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Ex-Minneapolis Fire Cadet Files Lawsuit Alleging Racial Bias

A one-time Minneapolis Fire Department cadet says in a lawsuit his hopes of becoming the city's first Somali-American firefighter were dashed by a racially hostile environment that ultimately resulted in his firing.

By Associated Press, Wire Service Content March 2, 2021, at 5:21 p.m.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A one-time Minneapolis Fire Department cadet says in a lawsuit his hopes of becoming the city's first Somali-American firefighter were dashed by a racially hostile environment that ultimately resulted in his firing.

Dol Din's complaint filed Monday in Hennepin County District Court says he was subjected to "outward aggression" both by classmates and supervisors and at one point one of his training officers slammed him against a stairwell wall. Din, 45, says he was retaliated against when he reported the assault to department leaders.

The December 2019 episode prompted an internal investigation of two training officers that resulted in their transfers from the unit. While their ensuing report concluded that Din had been assaulted, it made no mention of racial discrimination, the suit says.

The investigation findings were never made public, the Star Tribune reported.

A city spokesman declined to comment to the newspaper on the matter, as did Bryan Tyner, who became the city's first Black fire chief when he was appointed to the position last year. Din's attorney did not immediately return a voicemail left on Tuesday afternoon.

The suit says the assault fits a pattern of mistreatment and discrimination against ethnic minorities that has marked the mostly-white department for decades.

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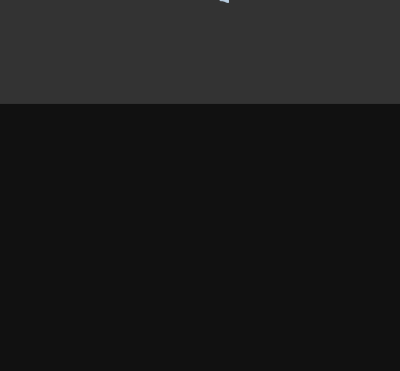
An Indianapolis man has been charged in a Detroit slaying in which the victim allegedly was targeted as a member of the LGBTQ community through an online dating app.

Associated Press March 3, 2021

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