

IMPRISONED EX-DETROIT COP IS SUED - FREED SUSPECT ALLEGES FALSE ARREST IN 2005 STABBING DEATH AT CHURCH FESTIVAL

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Former Detroit police homicide detective **Lance Newman** is serving a year in prison for extorting money from family members of a murder victim.

Now, a murder suspect who was later set free is suing **Newman** and three of his former colleagues, saying they purposefully told witnesses to pick him out of a photo lineup.

Francisco Hinojosa, 23, of Detroit sued the four and the City of Detroit in Wayne County Circuit Court on Tuesday, alleging constitutional violations, malicious prosecution and false arrest. The lawsuit seeks an unnamed amount in compensation.

Newman, a 12-year veteran, investigated the June 25, 2005, stabbing death of Joseph Wagner of Ann Arbor and stole money from Wagner's family by telling them that they needed to pay for housing a witness.

Wagner, 21, was killed while attending a festival at Holy Redeemer Church in southwest Detroit.

Newman, 42, pleaded guilty to charges that he defrauded Wagner's parents of \$12,300 while investigating their son's death in 2006.

Two men were convicted, but the initial suspect, Hinojosa, was held for eight months before Wayne County prosecutors dropped charges against him in August.

"The circumstances surrounding Mr. Hinojosa's arrest and prosecution were outrageous," said Hinojosa's attorney Ben Gonek. "As a result of Mr. **Newman**'s conduct, my client lost his freedom for eight months."

The officers named in Hinojosa's lawsuit are Javier Chapa, Rudy Zuniga and Moises Jiminez. They could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

The lawsuit said **Newman** was the lead investigator in the case.

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