



DATE: August 10, 2026

TO: City Council

FROM: Office of the City Attorney

SUBJECT: *Acacia Lyn-Darr v. John Pannunzio, Don Leach, Jeremy Bacor, Byron Franklin, Troy Kochevar, Greg Purkett, Ronald Thurston, Leroy Mora, JC Williams, Pueblo County Board of Commissioners, Pueblo County, Pueblo County Sheriff's Office, Bradley Pratt, and City of Colorado Springs, Case No. 26-cv-02187*

This memorandum is to apprise you of the facts alleged in the above-referenced case as you consider the claims made against Lieutenant Pratt, who is the only individually named defendant employed by the City of Colorado Springs. The remaining individuals are or were employed by the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office and are referred to here as the PCSO Defendants.

NATURE OF THE CASE

Plaintiff, Acacia Lyn-Darr, brought this case in the United States District Court, District of Colorado, alleging that the individually named officers violated her rights pursuant to the Fourth, Sixth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution. Plaintiff is also alleging other state claims for Malicious Prosecution, False Arrest, Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress, Civil Conspiracy, and violations of Colorado's Constitution concerning criminal prosecutions, due process, and searches and seizures.

Plaintiff alleges that in 2010 she was wrongfully investigated, charged, and convicted for the murder of a man living in Pueblo County. Plaintiff also claims that in February of 2025, her convictions were vacated and that the criminal case against her was dismissed. She alleges she was arrested in Colorado Springs a few days after the murder, on an outstanding warrant, and after she tried to pass or cash a check belonging to the victim's business. After she was arrested, Plaintiff claims that PCSO Defendants interrogated her twice. At some point during one of the interrogations, which one is unknown, Plaintiff claims that PCSO Defendants threatened to take naked pictures of her if she did not cooperate with them. Plaintiff's sole allegation against Lieutenant Pratt is that he participated in the first interrogation. Notably, Plaintiff offers

no details concerning this alleged participation. The remainder of the factual allegations concern PCSO Defendants. Plaintiff accuses them of ignoring credible evidence that she did not participate in the murder and of coercing another suspect to confess his involvement and falsely implicate her in the crime. According to Plaintiff, the jury relied on this testimony in convicting her.

RECOMMENDATION

The Civil Action Investigation Committee met on July 22, 2026, and recommends City Council acknowledge the City's obligation to represent the officer involved, as required by the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act and the Peace Officer's Liability Act. The officer was acting in the course and scope of his employment and in good faith. As usual, it is recommended that the City reserve the right to decline payment of any award of punitive damages.