

CITY OF VINELAND, NJ

RESOLUTION NO. 2023- 520

RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF \$9,300.00 TO THE LAW FIRM OF HANKIN SANDMAN PALLADINO WEINTROB & BELL IN SATISFACTION OF ITS CLAIM FOR ATTORNEY FEES UNDER THE OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT.

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2023 an Order to Show Cause filed on behalf of Terry Peifer by the law firm of Hankin Sandman Palladino Weintrob & Bell was granted determining that the City violated the Open Public Records Act by redacting certain documents provided to Terry Peifer in response to her request for government records under OPRA and awarded her attorney fees as a prevailing party;

WHEREAS, the award of reasonable attorney fees to a prevailing plaintiff under OPRA is mandatory;

WHEREAS, the Court directed the parties to negotiate in good faith to resolve the amount of the fee award;

WHEREAS, payment of \$9,300.00 in fees and costs represents a negotiated settlement, and is approximately seventy (70%) percent of the full fee request;

WHEREAS, \$9,300.00 is a reasonable amount given the number of hours expended by the law firm and the firms normal hourly rate;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Vineland that payment of \$9,300.00 in satisfaction of Hankin Sandman Palladino Weintrob & Bell's claim for attorney fees in the matter of Terry Peifer v City of Vineland is hereby approved.

Adopted:

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President of Council

ATTEST:

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City Clerk