

Man who broke back in drunken Streets and San crash sues

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The City of Chicago and one of its own — a Streets and Sanitation worker charged with drunken driving after plowing into a crowd at a Near North Side photo shoot — have been slapped with another lawsuit in connection with the May 21 crash.

Stephen Dewart, one of several pedestrians injured that day, suffered several spinal fractures, a broken fibula and a broken tibia. And because of a rod surgically inserted in to his leg, must use a wheelchair to get around, according to a statement from his attorney's firm, Levin & Perconti.

Dewart, 27, was participating in a wedding photo shoot for his wife's company when Dwight Washington allegedly lost control of the city-owned vehicle at the three-way intersection of Rush, Cedar and State and crashed into the group, according to police records.

Now Dewart and his wife, Sharokina Pazand, are suing the city and Washington for negligence and personal injury. They're seeking at least \$50,000 in damages.

Washington, 61, of the 1800 block of North Linder, has been charged with aggravated DUI in connection with the crash. His blood-alcohol level was .183 — more than twice the legal limit, authorities said.

Washington was fired May 31st, according to Streets and Sanitation spokesman Matt Smith.

Washington and the City of Chicago also face at least two other lawsuits filed last month on behalf of a nanny and her 20-month-old charge who were both injured in the crash.

A spokeswoman for the city's law department couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

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