

Former Metro Police Sgt. Mark Chesnut settles suit in prison break case

Metro officer took 5 bullets

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Former Metro Police Sgt. Mark Chesnut has settled a lawsuit against a private prison company that housed an inmate who escaped and then shot him five times.



Metro Police Sgt. Mark Chesnut

Chesnut sued Corrections Corporation of America, accusing the company of being negligent in its supervision of Joseph Jackson Jr., a Mississippi prisoner who escaped during a medical visit. Chesnut's lawsuit asked for \$16.5 million in damages resulting from physical and emotional pain for him and his wife.

Chesnut's attorney, David Raybin, said the former sergeant would not comment and he declined to discuss the amount of the settlement.

CCA said the terms of the settlement are confidential and also declined to specify its contents. "However, we at CCA do want to express our appreciation for Sgt. Chesnut's heroic service in law enforcement," said company spokesman Mike Machak. "Safety and security has, and will remain CCA's top priority."

On June 25, 2009, Chesnut was shot five times by Jackson, a prisoner from a Mississippi CCA prison who escaped with the help of his cousin during a visit to the eye doctor. Chesnut pulled the cousins over on Interstate 40 near Bellevue after spotting the driver without a seat belt.

Chesnut survived the shooting and was able to radio for help. Jackson is serving 45 years in prison and his cousin Courtney Logan is serving 31 years in the shooting.

Chesnut recovered, but was unable to continue as a police sergeant. In October 2009, he filed suit against CCA, Jackson and Logan. Raybin declined to discuss the future of the lawsuit, which still remains open against the two men.