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By [Joseph Markman](#)[Print Page](#)

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City responds to former Brockton detective's discrimination lawsuit

The city seeks to dismiss former Brockton detective's case.

BROCKTON – The city is seeking to dismiss a multi-million dollar discrimination lawsuit that a former Brockton detective is using to call for police accountability nationwide.

In his lawsuit, Ken Williams demands the city return money it received from the U.S. Department of Justice. He claims a 15-year pattern of racial discrimination within the Brockton Police Department shows that the city lied on applications for community policing grants and that it should be forced to repay those funds.

Williams, an African American, currently lives in Lakeville and runs a wrongful death consulting firm. He retired from the Brockton Police Department in 2010 after what he claims was retaliation by supervisors for helping a resident file a racial discrimination complaint against the city. A trial involving that separate claim is pending.

On Tuesday, a Boston law firm hired by the city filed a motion to dismiss Williams' other lawsuit, which is based around the False Claims Act, in which a whistleblower brings a federal lawsuit against an organization on behalf of the government and receives a portion of any damages won.

From 1995 to 2011, the Brockton Police Department funded the salaries of 41 police officers, including Williams, using \$5.8 million worth of so-called COPS grants.

The city's attorneys argue that Williams does not present original evidence that has not already been made public, and that much of his allegations are outside the law's six-year statute of limitations.

City officials have declined to comment on the pending litigation.

Meanwhile, Williams has been talking about his lawsuit in Washington, DC in an attempt to gather momentum for changes to problematic police practices nationwide

"I'm in talks right now with whistleblowers around the country," Williams said. "We're going to blow this thing open."

On Monday, Williams spoke with staff members of Sen. Chuck Grassley, a Republican from Iowa who serves as the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Williams said his lawsuit may be used as an example of federal grant abuses at the Department of Justice.

"The lawsuit is a novel approach to try to rectify patterns and practices within police agencies," Williams said. "We're going after the taxpayer's money."

Beth Levine, a Grassley spokeswoman, confirmed the discussion with Williams, but said a decision has yet to be made on a hearing.

"Senator Grassley is very interested in grant management at the Dept of Justice," Levine said in an email. "He's made it clear that grant reform is something he'd like to pursue as chairman."

Jonathan Newton, a former law enforcement official from Georgia, invited Williams to speak next month at the University of the District of Columbia, where Newton is a law student. Last year, he co-founded the National Association Against Police Brutality.

Newton said his panel is focused on "any kind of message that can bring better police accountability."

"What Ken is doing is a natural fit," Newton said. "A lot of people don't understand why officers don't blow the whistle. There's no safeguard for officers to come forward."

Joseph Markman may be reached at jmarkman@enterpriseneews.com.



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Ken Williams.

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[Print Page](#)