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Contact: Diane.Shinn@dc.gov, 202-727-8991

Court Dismisses Lawsuit Challenging D.C. Auditor's Report on Police Firings & Reinstatements

July 7, 2026 (WASHINGTON) In an opinion released today, D.C. Superior Court Judge D.W. Tunnage dismissed a lawsuit against the Office of the D.C. Auditor (ODCA) filed by three sworn members of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) who claimed their privacy was violated by a 2022 report on their firing and reinstatement.

The decision in *Richard Mazloom et al v. Kathleen Patterson, et al* (Case No. 2023 CAB 006009 B) found that ODCA's action researching and publishing the report "was a discretionary act whose contribution to effective, transparent, and fiscally prudent government outweighs the harm to Plaintiffs." In commenting on the subject of the report, the opinion held that, "making an official accounting to the public of the manner the District of Columbia supervises, disciplines, and compensates public employees qualifies as an activity entitled to absolute immunity."

D.C. Auditor Kathy Patterson welcomed the opinion which upholds a decision announced in November 2024. "We appreciate Judge Tunnage's clear endorsement of our right and responsibility to inform the public on the actions of District employees. We sincerely hope the officers will decide against an appeal and focus on the important work of serving District residents."

The 2022 report, [36 Fired MPD Officers Reinstated; Receive \\$14 Million in Back Pay](#), profiled 37 officers who were fired and had their positions restored after lengthy administrative and judicial procedures. The information in the report was publicly available and shared with ODCA by MPD. Nonetheless three of the sworn members sued Patterson and a team of three auditors plus the Mayor and MPD for libel, slander, and defamation.

ODCA has been defended by outside counsel, Boies Schiller Flexner LLP, Patterson said, "because of the extraordinary importance of preserving government accountability and protecting the current and future exercise of the D.C. Auditor's independence and authority."

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The mission of the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor (ODCA) is to support the Council of the District of Columbia by making sound recommendations that improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of the District government. Learn more at www.dcauditor.org.