



\$4.4M to delivery man shot by police

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Jan. 07, 2017

On Friday, the City of Philadelphia announced it will pay \$4.4 million to Philippe Holland, the young man who was shot by plainclothes Philadelphia police officers in April 2014 while delivering food.

As a result of the shooting, Holland underwent extensive surgery, suffers from a permanent seizure disorder and other permanent injuries and still has bullet fragments in his brain, a press release from his attorney Thomas R. Kline said.

Then a 20-year-old college student, Holland was working his second job as a deliveryman when he was approached by two officers dressed in street clothes after making a delivery in the Cedar Park section of West Philadelphia.

The officers, Mitchell Farrell and Kevin Hanvey, were responding to reports of shots fired in the area when they approached Holland near 51st Street and Willows Avenue.

Holland has said he believed he was being robbed and got into his car and tried to drive away before the two officers, who have said they thought Holland was trying to hit them, fired 14 shots at him. Holland was struck three times—once in the head, neck and leg.

At the time of the shooting, then-Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey called the shooting unfortunate. He apologized for the incident and visited Holland and his family when Holland was recovering at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

The \$4.4 million payout, the result of one suit against the two officers and one against the city, is the largest settlement for a police shooting in the city's history, a city spokesperson stated in an email.

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

Tulante added as a result of the settlement, the Philadelphia Police Department will implement new training protocol for all city plainclothes officers.

"The new protocol for training plainclothes police officers, which was an integral part of this settlement, will result in a safer Philadelphia not only for its citizens but also for police officers," Kline said in a statement.

Kline said the city will create a required training video for all plainclothes officers and the new training procedure will be implemented by July 1.

The new protocol comes in addition to other reforms already being made by the PPD as a result of a Department of Justice review the police department.

In 2013, then-Commissioner Charles Ramsey called on the federal government to review the use of deadly force within the police department after 2012 saw a rise in officer-involved shootings. There were 59 officer-involved shootings in 2012 according to phillypolice.com, a Philadelphia police shootings and use-of-force database. That same year, a Philly.com report showed violent crimes and the number of assaults on police officers decreased.

Additional reforms taking place within the police department include protocol to address problems with pedestrian stops, which, according to the release, have already decreased pedestrian stops for the first three quarters of 2016 compared to the same time period in 2015.

Since the DOJ review and subsequent reforms, officer involved shootings have fallen steadily each year, to 43 in 2013, 29 in 2014 and 23 in 2015, phillypolice.com shows.

“This settlement will not only compensate an innocent citizen who suffered devastating injuries,” Kline said, “but also served as a catalyst for significant reforms in the way our communities are policed by plainclothes officers.”