

Bodega owner sues after funeral crash

Victim seeking \$5M from motorists

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by AnnMarie Costella, Assistant Editor |

A Jamaica bodega owner has filed a lawsuit seeking \$5 million in damages after a three-car accident injured, traumatized her children and damaged her store, according to her attorney.

Saragjit Kaur, who sustained injuries to her neck, shoulders, legs and arms when a limousine hit her at the Medical Center, where doctors determined that she had no breaks or fractures, but endured serious injuries, according to her attorney, Adam Shapiro. She is recovering at a treatment facility in Valley Stream, LI.

Saketav McGhee-Mack of Springfield Gardens was traveling northbound on Guy R. Brewer Boulevard in a 2006 Buick minivan when she collided with a limousine leading a funeral procession, according to the police report. The impact caused McGhee-Mack's car to spin around and strike a building. Thirteen people were injured in the crash, the report said.

Kaur is suing all three drivers, Owens Funeral Home, owner of the limo, and Utopia Leasing Inc.

The New York Post, however, detailed the series of events differently, reporting that the McGhee-Mack minivan then struck the funeral limo and sent it crashing into the bodega.

Kaur, who was sweeping the steps in front of the store, the Mega Mini Market at 144-12 Guy R. Brewer Boulevard, was hit by the limo and landed on its hood, Shapiro said.

"She is so injured that she can't take care of her children," Shapiro said Tuesday. "Her husband is on bed rest for a week."

Kaur's three children — ages 5, 8 and 11 — were at their home above the store at the time of the crash, Shapiro said. They sustained psychological trauma and are afraid to go near the demolished stairwell, he said, adding that, they too are seeking treatment.

The funeral procession was traveling to Pinelawn Cemetery on Long Island carrying the body of the victim. Relatives were among those injured in the crash. Neither they nor McGhee-Mack could be reached for comment.

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