

Victims sue former officer convicted of criminal sexual conduct

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FARMINGTON HILLS >> A former Detroit police officer who was convicted of criminal sexual conduct involving participants in his boot camp for misbehaving teens is being sued by two of the victims.

The victims filed the suit against Geoffrey Townsend recently in Oakland County Circuit Court.

Townsend, 46, was the founder and CEO of Reality Check Detroit, described in the lawsuit as “a non-profit organization (that) targeted ‘at risk’ youth between the ages of 6 (and) 14.”

One of the victims began attending the boot camp in July 2010.

“While in the ... program, Townsend began making unwelcome sexual advances toward (the victim, listed as Jane Doe I in the lawsuit) in the form of spending time alone with Doe I, holding Doe I’s hand, kissing Doe I on the mouth and having sexual intercourse with Doe I,” the lawsuit states.

The victim was 13 years old when the interactions began in November 2010. Townsend continued to have sexual intercourse with the victim through August 2012, the suit states.

The second victim, listed as Jane Doe II, took part in the boot camp beginning around 2006.

“Townsend began making unwelcome sexual advances toward Doe II in the form of attempting to spend time with Doe II alone, without other children or parents to supervise the interactions,” the suit states.

Townsend is accused of “indicating that he was interested in her in a romantic way and holding her hand,” according to the lawsuit.

Under the auspices of the program, Townsend also began calling the victim’s parents in order to take her to his house in Farmington Hills alone, the lawsuit state, and the advances continued despite the disapproval of the victim’s parents.

Jane Doe II, who was a minor at the time, was removed from the program in 2007 “due to Townsend’s unwelcome advances,” but Townsend continued to see her, the lawsuit states. Townsend is accused of picking the victim up from school and taking her to his home without her parents’ knowledge.

“At the end of February 2011, Townsend had sexual intercourse with 16-year-old Doe II at his home,” the lawsuit states.

Jane Doe II’s age was not provided in the court filing.

Jane Doe I reported Townsend to police in November 2012, and Jane Doe II came forward in March 2013, as detectives were investigating the initial complaint. Townsend was arrested on March 28 and charged with six counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct in April. He was ultimately convicted and was sentenced to 10 to 15 years in prison in September.

The victims are seeking “whatever amount is shown to be established by the proofs in this cause, together with punitive damages, exemplary damages, interest, costs and reasonable attorney fees.

Andrea Johnson is representing the plaintiffs.