

USA TODAY NETWORK

## City pays \$1.6M for chase that killed boys

Settlement reached with families nine years after crash

ANDREW WOLFSON  
@ADWOLFSON

Nine years after Louisville Metro Police chased a stolen car that crashed into a tree, killing four boys inside who didn't know the vehicle was stolen, the city has agreed to pay \$1.6 million to their families, who claimed the pursuit was dangerous and violated department rules.

The boys were returning home from a field trip sponsored by Youth Alive and had been told to get into the car because the anti-crime group's van was full. The driver, who was 16 and had a criminal record, had stolen the car two weeks earlier.

After discovering the vehicle was stolen, police Officers Aaron Tinelli and James Franklin initiated a high-speed chase through Old Louisville on Dec. 18, 2008, despite wet streets, a dark night and poor visibility — and a rule that allows pursuits only if the “necessity of immediate apprehension outweighs the dangers” of the chase.

Attorney William McMurry, the lead counsel for the families, said in court papers that if police had complied with standard operating procedures, “the deaths of four children would not have happened.”

McMurry and co-counsel Aubrey Williams and Sam Aguilar confirmed the settlement amount and said the accord was struck on March 1, the day the case was mediated. The county attorney's office provided documents confirming the settlement.

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Demar Claybrooks



Jemar Claybrooks



Marc Claybrooks

## CJ 2017 Police Chase pl

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