

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

SONIA TODD

CIVIL ACTION

VERSUS

NO: 14-1101

CITY OF MORGAN CITY, ET AL.

SECTION: R(5)

ORDER AND REASONS

Defendant City of Morgan City moves the Court for summary judgment under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56 on plaintiff Sonia Todd's claim for punitive damages.¹ Todd filed a civil rights lawsuit under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against Morgan City and others, alleging that defendant Justin Palmature, a correctional officer at the Morgan City jail, sexually harassed her and other female inmates.² To the extent that Todd seeks punitive damages from Morgan City, those claims fail as a matter of law. As the Supreme Court holds, "§ 1983 plaintiffs may not recover punitive damages against a municipality." *Jefferson v. City of Tarrant, Ala.*, 522 U.S. 75, 79 (1997) (citing *Newport v.*

¹ R. Doc. 32.

² R. Doc. 1.

Fact Concerts, Inc., 453 U.S. 247 (1981). Accordingly, the Court GRANTS Morgan City's Motion for Partial Summary Judgment on Plaintiff's Demand for Punitive Damages.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 10th day of December, 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah S. Vance". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

SARAH S. VANCE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE