



High Court Tosses Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Lawsuit

By GayWebMonkey.com

Milwaukee, WI - The civil rights lawsuit filed by the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center after police shut down its production of "Naked Boys Singing" was rejected this week by a federal judge.

According to the *Milwaukee Daily Sentinel* reports that the police department's vice squad shut down the nude musical revue in August 2005 because its organizers did not have a license. But the city later determined the center did not need the license because it is a nonprofit group, and the show resumed performances in October 2005.

The center was seeking more than \$600,000 in damages, alleging violations of free speech and due process, reports the Daily Sentinel.

The Associated Press reports that U.S. District Judge Charles N. Clevert Jr. dismissed the suit last week, saying that in order to proceed, the Center "must establish that the violations were part of a custom or policy by the municipality."

That was not the case in the matter because the vice squad does not have citywide decision-making authority, Clevert wrote in his decision, reports the AP.

"Allegations regarding a high-ranking official are insufficient when there are no allegations that the individual had any policy-making authority," Clevert's decision read, reports the AP.

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