

BEFORE THE POLICE BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

IN THE MATTER OF CHARGES FILED AGAINST )  
DETENTION AIDE CHESTER L. HEIGHT ) Case No. 04-2555  
EMPLOYEE NO. 501695 )

**FINDINGS AND DECISION**

On June 23, 2004, the Superintendent of Police filed charges with the Police Board of the City of Chicago against Detention Aide Chester L. Height, Employee No. 501695 (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Respondent"), for violating the following rules:

Rule 2: Any action or conduct which impedes the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.

Rule 3: Any failure to promote the Department's efforts to implement its policy or accomplish its goals.

Rule 14: Disobedience of an order or directive, whether oral or written.

Rule 20: Failure to submit immediately a written report that any member, including self, is under investigation by any law enforcement agency other than the Chicago Police Department.

The Police Board of the City of Chicago investigated these charges and caused a hearing on these charges against Detention Aide Chester L. Height, Employee No. 501695, to be had before Thomas E. Johnson, Hearing Officer of the Police Board of the City of Chicago, on September 14, 2004 and September 24, 2004.

Following the hearing, the members of the Police Board read and reviewed the certified transcription of the proceedings of the hearing. Thomas E. Johnson, Hearing Officer, made an oral report and conferred with the Police Board before it rendered a decision.

The Police Board of the City of Chicago, as a result of its investigation of the charges, found and determined that:

1. The Respondent was at all times employed as a detention aide by the Department of Police of the City of Chicago.

2. The charges were filed in writing and a Notice, stating the time, date and place, when and where a hearing of the charges was to be held, together with a copy of the original charges, was served upon the Respondent more than five (5) days prior to the hearing on the charges.

3. The hearing was conducted before Thomas E. Johnson, Hearing Officer of the Police Board of the City of Chicago, on September 14, 2004 and September 24, 2004.

4. Throughout the hearing, Detention Aide Chester L. Height, Employee No. 501695, was present and represented by counsel.

5. The Respondent Detention Aide Chester L. Height, Employee No. 501695, charged herein, contrary to the Rules and Regulations, is **guilty** of violating to wit:

Rule 2:     **Any action or conduct which impedes the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department, which charged that:**

Count I:           On or about November 16, 2000, Detention Aide Chester L. Height made one or more false statements to Detective David Avello of the Addison Police Department, relative to his ownership of a 1998 Dodge Intrepid with license plate number J470933, which allegedly was used in one or more thefts being investigated by the Addison Police Department, thereby impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or bringing discredit upon the Department;

- Count II: On or about April 11, 2001, Detention Aide Chester L. Height made one or more false statements to Detective Barbara Axelrod, Chicago Police Department, relative to his ownership of a 1998 Dodge Intrepid with license plate number J470933, which allegedly was used in one or more thefts being investigated by the Addison Police Department, thereby impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or bringing discredit upon the Department;
- Count III: On or about July 2, 2002, Detention Aide Chester L. Height made one or more false statements to Police Officer Michael Spagnola, Internal Affairs Division, relative to his ownership of a 1998 Dodge Intrepid with license plate number J470933, which allegedly was used in one or more thefts being investigated by the Addison Police Department, thereby impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or bringing discredit upon the Department;
- Count IV: On or about July 2, 2002, Detention Aide Chester L. Height made one or more false statements to Police Officer Michael Spagnola, Internal Affairs Division, relative to his ownership of a 1998 Lincoln Navigator with license plate number J905841, thereby impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or bringing discredit upon the Department;
- Count V: In or around November 2000, Detention Aide Chester L. Height failed to submit immediately a written report to his Commanding Officer that he was under investigation by the Addison Police Department, relative to his ownership of a 1998 Dodge Intrepid with license plate number J470933, which allegedly was used in one or more thefts being investigated by the Addison Police Department, thereby impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or bringing discredit upon the Department;
- Count VI: Prior to on or about April 19, 2001, Detention Aide Chester L. Height failed to submit

immediately a written report to his Commanding Officer that he was subpoenaed and was required to appear before a DuPage County Grand Jury to give testimony relative to his ownership of a 1998 Dodge Intrepid with license plate number J470933, which allegedly was used in one or more thefts being investigated by the Addison Police Department, thereby impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or bringing discredit upon the Department.

Rule 3: Any failure to promote the Department's efforts to implement its policy or accomplish its goals, in that:

Count I: On or about November 16, 2000, Detention Aide Chester L. Height made one or more false statements to Detective David Avello of the Addison Police Department, relative to his ownership of a 1998 Dodge Intrepid with license plate number J470933, which allegedly was used in one or more thefts being investigated by the Addison Police Department, thereby failing to promote the Department's efforts to implement its policy or accomplish its goals;

Count II: On or about April 11, 2001, Detention Aide Chester L. Height made one or more false statements to Detective Barbara Axelrod, Chicago Police Department, relative to his ownership of a 1998 Dodge Intrepid with license plate number J470933, which allegedly was used in one or more thefts being investigated by the Addison Police Department, thereby failing to promote the Department's efforts to implement its policy or accomplish its goals;

