

Former Civilian Complaint Review Board head agrees to \$275G settlement with city after claiming mayor blocked her from becoming a judge



Tracy Catapano-Fox (r.) says she was blocked from becoming a judge because she filed a lawsuit alleging the CCRB ignored sexual harassment within the panel.

(SUSAN WATTS/NEW YORK DAILY NEWS)

BY VICTORIA BEKIEMPIS

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
Wednesday, May 25, 2016, 12:58 AM

The former CCRB head, who claimed the mayor's office cruelly thwarted her bid to become a judge, has agreed to a \$275,000 settlement from the city.

Tracy Catapano-Fox was fired on Oct. 6, 2014, the same day she filed a lawsuit in Manhattan Federal Court alleging the Civilian Complaint Review Board ignored sexual harassment within the panel.

At the time, she was the panel's executive director and was applying to become a judge. She claimed City Hall bigs killed her judgeship bid three days after she filed the suit.

City officials have not admitted to wrongdoing in settling with Catapano-Fox

"We are extremely pleased with the outcome of the lawsuit," Michael Willemin, of Wigdor LLP, told the Daily News of Catapano-Fox's settlement.

A city Law Department spokesman commented that "Settling this case was in the best interest of the city."

Resolution to Catapano-Fox's lawsuit comes on the heels of extensive upheaval within the police watchdog group.

Richard Emery resigned as CCRB chair on April 13 — one day after the board's executive director, Mina Malik, sued him on allegations he called her and a female co-worker "p---ies."

At first, the civil rights lawyer denied using the slur and "insisted that he only meant to call Ms. Malik and the female attorney 'pussy cats,' " the suit alleged.

Shortly after the allegations came to light, Emery admitted to using the term — as a way of pushing CCRB staffers to toughen up, he claimed.

“I was talking about the cowardice. I use animal metaphors and they don’t have anything to do with sex,” said Emery, who also got flak in February for describing police union criticism as “squealing like a stuck pig.”

Malik withdrew her suit in late April, but did so in a way that will allow her to refile if she suffers retaliation or mistreatment.