

Irwindale hit with \$20 million civil suit

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dailynews.com

A Chino woman has filed a \$20 million civil lawsuit against the city of Irwindale after an Irwindale police officer allegedly sexually assaulted her during a traffic stop and forced her to perform oral sex.

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday in Los Angeles County Superior Court, alleges that the city knew Sgt. David Fraijo was “unfit” and city officials consciously disregarded the safety of others in employing him.

The alleged assault by Fraijo occurred Oct. 20 near the intersection of Azusa Canyon Road and Arrow Highway. The woman was working, delivering newspapers, when she was stopped about 5:15 a.m. by an officer who was driving a marked SUV police cruiser.

The complaint claims that Fraijo, “forcibly touched the plaintiff’s breast(s) with his hand(s) and forced the plaintiff to touch and kiss and orally copulate (Fraijo’s) penis.”

Fraijo no longer works for the police department, according to City Manager John Davidson. He declined to say whether Fraijo was fired or resigned.

The City Council has been informed of the lawsuit and will review it with the city’s attorney and give direction in how the city will handle it, said Davidson.

In April, the woman filed a \$1 million claim against the city, which is separate from the lawsuit. She said she suffered emotional, psychological and physical injuries as a result of the alleged assault.

Davidson said that Carl Warren, the city’s third-party administrator, is reviewing the claim and will advise the council whether to accept or deny the claim.

The L.A. County Sheriff’s Department is conducting a criminal investigation into the incident, which is ongoing, said Davidson.

Sheriff’s spokesman Steve Whitmore knew nothing about the status of the investigation.

The Sheriff’s Department has not yet brought the case forward to the L.A. County District Attorney’s Office.

The civil lawsuit outlines four causes of action:

- The woman’s constitutional rights were violated.
- Her rights to due process, equal protection and privacy were violated.

- She was falsely imprisoned.
- She was sexually battered.

The woman is requesting \$5 million in damages for each claim.

Frajio is one of three current or former Irwindale police officers under investigation for alleged sexual misconduct.

Officer Daniel Camerano was placed on paid administrative leave amid accusations that he had inappropriate relationships with Explorer Scouts.

Lt. Mario Camacho is accused of sexually harassing a female police cadet.