COURT & JUSTICE

Prosecutors join woman's request to withdraw plea in violent Olmsted Fa

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Christie Elko should get to withdraw her guilty plea after prosecutors say Olmsted Falls police never turned over previous complaints about the officer who arrested her.(Marvin Fong, The Plain Dealer, File, 2013)

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CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Cuyahoga County prosecutors say woman who never received the sordid disciplinary hist Falls police officer who arrested her in 2016 should be allowed to withdraw her no-contest plea.

That Olmsted Falls police and its city attorney did not include several complaints and discipline levied against when they turned over his personnel file to the judge overseeing Elko's case "calls into question the fundamer proceedings leading up to Elko's plea," according to a motion.

Prosecutors joined a request filed by Elko's attorneys in June to withdraw her previous no-contest plea to a mi arrest charge after her lawyers in a federal civil-rights lawsuit obtained hundreds of pages of records that cont complaints about Takacs' behavior toward women.

But the prosecutor's office denied claims by Elko's lawyers that Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Geoffr the documents and sent her only three pages, calling them "inflammatory and unfounded."

The federal judge overseeing Elko's lawsuit this week placed the case on hold pending the outcome of her crim

Elko was arrested when Takacs responded to her apartment after her live-in partner called police and accused violence. Takacs and another officer responded and said Elko got violent and resisted attempts by Takacs to sp her.

Elko, who is a lesbian, claimed in her lawsuit that Takacs used an anti-LGBT slur and slammed her to the groun

After Elko's arrest, Common Pleas Court Judge Joseph D. Russo ordered Olmsted Falls police and the city to g personnel file for inspection. Minter asked Russo for a copy of the file he received to look for any evidence that guilt into question, the motion said.

Elko's lawyers, Gina Crawford and Peter Pattakos, claimed in the June filing that Minter only sent Crawford thre that included an order for Takacs to go to job training.

Prosecutors say Minter let Crawford inspect his file and make copies of any documents contained in the file he

Even if Minter had received copies of the complaints, the motion argues that he still would not be required to t the case went to trial and he took the stand because they are merely evidence against Takacs's character and Elko's guilt.

The motion also says that prosecutors have yet to figure out why Olmsted Falls did not put the complaints aga file.

"Despite recent inquiry, it remains unclear to the State why these additional documents were not provided to t says.

Pattakos credited the prosecutor's office for taking a "reasonable position."

"We find it troubling that the Cuyahoga Couty prosecutor still doesn't have an explanation as to why Olmsted F these records over to us," Pattakos said.

Mayor James Graven, who took office in January, previously defended Takacs. Graven and law director Andrew respond to an email seeking comment on the motion Friday afternoon

"We look forward to bringing out all the facts at trial, and the city is confident it will prevail, especially given the administration's support for Sgt. Takacs during and after the incident," Graven told cleveland.com.

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