

Post-Tribune (IN)

April 28, 2003

Edition: GARY

Section: Local

Page: A4

Notice filed against Gary in man's suicide

Musician's family says Gary police bungled attempt to negotiate.

Author: Lori Caldwell, Post-Tribune staff writer

Dateline: GARY

Article Text:

The family of Terrance Sean Lige, who killed himself in a standoff with police last month, wants \$10 million from the city for their loss.

Saying Lige was "an accomplished musician, songwriter and performer," the family seeks compensation for economic and emotional hardships.

Attorney Jerry Peteet filed a notice of claim earlier this week, naming Mayor Scott King, Corporation Counsel Hamilton Carmouche and other city officials as defendants in the lawsuit on behalf of Lige's mother, Mary Lige.

"Sean was wrongfully killed," the three-page claim states.

Carmouche said he had not received the notice. "When we do, we will deal with it as we do all matters."

Mary Lige and her daughter were prevented from speaking with her son as he held a gun to his head, the document alleges.

"She was advised directly from the police chief and deputy chief that the situation was under control, that a trained negotiator was on site and speaking with her son and that due to the location of the scene that he would negotiate for as long as it took to achieve a positive and safe resolution," the claim states.

Peteet is also representing the negotiator, Sgt. Joshua Wiley, in a claim against the city.

Wiley claims he has been transferred and removed from the negotiating team for political reasons because he is running for the 1st District council seat against the administration's candidate.

Carmouche said the court must decide whether it is a conflict of interest for Peteet to represent both the officer and the family against the city for the same incident.

Lige had argued with his family on Tuesday, March 11, then took a handgun from the home and fled. As relatives called police, Lige was located at 3rd Avenue and Gibson Place. He threatened to kill himself as he stood on the edge of the Little League field.

Police blocked the area and SWAT team members arrived. Sgt. Anthony Stanley crept up on Lige and fired bean bags at him, which prompted the man to pick up the handgun he had set down and shoot himself in the head.

The claim alleges Chief Garnett Watson told Lige's mother "something went wrong and as they tried to wrestle the gun from Sean he was shot, another lie," the claim states.

Reporter Lori Caldwell can be reached at 881-3119 or by e-mail at lcaldwell@post-trib.com.

Memo:

THIS ELECTRONIC VERSION MAY DIFFER SLIGHTLY FROM PRINTED VERSION
Copyright (c) 2003 Post-Tribune