

By Senator Sullivan

22-56-01

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the City of St. Petersburg;
3 providing for the relief of Alfred Brinkley
4 Roberts; authorizing and directing the City of
5 St. Petersburg to compensate him for injuries
6 suffered due to the negligence of an employee
7 of the city; providing an effective date.

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9 WHEREAS, on August 31, 1991, Alfred Brinkley Roberts
10 was walking across Ninth Avenue South, near 15th Street, in
11 St. Petersburg, when he was struck by a police cruiser that
12 had been traveling at a speed in excess of 65 miles per hour
13 in a 35-mile-per-hour zone, and

14 WHEREAS, due to its sliding wheels, the cruiser was not
15 steerable and left more than 200 feet of skid marks as it, in
16 effect, followed Mr. Roberts out of the travel lane and into
17 an unmarked parking zone, where the actual impact took place,
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Roberts' injuries were extreme and
20 included massive brain and orthopedic injuries, incontinence,
21 and confinement for the rest of his life to a wheelchair, and

22 WHEREAS, the police officer operating the cruiser was
23 investigated by the St. Petersburg Police Department's
24 Internal Affairs, which found the officer to be at fault for
25 causing the accident, and

26 WHEREAS, at the time of the accident, Mr. Roberts had
27 alcohol present in his system; however, it was shown at trial
28 that it would have been impossible for any person to have
29 avoided the swerving, out-of-control cruiser, and

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1 WHEREAS, after a lengthy trial, the jury awarded Mr.
2 Roberts \$1,267,735.05, which was reduced by 20 percent, to
3 \$1,014,188.04, for comparative negligence, and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Roberts has outstanding medical bills and
5 liens that include, but are not limited to, \$230,239.86 to
6 Bayfront Medical Center, \$6,235 to Dr. Clinton B. Davis, II,
7 and \$153,621 to the Veterans Administration, and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Roberts also owes his attorney for legal
9 services rendered during the 9 years that he has been pursuing
10 compensation for his injuries and also needs funds for his
11 care for the duration of his life, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

17 Section 2. The City of St. Petersburg is authorized
18 and directed to compensate Alfred Brinkley Roberts in the
19 amount of \$1,014,188.04, out of funds of the city not
20 otherwise appropriated, which sum is to be used to satisfy Mr.
21 Roberts' medical liens and outstanding medical bills and
22 attorneys' fees, with the remainder, in the amount of
23 approximately \$365,545.17, to be placed in a special needs
24 trust to provide for Mr. Roberts' care for the duration of his
25 life.

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