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Oakland Pays \$3.5M To Family Of Former Officer

(BCN) OAKLAND The City of Oakland agreed Wednesday to pay \$3.5 million in damages to the family of a former officer who was shot and killed by two other officers, according to a lawyer for the family.

Attorney Michael Haddad said the city agreed to settle the lawsuit filed by the family of William "Willie" Wilkins just before it was scheduled to go to trial before U.S. District Court Judge Maxine Chesney.

Chesney approved the settlement Wednesday, he said.

Haddad said \$2.15 million will be paid to Wilkins' son, William Randolph Wilkins, who's now 6 years old, and the other \$1.5 million will be paid to his widow, Kely Wilkins.

Willie Wilkins, a member of the Alameda County Narcotics Task Force, was killed on Jan. 11, 2001 while he was in plain clothes and was pursuing a suspected car thief.

While he was apprehending the suspect near 90th Avenue in East Oakland, two uniformed rookie officers, Tim Scarrott and Andrew Koponen, arrived.

The officers saw that Wilkins was armed and, not realizing he was an officer, they shot and killed him.

Scarrott and Koponen both still work for the Oakland Police Department.

Haddad said, "It's been five hard-fought years for Kely Wilkins and I'm glad that justice was done."

The city's outside attorney, Edwin Wilson, declined to comment on the settlement. City officials weren't immediately available for comment.

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