

# Riverside police chief's wife sues over domestic violence reports

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By: [North County Times wire services](#) North County Times - The Californian | Posted: Wednesday, May 11, 2005 12:00 am | [Loading...](#) | [Print](#)

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SAN DIEGO - The wife of Riverside's police chief filed a claim against the city of San Diego because her name was publicized during a domestic violence investigation of her husband, authorities said Tuesday.

Connie Leach, wife of Riverside police Chief Russ Leach, says her name was released by San Diego police during the investigation, despite a specific request to have her name withheld from public records.

Leach names the city, San Diego police Chief William Lansdowne, Assistant Chief Rulette Armstead and others in the claim, which was received by San Diego city officials on March 23.

She seeks more than \$15,000 in damages suffered from "humiliation, embarrassment, anxiety, anguish, consternation, depression and impaired ability to pursue her vocation" as a result of their actions, according to the claim.

San Diego police officials declined to comment on the claim, police spokesman David Cohen said.

San Diego's risk management office is expected to decide whether to accept or reject the claim sometime this month, city officials said. If it is rejected, Leach has the options of filing a lawsuit.

The claim stems from a domestic disturbance report involving the Leaches and filed by the San Diego Police Department on September 30, 2004.

A security guard at the Bahia Resort Motel in Mission Bay told police that he peered through a bathroom window and saw the Riverside police chief strike his wife on a shoulder and stomp on her foot around 1:40 a.m.

Russ Leach denied the guard's allegations, telling police that he and his wife were quarrelling too loudly at the hotel.

The claim also states that San Diego police violated Connie Leach's privacy by asking her about the domestic dispute and refusing to leave her hotel room.

According to the claim, Connie Leach signed a SDPD form requesting that her name be withheld from law enforcement records. She says San Diego police violated its own policy when her name was publicized by Lansdowne, Armstead and others in the department.

The Leaches were staying at the Bahia with dozens of other police chiefs and administrators attending a Riverside County Law Enforcement Administrators Association conference at the hotel.

San Diego police said there was sufficient evidence to charge Russ Leach with battery and forwarded the case to the city attorney's office for further investigation.

The domestic violence investigation ended Dec. 29, without criminal charges being filed against Riverside's police chief.