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# Woman files federal suit over botched drug raid - Metro Unit raided wrong house, cuffed woman in driveway

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**WAUKESHA** — A former Muskego woman was expected to file a federal lawsuit today against the Waukesha County Metro Drug Enforcement Unit after officers raided the wrong house — hers.

Susan Wilson, 49, decided to sue the unit and its participating municipalities after she was handcuffed and forced to lay down in her driveway while the unit raided the wrong house in February. Waukesha County's legal counsel has said they would not comment on the matter at this time. Wilson, who now lives in Chandler, Ariz., was smoking a cigarette and watching her dog in her driveway on Ranch Drive in Muskego at about 6:30 p.m. Feb. 14 when drug officers approached her with guns drawn. They ordered her onto the pavement while they searched her home for drugs. Wilson protested to the officers that they had the wrong house, and it soon was determined that the officers intended to hit a house near Wilson's, the Waukesha County Sheriff's department confirmed shortly after the incident. Wilson's attorney, Mark Phillips, said he expected to file the lawsuit late this morning in Milwaukee. He said the suit came after negotiations with county representatives broke down. "What they offered for a settlement was a joke. They apparently don't want to accept responsibility," he said. Phillips said the Metro Unit failed to follow "knock and announce" rules that mandate police knock and announce the purpose of their presence when searching a house, unless there are unusual circumstances. Had the Metro Unit followed the "knock and announce" procedure, they would have realized that they were making a mistake, he said. When Wilson tried to tell the police they had the wrong house, officers were "rude, sarcastic and condescending." Phillips also criticized the unit for its

"plain incompetence" because a pre-raid briefing failed to include explicit information as to which house was to be searched. In addition, the raid was led by an inexperienced officer, Eric Nowicki of the Muskego Police Department, Phillips said. "Whoever is supposed to be training them isn't doing a very good job because these guys don't know what they heck they are doing," Phillips said. "I've seen monkeys having... fights at the zoo that were better organized than this. This was a travesty." Phillips added that no one has ever apologized to Wilson for the Metro Unit's bungling of the raid. Shortly after the incident, Sheriff William Kruziki told the media he had personally called Wilson and apologized. Phillips said Wilson is still haunted by the vision of a gun in her face when she goes outside. After the raid, several Metro Unit members, including unit supervisor Capt. Terry Martorano, were reassigned in the sheriff's department. Steve Schmitz, principal assistant corporation counsel for Waukesha County, said he was unable to comment on the matter because he had not yet seen the lawsuit. "When we receive the complaint, we will review it with our insurance company and make an appropriate response," he said. The suit was filed against Waukesha County, the cities of Waukesha, Brookfield and Muskego, Menomonee Falls, the village of Pewaukee, their insurers, and the officers from those municipalities who participated in the Metro Unit raid on Wilson's home. It also names three unidentified officers because the county has refused to release their names for fear it would compromise their jobs as undercover officers. The suit seeks compensatory and punitive damages as relief for allegations of trespassing, assault and battery, negligent training of officers, due process violations and unreasonable search and seizure. (Brian Huber can be reached at [bhuber@conleynet.com](mailto:bhuber@conleynet.com))

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