

https://www.aberdeennews.com/news/local/complaints-against-milbrandt-lunzman-dismissed/article_5603377a-07b6-11ea-b6b9-9f863e35d973.html

FEATURED

Complaints against Milbrandt, Lunzman dismissed

By Elisa Sand esand@aberdeennews.com Nov 15, 2019 Updated 4 hrs ago

Complaints against Brown County's sheriff and chief deputy have been dismissed by the South Dakota Law Enforcement Standards and Training Commission.

The commission has completed its investigation concerning complaints against Sheriff Mark Milbrandt, Chief Deputy Dave Lunzman, former Brown County Deputy Ross Erickson and Madison Police Officer Matthew Wollmann, according to a news release from the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation,

The complaints were filed in March by state Sen. Space Nelson, R-Fulton, who was seeking revocation of their law enforcement certifications.

A professional standards commissioner was assigned to review and investigate the allegations, per the release. That investigator determined the evidence was not sufficient to support a certification revocation hearing for Milbrandt, Lunzman and Wollmann. Erickson voluntarily surrendered his law enforcement certification, making the investigation into his case moot, according to the release.

"I cannot stress the quality and outstanding work of our executive secretary and investigators enough," said DCI director David Nativ in the release. "Their dedication to professionalism and ethics for the law enforcement professionals in South Dakota makes our state a better, safer place for all of us to live, work and raise our families."

Read Next Story >

The complaints against Milbrandt, Lunzman and Erickson were related to a civil lawsuit that Laura Kaiser filed in 2015 against the state Division of Criminal Investigation. Lunzman's also references complaints of concealing evidence and intentional property damage from when he was a DCI agent.

Milbrandt said he's glad the investigation is over.

"It's done now. We move on and do our job," he said.

Lunzman echoed those comments.

"I wasn't concerned that this wasn't going to be the outcome," he said. "I knew I didn't do anything wrong."

Kaiser was a DCI agent who shared an office with others at the Brown County Sheriff's Office. At the time, Lunzman was a DCI agent with Kaiser. Erickson was a deputy assigned to the drug task force with Kaiser.

Kaiser's lawsuit charged workplace retaliation in a situation that started with concerns about sexual harassing comments made by Erickson in 2011. Before a complaint was filed, however, Kaiser became the subject of an investigation that led to her demotion and transfer from Aberdeen to Pierre. She eventually resigned.

In 2017, a jury determined her claims were valid and awarded her \$1.2 million.

During the trial, Erickson admitted he made improper comments. He is no longer a deputy.

Milbrandt and Lunzman were not sued by Kaiser, though both testified at the trial.

The complaint against Milbrandt also references a decision by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which found that he discriminated when he did not hire Kaiser as an employee at the sheriff's office. This is one of the topics in the Milbrandt's reelection campaign in 2018.

Exciting Magazine | Sponsored

[Read Next Story >](#)

Kaiser's husband Dan challenged Milbrandt in the June 2018 Republican primary for sheriff and brought up the complaint. In response, Milbrandt noted that Laura Kaiser applied for three positions at the sheriff's office and was one of several candidates in each case.

She filed claims in each instance — two in 2014 and one in 2015. No Equal Employment Opportunity Commission determination was made on the 2014 claims. The commission decision on the 2015 claim was made in July 2016. By October 2016, the U.S. Department of Justice had decided not to pursue complaint of discrimination, according to paperwork Milbrandt showed the American News last year.

Kaiser could have pursued a civil lawsuit, but didn't.

Milbrandt was re-elected.

Wollmann previously served as state representative from District 8 and resigned amid allegations that he had "improper sexual relations with Legislative interns." He resigned in January 2017. According to reports in the Madison Daily Leader, he was sworn in as a Madison officer in November 2018.

Follow [ElisaSand_AAN](#) on Twitter:

15 Pro Tips To Look Younger

Exciting Magazine | Sponsored

[Read Next Story >](#)