

Ramapo sergeant drops gender discrimination lawsuit



Steve Lieberman, slieberm@lohud.com 10:31 p.m. EDT April 22, 2015

Ramapo Police Sgt. Margaret Sammarone has dropped her civil rights lawsuit accusing the department of denying her a promotion and raise based on her gender.



(Photo: Journal News file photo)

A Ramapo police sergeant has dropped her civil rights lawsuit accusing the department of denying her promotions based on her gender.

Sgt. Margaret Sammarone ended her legal action after two years of litigation, including depositions and court motions.

The town's lawyers had moved in federal court to have the case dropped and Sammarone and her lawyer agreed.

"We sent them a mountain of evidence to show there was no discrimination and the police department made reasonable decisions with respect to Sgt. Sammarone," attorney Steven C. Stern of Sokoloff Stern said Wednesday. "It was very clear from all the evidence there was no merit to any aspect of this case."

Sammarone's lawyer, Jonathan Lovett of White Plains, said Wednesday that the town's information prompted the decision to drop the case.

"Our position was the case couldn't move forward," Lovett said. "They came up with persuasive material."

Sammarone, who joined the department in 1998, filed her federal lawsuit in April 2013 after she was passed over for promotion to lieutenant.

She claimed gender discrimination blocked her from promotions and raises after being denied special duties in the department, which were then given to younger, male officers

Sammarone said that her job performance evaluations were above average before she started complaining about what she saw as workplace discrimination. She named the department's three top officers: Police Chief Peter Brower, Capt. Thomas Cokely and Capt. Brad Weidel.

"We always knew there was absolutely no merit to the allegations, and we view this as complete vindication," Brower said. "We are pleased the matter is concluded and we can focus our attention on protecting the people of the Town of Ramapo."

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