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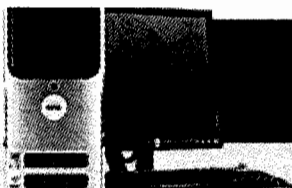


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Gastonia police officer sues city and department over sexual harassment

04/17/2002

Associated Press

GASTONIA, N.C. -- A Gastonia police officer has sued the city, the police department and Capt. Bobby Adams, contending she was sexually harassed for years.

Chief Rodney Parham, Adams and city officials declined comment Tuesday. The city has not responded to the suit, filed April 2 in Gaston County Superior Court.

D.A.R.E. officer Jo Ann Campbell, 42, started working for the department in 1987. She says in the suit that Adams, 48, harassed her by touching her inappropriately and making sexual remarks.

Campbell said in the lawsuit that Adams was her training officer after she joined the force and again was under his supervision in 1995 when she was transferred to the D.A.R.E. program.

Campbell reported Adams' alleged behavior to internal affairs in June, according to the suit. By the end of that month, she received a letter from Parham that the matter

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had been investigated and the appropriate action had been taken, the suit said. She remained under Adams' supervision.

The lawsuit said that in September, the department asked Campbell to be evaluated by a psychologist, who recommended Campbell report to another supervisor. The city did not follow the recommendation.

Adams was promoted from sergeant to captain in November.

Campbell has stayed with the force because she will be eligible for retirement in about six years, said her attorney, Neal Rodgers of Charlotte.

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