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City of Milwaukee Common Council

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President Hines: Statement on Frank Jude Jr. settlement

Today, my Common Council colleagues and I unanimously approved a financial settlement to Frank Jude Jr. for the horrific beating he sustained at the hands of Milwaukee police officers in 2004. Had the settlement not been approved by the Council, the case would have proceeded to trial where the city (and taxpayers) would have faced the very real possibility of paying out a much higher dollar amount than what was agreed to in the settlement.

The Frank Jude case marked a dark chapter in our city's recent history, and cast a dark cloud over our police department. I believe we still have a good amount of work ahead to improve those MPD-community connections, and I credit Chief Flynn for taking appropriate actions to identify troubled officers sooner.

We will never be able to erase the incident and the terrible images of Mr. Jude in the hospital after the attack. Several of the officers involved in the case were fired, and a few of them were convicted and are serving prison time for their deeds. We must not forget what happened; if we do we risk allowing something like it to occur again.

It is time for Milwaukee to realize a future where those sworn to protect and serve never again find themselves on the wrong side of the law.