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City could pay in CMPD officer's fatal crash

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By GLENN COUNTS / NewsChannel 36

E-mail Glenn: GCounts@WCNC.com

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City could pay for fatal CMPD crash

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CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- The city of Charlotte could pay a hefty price after a fatal collision involving a police officer.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department says Officer Martray Proctor was driving at least 90 mph when his cruiser collided with a Ford Escort on Sunday, killing 20-year-old Shatona Robinson.

Court records show Proctor has been cited three times in recent years for

speeding.

"Well, it looks pretty bad given that this is not a first or second occasion where this particular officer had problem with speeding," said John Kunich, a professor at Charlotte School of Law.

Proctor was driving on Old Statesville Road in north Charlotte on his way to assist another officer on a routine traffic stop when the crash happened. Witnesses said the police cruiser did not have its emergency blue lights on.

"I don't imagine the plaintiff's family will have any trouble finding a good attorney to represent them," Kunich said.

The crash could be costly to the city. Proctor's driving record would be a factor. He's been cited for speeding three times in the last six years.

"That looks really bad," Kunich said. "It happened several times and the last occasion it cost someone their life. That's about as bad as it gets when it comes to civil actions."

When it comes to money, the city is self-insured up to \$2 million. From \$2 million to \$4 million, insurance kicks in, and anything above \$4 million is the city's responsibility.

North Carolina law could ease that burden. This is one of the few states with contributory negligence, which means if Robinson did anything to contribute to her injuries that could give the city a break.

"Were they driving under the influence or not using their eyeglasses or under prescription medication, anything like that?" Kunich said.

Proctor, who works in the department's north division, has not had any complaints lodged against him and has never been disciplined by his superiors since becoming an officer, officials said.

Proctor suffered a broken leg among other injuries in the crash. Family members say he has told them of the sorrow he feels for Robinson's family.

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