way related to, the Occurrence, Plaintiff's Losses, and/or

the allegations or claims asserted, or that could have been asserted, in the Litigation, provided, however, the obligations of the Settling Parties under this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect. "Claims" include, but are not limited to, any and all losses, costs (including attorneys' fees), expenses, debts, actions (constitutional or statutory, in law or in equity), causes of action, suits, damages, claims, demands and all other claims, liabilities and obligations of any nature whatsoever, including attorneys' and consultants' fees.

Defendants Releasing Plaintiff: The Defendants, their officials, agents, employees, employers, agencies, departments, directors, officers, members, representatives, assigns, attorneys, successors in interest, and all other persons, firms, entities, governmental entities, and corporations hereby unconditionally release and forever discharge and covenant not to sue the Plaintiff, its heirs, assigns, agents, representatives, attorneys and successors in interest from/for any and all Claims which the Defendants may now or hereafter have or claim to have, arising out of, or in any way related to, the Occurrence or the Litigation, provided, however, the obligations of the Settling Parties under this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect. "Claims" include, but are not limited to, any and all losses, costs (including attorneys' fees), expenses, debts, actions (constitutional or statutory, in law or in equity), causes of action, suits, damages, claims, demands and all other claims, liabilities and obligations of any nature whatsoever, including attorneys' and consultants' fees.

7. **Costs and Expenses.** Each party will be responsible for his or its own costs and expenses incurred in connection with the prosecution, defense and settlement of the claims asserted by the Plaintiff against the Defendants and vice versa.

8. **No Admission of Liability:** It is understood and agreed by the Settling Parties that this Agreement and the releases contained herein shall not be construed as an admission of

liability on the part of the Defendants, any such liability being expressly denied, and that rather, the purpose of this Agreement is to fully and finally resolve all differences amongst the Settling Parties and to allow the Settling Parties to avoid the time, expense and uncertainties of protracted litigation.

9. **Medicare/Medicaid Liens:** The Plaintiff understands that Section 111 of the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (“MMSEA”) imposes a lien (the “Medicare Lien”) for reimbursement of certain payments made by Medicare. The Settling Parties understand and believe that there are no outstanding Medicare Liens. Notwithstanding this, in the event that payment of the claims results in an obligation to reimburse Medicare, the Plaintiff agrees to make such reimbursement and agrees that its attorneys may retain sufficient funds in the attorneys’ escrow account to satisfy the Medicare Lien. If the Plaintiff or its attorneys fail to satisfy a Medicare Lien, and that failure causes the Defendants to pay or reimburse any person or entity any amount MMSEA specifies, the Plaintiff agrees to reimburse the Defendants’ payment or reimbursement to such person or entity. Upon receipt of documentation from Medicare that any Medicare Lien is satisfied, the Plaintiff will send a copy of such documentation to the Defendants.

10. **No Evidence of Need to Indemnify:** It is understood and agreed by the Settling Parties that this Agreement and/or corresponding settlement or payment of the Settling Sum is not to be construed as evidence of an obligation on behalf of the City, BPD, Ritz, or Verger to indemnify any person who may be covered under this Agreement for claims of intentional conduct, as such contention is expressly denied.

11. **Entire Agreement of the Parties:** It is understood and agreed by the Settling Parties that this Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement among the Settling Parties with

respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all other prior and contemporaneous written or oral agreements and discussions. This Agreement may only be amended by a writing signed by all parties hereto.

12. **Drafting of the Agreement.** The Settling Parties acknowledge and agree that this Agreement represents the product of negotiations by the Settling Parties and shall not be deemed to have been drafted exclusively by any one party. In the event of a dispute regarding the meaning of any language contained in this Agreement, the Settling Parties agree that the same shall be accorded a reasonable construction and shall not be construed more strongly against one party than the other.

13. **Severability:** In the event that any covenant, condition, or other provision contained in this Agreement is held to be invalid, void, or illegal by any court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall be deemed severable from the remainder of this Agreement and shall in no way affect, impair or invalidate any other covenant, condition or other provision contained herein. If such condition, covenant or other provision shall be deemed invalid due to its scope of breadth, such covenant, condition or other provision shall be deemed valid to the extent of the scope of breadth permitted by law.

14. **WAIVER OF JURY TRIAL: TO THE EXTENT AN ACTION IS FILED IN ANY COURT IN CONNECTION WITH ANY COVENANT, TERM OR CONDITION OF THIS AGREEMENT, THE SETTLING PARTIES HEREBY KNOWINGLY, VOLUNTARILY, AND INTELLIGENTLY WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS TO A TRIAL BY JURY.**

15. **Knowing and Voluntary Act:** Each of the Settling Parties represents that each has read this Agreement and acknowledges that each has been represented or had the opportunity to be represented by legal counsel of their own choice throughout all of the negotiations which


preceded the execution of this Agreement and that each party has voluntarily and knowingly executed this Agreement of their own free will and/or with the consent and/or on the advice of such legal counsel. Each of the Settling Parties further acknowledges that each and/or such party's counsel have had adequate opportunity to make whatever investigation or inquiry they may deem necessary or desirable in connection with the subject matter of this Agreement prior to the execution hereof and the delivery and acceptance of the considerations specified herein.


16. **Survival of Terms:** The Settling Parties agree that this Agreement shall upon approval inure to the benefit of the Settling Parties and their respective agents, assigns, partners, heirs, executors, administrators, and personal or legal representatives. The Settling Parties understand and agree that the terms, covenants, and conditions set forth in this Agreement shall survive the closing of the Agreement.


17. **Governing Law:** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Maryland, without giving effect to its conflicts of law provisions, and any legal actions presenting disputes arising out of or under this Agreement shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Maryland.

18. **Counterparts:** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall be deemed to be one and the same instrument. An emailed, facsimile or copy signature will be binding and legal in all respects as if it were an original signature to this Agreement.

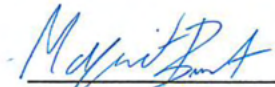
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Settling Parties have executed this Agreement by the duly authorized representatives as of the date first written above:


WITNESS

 (SEAL)
Lamar Estep (as personal representative of the Estate of Malcolm J. Bryant)



WITNESS



_____(SEAL)
Malique Bryant (as personal representative of the
Estate of Malcolm J. Bryant)

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE

WITNESS

By: 
_____(SEAL)
James L. Shea, City Solicitor

Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency **APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF ESTIMATES**

By: 

Chief Solicitor
Department of Law

By: _____
Clerk Date