

---

## Testimony on William Monroe \$2.3 million settlement, agenda item 540

---

Portland Copwatch <copwatch@portlandcopwatch.org>

Tue, Jun 4, 2013 at 4:05 PM

To: Portland City Council -- Commissioner Amanda Fritz <amanda@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Dan Saltzman <dan@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Nick Fish <Nick@portlandoregon.gov>, Commissioner Steve Novick <novick@portlandoregon.gov>, Mayor Charlie Hales <mayorhales@portlandoregon.gov>  
Cc: News Media <newsmedia@portlandcopwatch.org>, City Council Clerk <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>

To Mayor Hales and Commissioners:

Though members of Portland Copwatch will not be present Wednesday to testify on agenda item #540, "Pay claim of William Kyle Monroe in the sum of \$965,000 involving the Portland Police Bureau," we would like to enter this testimony into the record.

First off, we want to be sure somebody reads the details of the ordinance into the record to be clear that Mr. Monroe will be receiving \$2.3 million for his permanent injuries cause by Officer Dane Reister, not just the \$965,000 deductible the City is paying.

Second, we are discouraged that the City has chosen to use the phrase "Plaintiff was accidentally shot by a police officer with live rounds from a shot gun instead of less lethal ammunition" to describe the incident; Officer Reister did not "accidentally" shoot Mr. Monroe, he fired four rounds at him deliberately. That there was "live" ammunition in the gun instead of "bean bags" may have been accidental, but the shooting was not. This is, in fact, one reason that Officer Reister is still facing possible criminal charges for the assault on Mr. Monroe.

Third, we note that the amount being paid out is the single largest settlement sum that we know of in the City's history-- larger than the \$1.2 million paid to Aaron Campbell's family and the \$1.6 million paid to James Chasse's family. The message here is unfortunate: dead men tell no tales, and since Mr. Monroe was fortunate enough to survive his deadly force encounter with Portland Police he is being more appropriately compensated.

Fourth, Council should consider a proposal being floated by our colleagues in Minneapolis, a charter amendment that would require officers to purchase their own professional liability policy (though the city could pay for it) with the idea that officers who engage in repeated acts of misconduct would eventually become uninsurable and, thus, unable to continue as police officers in the city. This would rid Portland of frequent flyers like Reister (who also inappropriately confiscated a camcorder from Joe Anybody after being caught on video harassing a man downtown) and Leo Besner, the "Million Dollar Man." The City has been paying out an average of at least \$600,000 a year in taxpayer money for misconduct since 2002 and has been facing budget crunches and laying people off. Cleaning up the Police Bureau will go a long way to closing that budget gap.

Finally, we note that this is the third major settlement for a police misconduct claim this year (after the \$35,000 for police brutality at an anti-brutality march and the \$61,000 paid to a motorcyclist hit by an officer who went through a red light). We continue to ask that the City publish information about all such claims paid out, particularly since the settlement in the Chasse incident, since most payments made in that time frame appear to have been made as judgments entered with the court rather than settlements in order to avoid discussion/approval by Council and public disclosure.

Thank you  
dan handelman  
--Portland Copwatch  
(a project of Peace and Justice Works)  
PO Box 42456  
Portland, OR 97242  
(503) 236-3065 (office)  
(503) 321-5120 (incident report line)