

854 N.Y.S.2d 450
Supreme Court, Appellate Division,
Second Department, New York.

Ida SHAPERONOVITCH, et
al., respondents-appellants,

v.

CITY OF NEW YORK, appellant-respondent.

March 18, 2008.

Synopsis

Background: Pedestrian brought action against city, seeking to recover for personal injuries she sustained when she fell on raised and uneven section of sidewalk. The Supreme Court, Kings County, Martin, J., denied city's motion to set aside jury verdict and for judgment as matter of law, and denied pedestrian's motion for additur. Parties appealed.

Holdings: The Supreme Court, Appellate Division, held that: 1 evidence raised fact issue for jury as to whether city received written notice of sidewalk defect, and 2 award of damages to pedestrian was reasonable.

Affirmed.

Attorneys and Law Firms

**451 Michael A. Cardozo, Corporation Counsel, New York, N.Y. (Barry P. Schwartz, Larry A. Sonnenshein and Deborah A. Brenner of counsel), for appellant-respondent. Lester B. Herzog, Brooklyn, N.Y., for respondents-appellants.

WILLIAM F. MASTRO, J.P., JOSEPH COVELLO,
RANDALL T. ENG, and ARIEL E. BELEN, JJ.

Opinion

*709 In an action to recover damages for personal injuries, etc., the defendant appeals from a judgment of the Supreme Court, Kings County (Martin, J.), entered July 13, 2006, which, upon a jury verdict and upon the denial of that branch of its motion which was pursuant to CPLR 4404 to set aside the verdict and for judgment as a matter of law, is in favor of the plaintiffs and against it, and the plaintiffs cross-appeal, as limited by their brief, on the ground of inadequacy, from so much of the same judgment as, upon the jury verdict and upon the denial of their motion for additur, is in favor of the plaintiff

Ida Shaperonovitch and against the defendant in the principal sum of only \$172,685 and in favor of the plaintiff Moshe Shaperonovitch and against the defendant in the principal sum of only \$10,000.

ORDERED that the judgment is affirmed, without costs or disbursements.

The plaintiff Ida Shaperonovitch was injured when she tripped and fell on a section of raised and uneven sidewalk in Brooklyn, sustaining fractures of the acetabulum bone in the hip. She was admitted to the hospital for three days, then *710 transferred to another hospital for rehabilitation for eight days. No surgery was required and the bone healed within two months. However, she complained of continued pain. She walks with a limp and testified that she is no longer able to work as a pediatric medical assistant. Notwithstanding her complaints, no further surgery was recommended, and the plaintiff was able to walk unassisted. There were no indications of arthritic changes. The plaintiff did not receive any physical therapy, and she discontinued all treatment more than one year prior to the trial.

The plaintiffs commenced this action against the City of New York. After trial, the jury found the City 100% at fault in the happening of the accident, and awarded the plaintiff Ida Shaperonovitch, inter alia, \$51,000 for past pain and suffering, \$51,000 for future pain and suffering over 30 years, and \$12,000 for one year of future loss of health insurance. After post-judgment motions by the parties, the Supreme Court declined to disturb the verdict.

1 The Supreme Court properly denied that branch of the City's motion which was pursuant to CPLR 4404 to set aside the verdict and for judgment as a matter of law (*see Cohen v. Hallmark Cards*, 45 N.Y.2d 493, 499, 410 N.Y.S.2d 282, 382 N.E.2d 1145). To establish that the City received prior written notice of the sidewalk defect in accordance with the Administrative Code of the City of New York § 7-201(c), the plaintiff submitted a map by the Big Apple Pothole and Sidewalk Protection Committee (hereinafter Big Apple). The map contained numerous symbols for defects at the location of the accident-one of which, as conceded by the City's witness from Big Apple, was ambiguous. **452 Where there is a factual dispute regarding whether an alleged defect is depicted on a map, the question should be resolved by the jury (*see Bradley v. City of New York*, 38 A.D.3d 581, 832 N.Y.S.2d 257; *Reid v. City of New York*, 36 A.D.3d 784, 828 N.Y.S.2d 224; *Vertzberger v. City of New York*, 34 A.D.3d 453, 824 N.Y.S.2d 346; *Cassuto v. City of New York*, 23

A.D.3d 423, 805 N.Y.S.2d 580; *Almadotter v. City of New York*, 15 A.D.3d 426, 789 N.Y.S.2d 729; *Blas v. R.M.H. Realty Corp.*, 5 A.D.3d 416, 772 N.Y.S.2d 606; *Quinn v. City of New York*, 305 A.D.2d 570, 761 N.Y.S.2d 231).

2 The damages awards do not deviate materially from what would be reasonable compensation under the circumstances (see CPLR 5501).

Parallel Citations

49 A.D.3d 709, 2008 N.Y. Slip Op. 02572

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