



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 20-211, **Version:** 1

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE a SETTLEMENT with HOPE FAIR HOUSING CENTER.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2017, Hope Fair Housing Center ("Hope") filed a Complaint against the City alleging housing discrimination on the basis of race and sex in violation of the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. § 3601 et. seq.) and the Illinois Civil Rights Act of 2003 (740 ILCS 23/5 et. seq.). The City denies any wrongdoing in this matter. Negotiations have resulted in a settlement that will forgo the need for any additional litigation expenses, expert fees or trial costs. The agreed upon terms are as follows:

1. The City will pay Hope Fair Housing the sum of \$25,000. Hope will use the funds to develop education and outreach material for Peoria tenants about their rights under the City's nuisance ordinance. The materials will be available in Spanish, be made available electronically and posted on Hope's website. The funds will also be used to support Hope's collaboration with Prairie State Legal Services for tenants needing assistance related to the Nuisance Ordinance or other fair housing laws.

2. The City will earmark \$15,000 for its Re-Housing Funds to assist tenants who are displaced from their residences due to no fault of their own and by inaction from their landlords.

3. The City will amend its Nuisance Ordinance consistent with terms agreed upon with Hope.

4. The City will enact policies at the Peoria Police Department detailing the enforcement of the Nuisance Ordinance consistent with the terms agreed upon with Hope.

5. The court will retain jurisdiction over the settlement for a five year period.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** \$40,000.

**NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS:** None.

**IMPACT IF APPROVED:** All litigation will be resolved; ordinance will be amended; policies will be implemented at PD.

**IMPACT IF DENIED:** Litigation will continue, additional legal fees will be incurred.

**ALTERNATIVES:** N/A

**EEO CERTIFICATION NUMBER:** N/A

**WHICH OF THE GOALS IDENTIFIED IN THE COUNCIL'S 2017 - 2032 STRATEGIC PLAN DOES THIS RECOMMENDATION ADVANCE?**

1. Not applicable.

**WHICH CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR(S) FROM THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DOES THIS RECOMMENDATION IMPLEMENT?**

1. Not applicable.

**DEPARTMENT:** Legal