

Stories

Former RVC Cop Sues Village

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Michael H. Carmody, a former Rockville Centre police officer, has filed a 27-page, seven-count complaint against the Village of Rockville Centre. The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District

Court for the Eastern District of New York, seeks more than \$30 million in damages and names not only the village, but the Rockville Centre Police Department, the Nassau County Civil Service Commission, Police Commissioner John P. McKeon and Sgt. Brian Burke as defendants.

Carmody, who is white, claims he was "wrongfully and maliciously terminated" in August 2003 after he objected to and complained about racially offensive statements allegedly made by police department employees about the African-American residents of the Martin Luther King Jr. housing complex in Rockville Centre.

According to a press release issued by Carmody's lawyer, Frederick K. Brewington, "Mr. Carmody was shocked at the disrespectful and racially charged attitudes that were exhibited against the black members of the Village of Rockville Centre by his fellow police officers."

According to village spokesman Jeff Kluewer, the police department currently has 50 officers. Three are Hispanic, and none are black.

"I only sought to protect and serve while respecting those whom we serve," said Carmody, "but when I heard members of the Rockville Centre force call black residents names, I could not stand by and allow those comments to go unchallenged. It was just wrong, and because I voiced my objection, they treated me with the same disrespect."

Carmody began his career in law enforcement with the Ocean Beach Police