

# DAILY REPUBLIC

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## Vacaville to pay \$1.3M for deadly 2013 police shooting

By Jess Sullivan

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**FAIRFIELD** — The city of Vacaville will pay out \$1.3 million to the family of a man shot and killed by Vacaville police in 2013.

The payment will bring to a close a wrongful death lawsuit filed last year in federal court in Sacramento involving the killing of Kendall Walker, 24, after a slow-speed police chase on the night of July 18, 2013.

Walker's ex-girlfriend called police to report that Walker had been at her home and threatened her.

Police spotted Walker driving from the home in his Geo Metro and tried to make a routine traffic stop. After Walker refused to yield, police twice tried to throw a spike strip in the path of his car, which he avoided. Then police rammed Walker's car vehicle twice, stopping the Metro.

Walker got out his car with a hammer in one hand and a knife in the other near the intersection of Ulatis and Christine drives. Walker then moved toward the police "in a threatening way," prompting Sgt. Patrick Williams to shoot Walker several times.

"Police are trained to de-escalate situations. In this case Vacaville police escalated the situation and needlessly killed a man," said Michael J. Haddad, the attorney for Walker's family.

Haddad previously sued Vacaville for a 1997 police shooting that killed Doron Lifton.

Lifton, 33, was shot eight times by three police officers who surrounded him in a vacant field near Peabody Road and Cliffside Drive where he had been in an auto accident. Lifton had picked up a metal fence post from the ground as he walked away from the three-car crash. He struck an officer in the chest with the pole, knocking him to the ground and he repeatedly refused officer's shouted demands to drop the pole in the moments before the shooting.

A jury in 2001 in a federal wrongful death lawsuit awarded Lifton's family \$1.2 million.

Walker and Lifton both had long histories of mental illness and criminal behavior.

"It's been nearly 15 years since the Lifton lawsuit and here we have the same police department facing the same allegations," Haddad said. "Hopefully this will now force the department to update its training."

Reviews of both shootings led by the Solano County District Attorney's Office cleared Vacaville police officers of any wrongdoing.

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**Jess Sullivan**

Jess has covered the criminal justice system in Solano

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