

**NEWS**

# GlenOak counselor sues Stark sheriff's deputy over "flawed" criminal case

**Shane Hoover** The Repository

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**CANTON** A GlenOak High School counselor is suing a detective for arresting her in a case that had “more holes than Swiss cheese.”

Dawn Jones-Harrington of Plain Township filed the lawsuit Thursday in Stark County Common Pleas Court.

She accuses Rocco Ross, a detective with the Stark County Sheriff's Office, of engaging in malicious prosecution by misrepresenting facts and lying under oath. The lawsuit seeks damages in excess of \$25,000 and is assigned to Judge Chryssa Hartnett.

Ross charged Jones-Harrington with hindering deputies when they showed up to search her house for a robbery suspect on Nov. 6.

Jones-Harrington said she refused to allow Ross to search her home without a warrant because she didn't like the way the detective treated her. She did try to reach the suspect by phone while the detective was present, according to the lawsuit.

She later contacted other deputies and agreed to a search that ended with the suspect being arrested in her attic.

Jones-Harrington denied ever knowing the suspect was in her home.

Ross charged Jones-Harrington with obstructing justice, a third-degree felony. She was arrested at the school, spent four days in jail and had her professional credentials investigated, according to the lawsuit.

Jones-Harrington also was on paid administrative leave until the case was resolved.

During her trial in March, Common Pleas Judge Frank Forchione dismissed the case due to a lack of evidence. He said the investigation was “very flawed,” adding, “it's got more holes

than Swiss cheese.”

The judge also said Jones-Harrington was within the law to deny a search of her home without a warrant.

A call seeking comment was left with an attorney for Jones-Harrington.

The lawsuit was filed against Ross in his personal capacity. A call seeking comment was left for him at the Sheriff’s Office.

Neither the Sheriff’s Office, nor the Stark County Prosecutor’s Office, which handled the case at trial, is a defendant in the case.

*Reach Shane at [shane.hoover@cantonrep.com](mailto:shane.hoover@cantonrep.com)*

*On Twitter: @shooverREP*