

[Your support helps us cover local news. Subscribe to NJ.com »](#)

Advertisement

Union

White cops were promoted over Black officers in N.J. police department, officer's lawsuit says

Updated Jun 30, 2020: Posted Jun 30, 2020

By [Anthony G. Attrino | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com](#)

A veteran police officer in New Jersey has sued the police department where he works, claiming he was routinely passed over for promotion in favor of younger, white police officers.

Kevin Joy, a patrolman for the Union County Police Department, claims in a whistleblower suit he was "sitting number one on the sergeant's promotional" civil service list for three years but passed over repeatedly.

Joy, 53, was "illegally and improperly" bypassed by county officials for "no legitimate, reasonable, sensible, practical or valid reason (other than) bizarre age and racially motivated" reasons, states the suit, filed June 23 in Superior Court of Union County.

Advertisement

“Union County simply wanted to promote younger Caucasians to the rank of sergeant at that time, not an African-American male over the age of 50,” the lawsuit states, adding that Joy had about 30 years of experience as a patrolman.

On May 31, 2018, Joy’s attorneys demanded in writing that the county reveal any documents that would show the promotional process had been working against their client’s favor.

“The work atmosphere after that document was sent to the county worsened and became even more sickening,” the lawsuit states.

The lawsuit states the county ignored the requests of Joy’s attorneys and allegedly “shredded, altered, transformed and/or spoiled” documents that would have shown promotional bias.

In addition, county officials suspended Joy for five days, served him with a written reprimand and a disciplinary counsel notice, the latter of which was given to him on May 29, the suit states.

The lawsuit calls the disciplinary notice “silly, ridiculous and preposterous” and claims the county has violated Joy’s right to due process under state law, the New Jersey Attorney General’s guidelines and the department’s own internal affairs policies.

The suit seeks a jury trial, along with Joy’s promotion to the rank of sergeant and retroactive pay he would have received had he been promoted.

Advertisement

A spokesman for Union County said Tuesday county attorneys do not comment on pending legal matters.



Please support local news you can trust.