

Morgan Settles With Wal-Mart Over Crash

David Porter,
Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Actor-comedian Tracy Morgan has settled his lawsuit against Wal-Mart over a highway crash that killed one man and left Morgan and two friends seriously injured.

A filing in federal court in

Newark on Wednesday refers to a confidential settlement reached by the two sides.

Morgan’s lawyer didn’t immediately respond to a message seeking comment Wednesday.

Bentonville, Arkansas-based Wal-Mart Stores Inc. called it an “amicable settlement.” Details weren’t

disclosed.

A Wal-Mart truck slammed into the back of a limo van carrying Morgan and the others back from a show in Delaware last June. Comedian James “Jimmy Mack” McNair was killed. Morgan suffered head trauma, a broken leg and broken ribs.

Wal-Mart reached a settle-

ment with McNair’s two children in January. McNair, of Peekskill, New York, grew up with Morgan in New York City and was a friend and mentor to him over the years.

Wal-Mart had said earlier this year it was working toward settlements with the victims of the crash.

“We know there is noth-



In this April 9, 2014 file photo, actor Tracy Morgan attends the FX Networks Upfront premiere screening of “ Fargo ” at the SVA Theater in New York. Actor-comedian Morgan has settled his lawsuit against Wal-Mart over a New Jersey highway crash that killed one man and left Morgan and two friends seriously injured. A filing in federal court in Newark on Wednesday, May 27, 2015, refers to a confidential settlement reached by the two sides.

ing we can do to change what happened to Mr. McNair,” company spokeswoman Brooke Buchanan said in January. “We’re committed to doing what’s right.”

The truck driver, Kevin Roper, of Jonesboro, Georgia, faces several criminal

charges, including death by auto, in state court. He has pleaded not guilty. He wasn’t a defendant in Morgan’s federal lawsuit.

Morgan, who starred on “Saturday Night Live” and “30 Rock,” suffered what his lawyer, Benedict Morelli, has referred to as a traumatic brain injury. Morelli said in March that Morgan wasn’t fully recovered but was “working very hard to get better, physically, emotionally and mentally.”

Morgan had hoped to attend the 40th anniversary show of “Saturday Night Live” in February but was unable to.

Limo van passengers Ard-

ley Fuqua, of Jersey City, New Jersey, and Jeffrey Millea, of Shelton, Connecticut, also suffered serious injuries in the June crash and were plaintiffs in the lawsuit against Wal-Mart.

According to the criminal complaint, Roper was operating the truck without having slept for more than 24 hours

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A preliminary investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board estimated that Roper was driving 65 mph in the minute before he slammed into Morgan’s limo van on the New Jersey Turnpike. The speed limit on that stretch of the turnpike is 55 mph and was lowered to 45 mph that night because of construction.

Authorities said Roper apparently failed to slow for traffic ahead and then swerved to avoid a crash but instead his big rig smashed into the back of Morgan’s limo.

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