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The Charlotte Post

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Thompson settlement is 'a business decision'

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The City of Charlotte has offered to pay \$550,000 to the children of Windy Gail Thompson, a black woman shot and killed by a police officer in 1993.

The offer, in which the city admits no liability, was approved by the City Council Monday night as settlement for



McCrory

Mayor Pat McCrory said.

a wrongful death lawsuit. "It basically was a business and financial decision for the city of Charlotte and it may be the same for the family,"

James Ferguson, attorney for the Thompson family, could not be reached to confirm an agreement.

The Thompson shooting has long been a sore spot in Charlotte race relations, spawning a wave of protests and vigils that were heightened following the shooting death last November of James Willie Cooper, an unarmed black man, by another Charlotte police offi-

cer.

On Jan. 27, some 500 blacks, led by Ben Chavis, now a member of the Nation of Islam, demonstrated at the Square downtown.

City officials said they hoped the settlement would help rebuild race relations.

"We all feel deep concern and compassion when a situation results in the death of a mem-

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Windy Thompson, an unarmed motorist, was shot and killed in a 1993 confrontation with Charlotte police officer Mark Farmer. The city plans to offer Thompson's family \$550,000 to settle a lawsuit and bring "closure to the case," Mayor Pat McCrory said.



Thompson

McDonald's future still unsettled

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The future of McDonald's Cafeteria appears to be moving toward resolution.

The principals involved, which include McDonald family members, refuse to confirm reports from sources across the community.

Eunice McDonald, widow of the cafeteria's founder, John D. McDonald, refuses to talk about the proposed sale of the business.

"We don't need any controversy," she said. "We need people to come up here and eat."

McDonald's daughter, Brenda Poage, echoed that sentiment, saying the family just want community support for the westside landmark built by John McDonald, who died in 1995.

The outline of the situation, according to sources, is that the McDonald's family entered into an agreement with Louis Pinto, an East Indian, for a six-month management contract, which would end this spring with Pinto having an option of purchasing the restaurant, hotel and adjacent Fun City park.

In December, the mortgage for the facility - \$3.6 million from NationsBank and \$800,000 from the City of Charlotte - was in danger of foreclosure. Pinto has been trying to secure financing for a purchase.

In the meantime, the deal with Pinto went sour. On Friday, Pinto was escorted from the premises. The McDonalds, with former manager John Jennings, were back in the

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Sista act



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Tina McDonald of Sista Productions performs "Sista's House" during the organization's first anniversary celebration at Spirit Square. The troupe performs regularly in Charlotte and the surrounding area.

Investigation may not finger King's killer

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEMPHIS, Tenn. - James Earl Ray wants new scientific tests on the rifle believed to have killed Martin Luther King Jr., but authorities contend such a review would be of little value.

Ray pleaded guilty to killing King in Memphis in 1968 but has been trying to take it back ever since.

As part of those efforts, he is seeking new tests on the .30-06 hunting rifle found, with his fingerprints on it, near the murder scene.

The rifle was tested by the FBI and a congressional committee that decided in 1978 that Ray was the killer, though he may have had help before or after the murder.

Six firearms specialists for the House committee said the rifle left inconsistent marks on different bullets fired from it. While unusual, that is not unheard of with high-powered rifles, they said.

The examiners could not conclusively identify the rifle as the murder weapon, but the general characteristics of barrel markings on the death slug matched bullets fired by Ray's gun.

Ray's lawyer wants to use a scanning electron microscope to compare the death bullet with new test bullets fired from Ray's rifle.

Such microscopes are up to 1,000 times stronger than those originally used in the tests on the King rifle.



King

Blackness focus of debate in St. Louis mayor's primary

By Ed Shafer
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS - It's not easy to make race the main issue in a mayoral contest in which both the major players are black. But they've done it in St. Louis.

The city's first black mayor, Freeman Bosley Jr., is up for re-

election in April and, as a Democrat, is almost certain of victory if he can get past the primary in March. It has been more than 50 years since the city elected a Republican mayor.

Bosley's only serious opponent in the primary is former Police Chief Clarence Harmon, who is

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Combative Waters carving niche in Congress



Rep. Maxine Waters, with a congressional aide, distributes leaflets to South Central Los Angeles residents after calling for an investigation into possible Central Intelligence Agency connections to the introduction of crack into the U.S. Waters is chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

By Darlene Superville
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - She jumped at the chance to serve as a go-between for school administrators and congressional inquisitors on the black English controversy. She told a Republican to "shut up!" during a Whitewater hearing.

Meet Rep. Maxine Waters, the unrelenting, unapologetic firebrand who now heads the Congressional Black Caucus.

When members of the Oakland, Calif., school board came to Congress to explain their new policy on black English, she rushed to defend them against skeptical Republicans. Always looking out for her own, the Democratic congresswoman from Los Angeles provided some moral support so the school officials would feel less intimidated by the Senate interrogators.

"I want to be part of setting the record straight," Waters said, maintaining that Republicans were too harshly attacking the black English education policy.

It is just that sort of outspokenness that is needed to rejuvenate the 38-member caucus - a minority within the Democratic minority in Congress - Waters' supporters say.

Said she: "If someone does not like my style and they're critical of it, that's OK. As long as I'm comfortable that I've done the right thing, I really don't care what others think about me."

Waters' fiery style contrasts sharply with the more laid-back manner of her immediate predecessors, Reps. Kweisi Mfume, D-Md., and Donald Payne, D-N.J.

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