

Senate Bill No. 26

An act relating to the City of Clearwater; providing for the relief of Eva Skowronek as the widow of Wieslaw Skowronek and for the relief of Anna Marie, Victor, and Hubert Alexander Skowronek, the children of Wieslaw Skowronek, for the death of Wieslaw Skowronek as a result of the negligence of the City of Clearwater; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, on Sunday, January 19, 1997, Wieslaw Skowronek was visiting the Virgin Mary apparition at the Seminole Finance Building in Clearwater, Florida, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the use of excessive force by a City of Clearwater policeman, Mr. Skowronek's pancreas was ruptured and he bled to death, and

WHEREAS, the death of Mr. Skowronek was clearly the consequence of the negligence of the city, and

WHEREAS, the City of Clearwater and Eva Skowronek have entered into a settlement agreement in which the city has agreed to a settlement in the amount of \$525,000, of which the city will pay \$200,000, Ranger Insurance Company will pay \$125,000, and a claim bill will be submitted for the remaining \$200,000, and

WHEREAS, the City of Clearwater has paid the \$200,000, which is the maximum amount allowable under section 768.28, Florida Statutes, and the insurance company has paid \$125,000, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

Section 2. (1) The City of Clearwater is authorized and directed to compensate Eva Skowronek, as the widow of Wieslaw Skowronek, and their three children for the death of Wieslaw Skowronek due to the negligence of a city employee, in the following amounts:

- (a) \$100,000 to Eva Skowronek, as the widow of Wieslaw Skowronek;
- (b) \$33,333.33 to Anna Marie Skowronek, age 20, as the child of Wieslaw Skowronek;
- (c) \$33,333.33 to Victor Skowronek, as the minor child of Wieslaw Skowronek, to be placed in his guardianship account;
- (d) \$33,333.33 to Hubert Skowronek, as the minor child of Wieslaw Skowronek, to be placed in his guardianship account.

(2) Amounts paid for attorney's fees and costs, as limited in accordance with section 768.28, Florida Statutes, shall be payable pro rata from each of the claimants.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 30, 2002.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 30, 2002.