



# EDGEWATER COLORADO

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## Press Release

June 3, 2024

The City and McKenzie Rees have reached a settlement concerning the lawsuit she filed against the City and several current and former employees last year. The settlement resolves the parties' disagreement concerning Ms. Rees' claims about her prior employment with the City as a police officer.

In agreeing to settlement, none of the defendants admitted wrongdoing nor any of the factual allegations in the lawsuit. The decision to settle the matter was reached in tandem with the City's self-insurance pool to stop future expenses from being incurred, eliminate the distraction caused by the litigation, end the diversion of City resources towards the litigation instead of City operations and conclude a dispute that, regardless of what actually occurred, has cast a negative pall upon the Edgewater Police Department. Although many disputed facts remain protected by personnel privacy requirements, the City hopes that this settlement can provide closure to the many whose lives this litigation has affected.

With this matter resolved, the City, the EPD and Chief Sonstegard look forward to focusing on the future and the mission of the EPD to provide important public safety functions to the citizens. The EPD's Purpose Statement, Core Values and Employee Expectations are all proactively provided to the public here - <https://edgewaterco.prod.govaccess.org/your-government/city-departments/police> - together with an additional page solely dedicated to transparency and accountability, including links and guidance concerning how to file complaints concerning the Department and its members.

The City and EPD are committed to equal and fair opportunity, and City and EPD leadership are committed to strengthening our community partnership. We welcome all conversations: [Dmaples@edgewaterco.com](mailto:Dmaples@edgewaterco.com); [esonstegard@edgewaterpd.com](mailto:esonstegard@edgewaterpd.com).

