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Phila. to Pay \$4.4M to Settle Police Shooting Case

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The city of Philadelphia has agreed to pay \$4.4 million to settle a lawsuit filed by Philippe Holland, who in 2014 was shot in the head by plainclothes policemen as he delivered take-out in West Philadelphia.

The payout is the largest for a police shooting in Philadelphia history. In addition to Holland's financial compensation, the city agreed to implement new training protocols for plainclothes officers, according to simultaneous statements issued Jan. 6 by the city and Holland's lawyers.

"We will strive to ensure that tragedies such as this do not happen again in our city," said City Solicitor Sozi Pedro Tulante in the city's statement.

Thomas R. Kline of Kline & Specter, the firm handling Holland's case, said in an interview Jan. 6 that the new protocols will include video training sessions, as well as new rules for interacting with suspects and how badges are displayed, among other things. The protocols will be implemented by July 1.

"The city and its police department here agreed to use this case as a catalyst for significant changes, which of course will benefit the citizens of this city and will provide a template for training in other cities," Kline said.

Holland, who now suffers from seizures as a result of being struck with a bullet to the head, was shot on the night of April 22, 2014, on the 5100 block of Willows Avenue.

Kline said Holland believed he was being robbed by the two officers, Mitchell Farrell and Kevin Hanvey, because they failed to identify themselves as police. The officers were responding to a radio call of shots fired in the vicinity. As they approached Holland, he entered his Ford Taurus in an attempt to escape and the two officers opened fire at the car 14 times.

The settlement resolves both a civil rights lawsuit filed in federal court and an assault battery lawsuit against the officers filed in Philadelphia court.

"Our police department exists to protect and serve all people who live, work in, or visit Philadelphia and greatly values your trust," said Commissioner Richard Ross in the city's statement. "The city of Philadelphia strives to earn, maintain,

and build that trust by ensuring that police act within the scope of their lawful authority and hold paramount the civil rights of those they serve."

The settlement was reached after two years of litigation and was overseen by U.S. Magistrate Judge Marilyn Heffley of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.