

By Senator Lawson

6-00199-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the City of Belle Glade; providing for
3 the relief of Willie Police, III, Cora Donaldson, Willie
4 Police, Sr., and the Estate of Willie Police, Jr.;
5 authorizing and directing the City of Belle Glade to
6 compensate them for injuries suffered as a result of the
7 death of Willie Police, Jr., due to the negligence of
8 employees of the city; providing a limitation on the
9 payment of fees and costs; providing an effective date.

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11 WHEREAS, on February 13, 1993, Willie Police, Jr., who was
12 17 years of age, and a friend attended a dance that was being
13 held at the Civic Center in Belle Glade, and

14 WHEREAS, while the two friends were standing in the parking
15 lot after the dance, a disturbance began as a result of which
16 both Willie Police and his friend were shot, and Willie died at
17 the scene, and

18 WHEREAS, the group that sponsored the dance allegedly did
19 not have permission to use the civic center and had broken into
20 the center that night and held the party without the permission
21 of the city, and

22 WHEREAS, 1 week before the dance, the group had passed out
23 flyers inviting the public to the event, and

24 WHEREAS, police were called to the scene because of the
25 noise created by the party, and, although police officers did
26 respond to the call and go to the party, they did not check to
27 see whether the group was legitimately using the civic center and
28 they did not speak to any person in charge, nor did they check to
29 see whether there was any security provided for the party, and

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30 WHEREAS, the testimony of city officials and the police
31 revealed that any time a party is held at the civic center
32 security is to be provided by either the city or the person who
33 gives the party, and

34 WHEREAS, the testimony further showed that such a party is
35 always recorded on the books of the city, and the city then
36 informs the police department of the party, and

37 WHEREAS, the Belle Glade Police Department never checked
38 with the city nor with anyone else about this party, even after
39 noise complaints were registered, and, if they had checked, they
40 would have shut down the party because it was not a scheduled
41 event and there was no security, and

42 WHEREAS, at the time of his death, Willie Police, Jr., was
43 the father of a 3-year-old son, Willie Police, III, who has been
44 deprived of the support and companionship of his father, and

45 WHEREAS, Willie Police, Jr.'s, parents, Cora Donaldson and
46 Willie Police, Sr., have been deprived of the services and
47 companionship of their son, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

53 Section 2. The City of Belle Glade is authorized and
54 directed to compensate Willie Police, III, Cora Donaldson, Willie
55 Police, Sr., and the Estate of Willie Police, Jr., out of funds
56 of the city not otherwise appropriated, in the amount of
57 \$381,649.10 for injuries and damages sustained as a result of the
58 death of Willie Police, Jr.

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59 Section 3. This award is intended to provide the sole
60 compensation for all present and future claims arising out of the
61 factual situation described in this act which resulted in the
62 death of Willie Police, Jr. The total amount paid for attorney's
63 fees, lobbying fees, costs, and other similar expenses relating
64 to this claim may not exceed 25 percent of the amount awarded
65 under this act.

66 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.