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Settlement in fatal accident brings closure

*By the Daily News**Tuesday, April 29, 2008 10:45 AM CDT*[Print this story](#) | [Email this story](#) | | Text Size | No comments posted. Comments

An appropriate settlement has been reached growing out of a horrible accident involving a city police officer and a Western Kentucky University student who was killed in April 2006.

The city announced recently that it will pay the family of Allison "Ali" Carter, 20, of Evansville, Ind., \$1 million for her death. Carter's vehicle was hit by a police cruiser driven by Officer David Hall.

According to the Kentucky State Police investigation, Hall had the right of way when traveling north on Kentucky Street at 47 mph in a 35 mph zone without his lights or sirens on.

Carter was driving on 13th Avenue, attempting to cross Kentucky Street at the time of the collision. She ran the stop sign at the time of the collision, with her lowest speed at 9 mph, as she came to the intersection during a rainstorm. Hall was responding to a fleeing hit-and-run driver at the time.

This was a tragedy and we are glad that the lawsuit was resolved with a settlement that spared the families of Carter and Hall the emotional trauma of a trial.

These had to be very difficult times for both of the families involved in this unfortunate tragedy.

We believe the Carter family when they say that this lawsuit wasn't just about the money, but finding out what happened to their daughter and why.

Hopefully, this investigation answered more questions than they originally had.

Although the money they will receive won't bring their daughter back, it may bring them some closure. It could encourage police practices that would prevent serious injury and death in the future.

The Carters should be commended for trying to meet with Bowling Green Police Chief Doug Hawkins to discuss the handling of families in crisis and offering to contribute financially to establish a fund for the benefit of training police officers.

Now that the litigation has been resolved, we hope Chief Hawkins will seize the opportunity to meet the Carter family to explore their ideas.

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