

# Lawsuit claims Irvine cops out for blood

*Drunken driving suspects treated unfairly, it says*

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A class action lawsuit has been filed claiming that Irvine police pressured suspected drunken drivers into taking blood tests and failed to inform the suspects that they could submit instead to a breath or urine test.

The city was served with the suit Mon-

day. City Attorney Joel Kuperberg said he hasn't had a chance to fully review the complaint.

"I've been told that the same claims were raised in the criminal proceedings involving the plaintiffs and that the court rejected arguments the attorneys are now asserting," Kuperberg said Tuesday.

## Filed by two attorneys

The action was filed by two attorneys who say they are acting on behalf of anyone who may have been arrested in Irvine for drunken driving over the past 10 years.

"We are interested in contacting anyone who was forced or pressured into giving a blood test," said Barry Simons, an

attorney from Laguna Beach, who filed the lawsuit with Irvine attorney Jeffrey Wilens.

The suit seeks an unspecified amount of damages, but Simons indicated that

each driver whose rights were violated may be entitled to at least \$1,000 under state civil rights laws.

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