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Rep. Khan lawsuit dismissed

Judge tosses lawmaker's discrimination suit against police

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

A federal court has dismissed a civil rights suit by state Rep. Maryam Khan in which she claimed Hartford police officers discriminated against her by failing to respond appropriately when she was assaulted while leaving a prayer service in Hartford with family members two years ago.

In the unprovoked attack, Khan, D-Windsor, was threatened with a sexual assault, struck in the face and thrown to the ground by a tattooed assailant while her children watched as they left a Muslim service at the XL Center shortly before noon on a Wednesday.

Khan claimed in public statements and later in the suit against

Hartford and several officers that the police response to her assault was insufficient in that officers "discounted" her injuries and reports of sexual assault. She claimed in the suit that is the "custom" of the Hartford police "to discriminate against individuals of the Muslim religion" such as Khan, and that her treatment was "a part of the systematic pattern of discrimination by HPD against women of color."

U.S. District Judge Sarah F. Russell concluded in a written decision that the suit failed to present plausible allegations supporting claims of a practice or custom of discrimination against or mistreatment of Muslim women. The decision, dated Tuesday, said the suit lacked factual allegations

with "sufficient detail to state a plausible claim" for liability.

Russell gave Khan a month to refile an amended suit. If nothing is filed, the case will be closed, Russell said.

Khan and her lawyers could not be reached. She was the first Muslim to serve in the state House of Representatives.

About 1,500 people attended the service in Hartford on June 28, 2023. Security was provided by four uniformed Hartford officers — one inside and three outside — in addition to 13 security guards.

As Khan left with her sister and her three minor children, she was harassed by a man who threatened to sexually assault her in front of

Turn to Lawsuit, Page 2



State Representative Maryam Khan stands with family and friends at the Legislative Office Building on July 6, 2023, as she talks about the attempted sexual assault and violent physical assault she experienced after attending Eid al-Adha prayer service at XL Center in Hartford on June 28, 2023. FILE



Sniffing out arson

When it comes to recognizing smells, the nose of a trained dog comes in very handy. Here, Connecticut State Police dogs and their handlers go through the training. The teams do this every three months and it appears Gracie knows her job.

ABOVE: Trooper Jon Baisley works with his partner Gracie, a Connecticut State Police arson dog, as they search a burned-out car for evidence of the fire's cause on Wednesday, as part of their ongoing training on the grounds of the Connecticut Fire Academy.

LEFT: A car is engulfed in flames on the grounds of the Connecticut Fire Academy on Wednesday, as it is prepared for arson dog training. **AARON FLAUM/HARTFORD COURANT PHOTOS**

Retirees protest benefit changes

Hundreds push back and say the state utility is violating the planned agreement

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

A group of retirees from one of the state's largest utilities, led by a former top corporate officer, is protesting planned changes in health care benefits that they argue will "significantly harm" them and violates an agreement going back a decade.

More than 200 non-union, retirees of Orange-based United Illuminating Co. and their dependents are asking the state Public Utility Regulatory Authority to hold UI and its parent company Avangrid, Inc. to an agreement dating back to 2015 that stated there would be no changes to retirement benefits, the retirees said in an Aug. 19 letter to PURA chair Melissa P. Gillett.

The guarantees were part of the regulatory approval of UI's acquisition in 2015 by Spanish energy giant Iberdrola. The acquisition led to the creation of Avangrid, Inc. that combined UI with Iberdrola's U.S. operations.

PURA, which is reviewing

Turn to Protest, Page 2

Epstein victims urge transparency

Survivors gather on Capitol Hill to press for release of files

By Stephen Groves
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Survivors of Jeffrey Epstein's sexual abuse made their voices heard Wednesday on Capitol Hill, pressuring lawmakers to force the release of the sex trafficking investigation into the late financier and pushing

back President Donald Trump's effort to dismiss the issue as a "hoax."

In a news conference on the Capitol lawn that drew hundreds of supporters and chants of "release the files," the women shared — some publicly for the first time — how they were lured into Epstein's abuse by his former girlfriend Ghislaine Maxwell. They demanded that the Trump administration provide transparency and accountability for what they endured as teenagers.

It was a striking stand as the push for disclosure of the Epstein files reached a pivotal moment in Washington. Lawmakers are battling over how Congress should delve into the Epstein saga while the Republican president, after initially signaling support for transparency on the campaign trail, has been dismissing the matter as a "Democrat hoax."

"No matter what you do it's going to keep going," Trump said

Turn to Epstein, Page 7

Parents say school system shares blame in son's suicide

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

The parents of a 16-year-old West Hartford teenager who died by suicide last year have slammed the local school system, saying it failed to protect their son.

Hall High School administrators ignored pleas about Lukas Oliver Schreiber's perilous mental health and suspended him as captain of the swim team two

weeks before his death, the teenager's mother, Heather Schreiber, said at a school board meeting Tuesday night. And the board refused to get involved, she said.

"We reached out to you for help, we asked for intervention," she told board members. "You did not respond. Two weeks later my children and I found Lucas' body."

Turn to Parents, Page 2

Hospital leaders are worried about cuts

'Ripple effects will be felt by all,' health care officials warn,' **CONNECTICUT**, Page 3

Obits.....News, 9-10
Classified.....News, 11
Entertainment Living, 6-8
Comics.....Living, 10-11

Puzzles.....Living, 9
Markets.....Living, 12

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