

**Waitresses sue, say they were fired because of weight**

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NEW YORK (AP) - A fancy East Side restaurant and bar is being sued for \$15 million by two waitresses who say their bosses fired them because they thought they were too fat.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday in Manhattan's state Supreme Court against the Sutton Place Restaurant and Bar says Kristen McRedmond, 27, and Alexandria Lipton, 25, were fired wrongfully after being subjected to sexual harassment and a hostile work environment.

Court papers filed by Joseph Tacopina, the women's lawyer, say they were called names, subjected to sexually offensive comments and unwanted fondling, and required to wear tight, form-fitting clothes. The papers say there was no dress code for male employees.

McRedmond, of Queens, who began working at the eatery in August 2004 and Lipton, of Brooklyn, who started in April 2006, say several of the restaurant's male employees began asking waitresses how much they weighed and recording the answers in a notepad.

The women's weights were also put onto a computer spreadsheet and the results loaded onto a Web site so they could be compared to the weights of waitresses in other New York City restaurants.

The women also say supervisors criticized waitresses, but not the male employees, when they ordered fried food for their dinners.

On June 10, Lipton says, she refused to tell her weight and a male employee said he would guess and jot the number he guessed -- 135 pounds -- into a notepad.

McRedmond says that during the first week of July she was escorted by a male employee to the manager's office and told to get on a scale. She refused.

The employee who had escorted her to the office then tried to forcibly put her on the scale, court papers say. They say that after being confined to the room for almost 10 minutes, McRedmond was allowed to leave the room.

McRedmond learned that she and Lipton, along with other waitresses also had been weighed in the manager's office, court papers say. They say Lipton told the others she thought the weighing was illegal and that they could sue.

McRedmond and Lipton were fired in July, court papers say.

Another lawyer for the women, Rosemarie Arnold, said, "This is absolutely, without a doubt the most egregious case of degradation to women I have ever seen."

Arnold said Sutton Place's lawyer, Joel Simon, told her the women were fired for reasons other than their weight, but he would not cite any of those other reasons.

Simon could not be reached for comment, but the New York Post quoted him as calling the women's allegations "a

nice piece of fiction."

The lawsuit asks \$15 million on 11 different causes of action, including, defamation and slander, breach of contract and fraud.

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