

CPD sgt. sues over YouTube remarks

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A Chicago police sergeant filed a lawsuit this week against a Colorado man who in a YouTube video allegedly misidentified him as an officer who gave the middle finger to protestors last month.

The suit, filed by plaintiff Ignatius Goetz in Cook County Circuit Court Monday, alleges defamation and false light privacy counts against defendant Dale Hiller, who posts videos under the username "LackLuster."

The video, entitled "What Cops REALLY Think of You," not only identifies Goetz as the officer involved, but details his history of civilian complaints, citing data published by the Invisible Institute's Citizens Police Data Project. The video has amassed more than 56,000 views since it was uploaded in June.

The suit contends Goetz is not the Chicago police officer described in the YouTube video and the misidentification has had "a demonstrable impact on [p]laintiff's relationship with his family and professional circles."

Goetz's attorney, Joseph J. Miroballi of MDR Law LLC, said the lawsuit was filed after he contacted Hiller and requested he take the video down but he refused.

The YouTube page hosting the video also contains a note that states "I do not have first hand knowledge that Officer Ignatius Goetz is the Officer Goetz mentioned in the first half of the video (0:00-4:10). That is for you to decide."

While it remains unclear whether the caveat was added when the video was originally posted, Miroballi contends it was added after the fact.

Hiller could not be reached for comment.

Miroballi said if Hiller doesn't believe he has the responsibility to be accurate in his reporting, as a newspaper, TV or radio station would, then he should not be doing it.

"Police have been chastised for their conduct and, in many instances, it's justified but when it's not they have the same rights as anyone else," he said. The case is *Ignatius Goetz v. Dale Hiller*, 20 L 7879.