



25 multiple adult teeth, and

26 WHEREAS, J.N. was rushed to the emergency room at St.  
 27 Joseph's Hospital where she underwent a CT scan which revealed a  
 28 fracture of the nasal bone, fracture of the maxilla, and fracture  
 29 of the superior alveolus, and

30 WHEREAS, the severity of the injuries required plastic  
 31 surgery intervention and on June 8, 2019, J.N. underwent a  
 32 surgical procedure consisting of exploration and removal of  
 33 the impacted gingiva into her nasal structures and into the  
 34 upper maxilla, repair of the midline laceration of the upper  
 35 lip, and repair of the gingiva and lower lip vermilion, and

36 WHEREAS, on June 14, 2019, J.N. underwent a second surgery  
 37 consisting of a closed reduction of her nasal fracture, and

38 WHEREAS, on February 20, 2021, J.N. was seen by Pediatric  
 39 Epilepsy and Neurology Specialists due to headaches that she  
 40 experienced as frequently as once or twice a week and which had  
 41 first started shortly after the accident, and

42 WHEREAS, on March 16, 2022, J.N. was seen by an oral  
 43 surgeon at the Moffett Oral Surgery and Dental Implant  
 44 Center, during which time she was informed that she would  
 45 need a bone graft and eventually an implant, and

46 WHEREAS, J.N. has to wait for her bones to finish growing  
 47 before Dr. Moffett can proceed with the bone graft, which he  
 48 expects will be when J.N. is 16 or 17 years old, and

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49 WHEREAS, after J.N. heals from her bone graft, Moffett Oral  
50 Surgery and Dental Implant Center will then start the process  
51 for implants and eventually crowns, and

52 WHEREAS, along with the medical treatment and bills  
53 associated with this injury, J.N. has suffered intangible and  
54 emotional losses, has an extreme loss of self-esteem, and  
55 struggles socially with her peers, and

56 WHEREAS, the county was on notice that the same section  
57 of sidewalk where J.N. had her accident was in need of repair  
58 and replacement as early as October 7, 2015, by way of a work  
59 request order which had been received, and

60 WHEREAS, in 2016, Juan Olivero Lopez, a Hillsborough  
61 County maintenance supervisor responsible for sidewalk  
62 maintenance, stated that he was directed by the county to  
63 inspect the sidewalk, and

64 WHEREAS, Juan Olivero Lopez further stated that in  
65 response to the work order, the South Service Unit performed a  
66 physical inspection of the sidewalk before the date of the  
67 accident, but that repairs to make the sidewalk safe were  
68 never performed, and

69 WHEREAS, the drainage ditch and culvert system located next  
70 to the sidewalk were also in need of maintenance and repair, as  
71 evidenced by the extensive deterioration of the concrete and  
72 metal corrugated drainage culvert pipe which had become jagged

73 and rusted, and

74 WHEREAS, Hillsborough County employee, William Cox, a civil  
 75 engineer responsible for drainage culvert replacement and  
 76 planning, stated that he was not responsible for the maintenance  
 77 of the culvert, and

78 WHEREAS, Juan Olivero Lopez, as a maintenance supervisor of  
 79 the South Service Unit, stated that he was also not responsible  
 80 for the maintenance of the culvert, and

81 WHEREAS, clearly there was a gap in maintenance  
 82 responsibility for the culvert, which was never repaired and  
 83 which contributed to the severity of J.N.'s injuries, and

84 WHEREAS, Stephany Grullon and Hillsborough County entered  
 85 into a settlement and release agreement on September 20,  
 86 2022, in which the county agreed to pay Stephany Grullon  
 87 \$600,000 to settle all claims, and

88 WHEREAS, Hillsborough County paid \$200,000, the sovereign  
 89 immunity limit under s. 768.28, Florida Statutes, to Stephany  
 90 Grullon within 20 days after entering into the settlement  
 91 agreement, and

92 WHEREAS, Hillsborough County acknowledged and agreed not  
 93 to oppose a legislative claims bill that would be filed  
 94 during the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature or in a  
 95 subsequent legislative session for the additional \$400,000,  
 96 and

97 WHEREAS, the statutory limit under s. 768.28, Florida  
 98 Statutes, paid to Stephany Grullon is \$200,000, but the  
 99 balance of \$400,000 remains unpaid, NOW, THEREFORE,

100  
 101 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
 102

103 Section 1. The facts stated in the preamble to this act  
 104 are found and declared to be true.

105 Section 2. Hillsborough County is authorized and directed  
 106 to appropriate from funds of the county not otherwise encumbered  
 107 and draw a warrant in the sum of \$400,000 payable to Stephany  
 108 Grullon, as parent and guardian of J.N., to be placed in a trust  
 109 created for the exclusive use and benefit of J.N. for injuries  
 110 and damages sustained.

111 Section 3. The amount awarded under this act is intended  
 112 to provide the sole compensation for all present and future  
 113 claims arising out of the factual situation described in this  
 114 act which resulted in injuries and damages to J.N. The total  
 115 amount paid for attorney fees and costs, lobbying fees, and  
 116 other similar expenses relating to this claim may not exceed 25  
 117 percent of the total amount awarded under this act.

118 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.