

4/1/05 Chi. Sun-Times 18
2005 WLNR 5299583

Chicago Sun Times (IL)
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April 1, 2005

Cicero settles firing lawsuit for \$250,000

Korecki, Natasha

Weeks before the case was set for trial, Cicero settled a wrongful termination lawsuit Thursday, agreeing to pay \$250,000 to two former employees who say they were fired by town president Betty Loren-Maltese.

The employees, former Town Collector Alison Resnick and her husband, former town spokesman Ray Hanania, claim they were fired after they tried blowing the whistle on corruption under Loren- Maltese.

They filed the lawsuit in 1998. The case was scheduled for trial in mid-April. "Their reputation is totally vindicated," Loevy said.

Cicero agreed to pay \$250,000 plus attorneys' fees, Loevy said.

Loren-Maltese is serving federal prison time for stealing more than \$12 million from town coffers. Loevy said Maltese's conviction weakened Cicero's hand in the lawsuit.

Cicero officials did not return phone calls.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

REGION: (Malta (1MA02); Europe (1EU83); Southern Europe (1SO59); Western Europe (1WE41))

Language: EN

OTHER INDEXING: (Loren-Maltese, Betty) (CICERO) (Alison Resnick; Betty Loren-Maltese; Loevy; Maltese; Ray Hanania)

Word Count: 166

4/1/05 CHISUN 18

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