

## Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 64

An act relating to the City of Delray Beach; providing for the relief of Jesner Exanor, as personal representative of the Estate of Nancy Mervil, on behalf of himself and the two minor children of his deceased wife, Nancy Mervil; authorizing and directing the City of Delray Beach to compensate them for the death of Nancy Mervil due to the negligence of an employee of the city; providing terms and conditions regarding the payment and use of such compensation; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, at approximately 9:38 p.m. on July 27, 2000, when she was en route to pick up her minor child, Taisha, Nancy Mervil was stopped at the intersection of Linton Boulevard and Catherine Drive in Delray Beach, waiting to turn left, and

WHEREAS, an on-duty police officer employed by the City of Delray Beach, while responding to a call regarding a domestic disturbance, was traveling eastbound in the outside lane of Linton Boulevard, and

WHEREAS, the officer had turned on his vehicle's emergency lights, but failed to turn on his sirens and, while driving his vehicle at a speed of between 85 and 90 mph in a 45-mph zone, lost control of his vehicle, struck the rear of Nancy Mervil's vehicle, and caused her vehicle to roll over, become airborne, and crash into the hood of another vehicle, and

WHEREAS, Nancy Mervil was killed in the accident, and

WHEREAS, at the time of her death, Nancy Mervil was 24 years old, was married to Jesner Exanor, and was the mother of two minor children, Taisha Exanor, born December 2, 1999, and Orlens Poulard, born November 2, 1993, and

WHEREAS, according to the investigative homicide report completed by a law enforcement investigator with the Florida Highway Patrol, the officer who was involved in the accident violated s. 316.072(5)(c), Florida Statutes, by failing to drive with due regard for the safety of others, and

WHEREAS, the investigation also suggested that the City of Delray Beach had failed to properly maintain the police officer's vehicle at the time of the collision in question, thereby contributing to this unfortunate accident, and

WHEREAS, Jesner Exanor, individually, on behalf of the two minor children, and as personal representative of his wife's estate, filed suit against the City of Delray Beach, and

WHEREAS, in its answer to the complaint, the city admitted that the police officer negligently caused Nancy Mervil's death, and

WHEREAS, the economic damages in this case are substantial, having been assessed at \$823,000, based on the assumption that Nancy Mervil would have been employed as a home health aide, and, alternatively, having

been assessed at \$1,101,000, based on the assumption that she would have completed training as a nursing assistant and would have been employed as a nursing assistant, as she had planned, and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the filing of the complaint in this matter, the parties agreed to and conducted a mediation that resulted in an agreement to settle with the City of Delray Beach for a cash payment of \$195,000 plus \$1,305,000, part of which would be used to purchase annuities, and

WHEREAS, the City of Delray Beach has made the cash payment of \$195,000 in accordance with the terms of the settlement agreement, and

WHEREAS, it has been stated that 40 percent of the settlement proceeds will be distributed to Jesner Exanor and 30 percent to each minor child, with other terms of the annuities to be determined at the time of passage of a claim bill allowing the city to reimburse the claimants in an amount greater than that allowed by section 768.28, Florida Statutes, 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. The City of Delray Beach is authorized and directed to appropriate from funds of the city not otherwise appropriated and to draw warrants in the total amount of \$1,305,000 payable to Jesner Exanor individually, to Jesner Exanor as legal guardian of minor child Taisha Exanor, and to Gertha Desir as legal guardian of minor child Orlens Poulard, in the ratios of 40 percent, 30 percent, and 30 percent respectively, as compensation for the death of Nancy Mervil, wife of Jesner Exanor and mother of the minor children, due to the negligence of an employee of the City of Delray Beach. After payment of statutory attorney's fees and costs and authorized expenses, the proceeds recovered under this act shall be used to purchase appropriate structured settlement annuities for the benefit of Jesner Exanor and the minor children, Taisha Exanor and Orlens Poulard. Appropriate structured settlement annuities for the benefit of the minor children must be purchased no later than January 1, 2003. Amounts payable under this act on behalf of a minor child, as well as proceeds from appropriate structured settlement annuities purchased under this act on behalf of a minor child which are paid while the child is a minor, must be placed in the guardianship account of the minor child, to be expended under supervision of the circuit court as long as the child is a minor.

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

Approved by the Governor June 5, 2002.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 5, 2002.