

County cop under investigation for sex assault

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CROWN POINT | A Lake County police officer is off the street and under investigation after a Cedar

Lake woman accused him of sexually assaulting her during a traffic stop.

County Sheriff Rogelio "Roy" Dominguez said Wednesday he is suspending Officer Donald Hamm's police powers. He will remain on

duty in a clerical job pending the outcome of an internal affairs unit's inquiry.

The woman, who asked to remain anonymous, urged others to "come forward now because you will be heard."

Hamm couldn't be reached Wednesday for comment.

Dominguez said in a written press release, "A fair, impartial investigation will be conducted

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into this incident. If the investigation warrants, charges will be filed."

He declined further comment on the investigation of the 45-year-old officer, who has been on the police force since December 1999.

Loevy & Loevy, a Chicago law firm representing the Cedar Lake woman, is demanding the county pay her \$30,000 in damages.

The sheriff's release states the investigation revolves

around a traffic stop in the early morning hours of Jan. 14 near 74th Avenue and Indianapolis Boulevard in Schererville allegedly for driving without headlights.

"When I first got pulled over I was scared out of my mind," the woman said. She said she had been drinking. "I was given a Breathalyzer that I failed."

She said she was surprised when Hamm appeared ready to let her drive home. "I didn't get a ticket. He said I was

OK to drive and to be on my way." She said the trouble began when Hamm stopped her a second time.

Her attorney filed a tort claim, the warning of an

impending lawsuit, alleging "the officer coerced (her) to enter his police vehicle where he proceeded to sexually assault her, including kissing her and touching her body."