

Hit-and-run driver claims city didn't take care of his Bentley after crash

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Harry Shasho is suing the city for damaging his Bentley (similar model below) used in a hit-and-run.

In the annals of shameless lawsuits, this one takes the cake.

A Coney Island businessman is suing the city for damaging the Bentley he was driving when he killed a Brooklyn dad in a hit-and-run accident.

Harry Shasho, who pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of an accident, says the NYPD failed to safeguard the battered black 2005 Bentley GT luxury sedan that was impounded as evidence of the fatal crash. He's asking for at least \$190,000.

The victim's loved ones are outraged.

"He's not a human being, he's an animal with no conscience," fumed Linda Ruberto, the longtime girlfriend of victim Louis (Pete) Couch, who was killed as he crossed Ocean Parkway.

"Suing the city when you've killed somebody is disgusting," she said. "It's immoral."

"Mr. Shasho has shown greater concern for the condition of his vehicle than the condition of the victim it left behind," added lawyer Stavros Sitinas of Wingate, Russotti & Shapiro, who represented Couch's son in a suit against Shasho that was settled last year.

Shasho, 38, who owns a fancy Coney Island car detailing shop, struck Couch and left the scene without stopping Oct. 1, 2005. He later surrendered to cops and was sentenced to five years' probation and community service.

Couch was intoxicated at the time of the accident, which could have played a role in Shasho's seemingly lenient sentence.

Shasho says the Bentley was in "excellent condition ... with no noticeable defects or damage" when he turned himself in, according to the suit filed in Brooklyn Federal Court.

The police report tells a different story.

It describes the car as crumpled and the windshield "depressed and fractured" by the violent impact with Couch that left his body parts strewn across the street.

The suit seeks damages from the city, the NYPD and the Brooklyn district attorney's office.

It accuses the NYPD of failing to properly care for vehicles, "particularly those which require special care and treatment due to value, style [and] model." Noticeably missing from the suit is any mention of why Shasho was arrested. It doesn't even mention Couch, 54, an assistant manager at a Duane Reade drugstore.

Shasho owns 212 Motoring, a shop that tricks out luxury autos with elaborate sound systems and detailing. Former Knicks forward Jerome Williams is his partner in the business.

Reached by the Daily News, Shasho denied filing a lawsuit and hung up. Shasho's lawyer refused to comment.