

Ex-head of NYPD watchdog group gets greenlight for lawsuit

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A former executive director of the Civilian Complaint Review Board who sued the city has received the green light to move forward with her key claims — that she was fired for complaining about sexual harassment and collusion with the NYPD.

The Manhattan Federal Court ruling came eight months after Tracy Catapano-Fox [filed her bombshell lawsuit](#) alleging that the police watchdog group's board chairman was in bed with the NYPD and turned a blind eye to rampant sexual harassment.

But the ruling by Judge Katherine Failla wasn't a total victory for Catapano-Fox.

Failla sided with the city in throwing out her claims that she was retaliated against after griping about racial discrimination at the CCRB.

Still, Catapano-Fox's lawyer cheered the ruling Friday.

"The heart of the lawsuit, including the claims that Ms. Catapano-Fox was terminated for complaining about sexual harassment and the CCRB colluding with the NYPD, will go forward," said attorney Michael Willemin, of the firm Wigdor LLP.

"We are very pleased with the court's decision and look forward to holding the city and CCRB accountable for its retaliatory conduct."

The city Law Department also spun the ruling as a victory.

"We are pleased the court agreed that several of the plaintiff's claims had no merit," a spokesman said. Catapano-Fox was fired Oct. 6, 2014 — the same day she filed her scathing suit.

The Mayor Bloomberg appointee singled out CCRB board chairman Richard Emery in fudging stop-and-frisk stats and helping to cover up the NYPD's failure to discipline a group of officers who carried out unlawful stops.