



DATE: November 10, 2025

TO: Colorado Springs City Council

FROM: Office of the City Attorney

SUBJECT: *Patricia Sanderson v Derek Boehnke and the City of Colorado Springs*
2025CV31724

This memorandum is to inform you of the facts alleged in the above-referenced case as you consider the claims made against the officer involved.

NATURE OF THE CASE

Plaintiff, Patricia Sanderson, by and through her attorneys, brought this case in the District Court of El Paso County, Colorado alleging that the above-named officer caused an automobile accident which injured her. She has filed a negligence claim against the officer and a respondeat superior claim against the City.

Plaintiff alleges that on August 8, 2022, she was operating her 2011 Jeep Liberty on Windmill Avenue where that street intersects with Centennial Boulevard. Plaintiff claims that she came to a complete stop and then proceeded to make a left turn onto Centennial Boulevard. As she crossed the southbound lanes, Plaintiff claims that her Jeep was struck by Officer Boehnke, who was operating a marked CSPD motorcycle and in pursuit of a speeding vehicle. Plaintiff claims that the officer was exceeding the speed limit with only his rear emergency lights flashing. She claims that because of the accident, she incurred medical expenses, endured pain and suffering, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, and physical impairment.

According to reports, before the accident on August 8, 2022, Officer Boehnke was conducting speed enforcement on southbound Centennial Boulevard. After observing a speeding vehicle, Officer Boehnke pulled into traffic to contact the vehicle. As the officer passed a vehicle that was traveling in the right lane, he observed Plaintiff pulling out into the road perpendicular to his direction of travel. Unable to avoid the accident, Officer Boehnke struck the left front portion of Plaintiff's Jeep with his motorcycle. Both parties were transported to the hospital by ambulance as a result of the accident.

RECOMMENDATION

The Civil Action Investigation Committee met on October 22, 2025, and recommends City Council acknowledge the City's obligation to represent the officer involved, as required by the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act and the Peace Officer's Liability Act. The officer was acting in the course and scope of his employment and in good faith. As usual, it is recommended that the City reserve the right to decline payment of any award of punitive damages.