Count III: On or about July 2, 2002, Detention Aide Chester L. Height made one or more false statements to Police Officer Michael Spagnola, Internal Affairs Division, relative to his ownership of a 1998 Dodge Intrepid with license plate number J470933, which allegedly was used in one or more thefts being investigated by the Addison Police Department,

thereby failing to promote the Department's efforts to implement its policy or accomplish its goals;

Count IV: On or about July 2, 2002, Detention Aide Chester L. Height made one or more false statements to Police Officer Michael Spagnola, Internal Affairs Division, relative to his ownership of a 1998 Lincoln Navigator with license plate number J905841, thereby failing to promote the Department's efforts to implement its policy or accomplish its goals;

Count V: In or around November 2000, Detention Aide Chester L. Height failed to submit immediately a written report to his Commanding Officer that he was under investigation by the Addison Police Department, relative to his ownership of a 1998 Dodge Intrepid with license plate number J470933, which allegedly was used in one or more thefts being investigated by the Addison Police Department, thereby failing to promote the Department's efforts to implement its policy or accomplish its goals;

Count VI: Prior to on or about April 19, 2001, Detention Aide Chester L. Height failed to submit immediately a written report to his Commanding Officer that he was subpoenaed and was required to appear before a DuPage County Grand Jury to give testimony relative to his ownership of a 1998 Dodge Intrepid with license plate number J470933, which allegedly was used in one or more thefts being investigated by the Addison Police Department, thereby failing to promote the Department's efforts to implement its policy or accomplish its goals;

Rule 14: Disobedience of an order or directive, whether oral or written, in that:

Count I: On or about November 16, 2000, Detention Aide Chester L. Height made one or more false statements to Detective David Avello of the Addison Police Department, relative to his ownership of a 1998 Dodge Intrepid with

license plate number J470933, which allegedly was used in one or more thefts being investigated by the Addison Police Department;

Count II: On or about April 11, 2001, Detention Aide Chester L. Height made one or more false statements to Detective Barbara Axelrod, Chicago Police Department, relative to his ownership of a 1998 Dodge Intrepid with license plate number J470933, which allegedly was used in one or more thefts being investigated by the Addison Police Department;

Count III: On or about July 2, 2002, Detention Aide Chester L. Height made one or more false statements to Police Officer Michael Spagnola, Internal Affairs Division, relative to his ownership of a 1998 Dodge Intrepid with license plate number J470933, which allegedly was used in one or more thefts being investigated by the Addison Police Department;

Count IV: On or about July 2, 2002, Detention Aide Chester L. Height made one or more false statements to Police Officer Michael Spagnola, Internal Affairs Division, relative to his ownership of a 1998 Lincoln Navigator with license plate number J905841.

Rule 20: Failure to submit immediately a written report that any member, including self, is under investigation by any law enforcement agency other than the Chicago Police Department, in that:

Count I: In or around November 2000, Detention Aide Chester L. Height failed to submit immediately a written report to his Commanding Officer that he was under investigation by the Addison Police Department, relative to his ownership of a 1998 Dodge Intrepid with license plate number J470933, which allegedly was used in one or more thefts being investigated by the Addison Police Department;

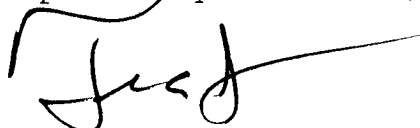
Count II: Prior to on or about April 19, 2001, Detention Aide Chester L. Height failed to submit

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Detention Aide Chester L. Height  
Employee No. 501695

immediately a written report to his Commanding Officer that he was subpoenaed and was required to appear before a DuPage County Grand Jury to give testimony relative to his ownership of a 1998 Dodge Intrepid with license plate number J470933, which allegedly was used in one or more thefts being investigated by the Addison Police Department.

By reason of the findings of fact, the Respondent is **guilty** of violating Rules 2, 3, 14, and 20.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Johnson', written over a horizontal line.

THOMAS E. JOHNSON  
Hearing Officer

D E C I S I O N

The members of the Police Board, having read and reviewed the certified copy of the transcription of the hearing, having received the oral report of the Hearing Officer, Thomas E. Johnson, and having conferred with the Hearing Officer on the credibility of the witnesses and the evidence, hereby adopt all findings herein, and, in reaching its decision as to the penalty imposed, the Board has taken into account not only the facts of this case but also the Respondent's complimentary and disciplinary history, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the Respondent, Detention Aide Chester Height, Employee No. 501695 as a result of having been found guilty of the charges in Police Board Case No. 04-2555, is hereby separated and discharged from his position as a Detention Aide, and from the services of the City of Chicago.

**DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS**  
30TH **DAY OF** NOVEMBER, 2004.

*Scott Davis*  
*Scott Davis*  
*Scott Davis*  
*Scott Davis*  
*Scott Davis*

*Max A. Cramer*

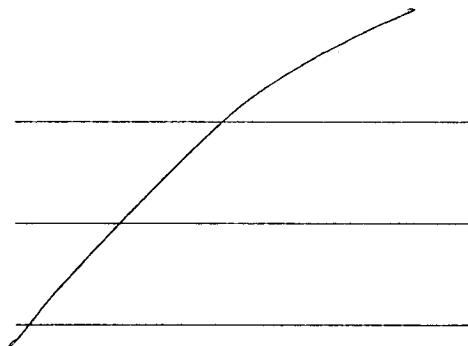
Executive Director, Police Board



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Detention Aide Chester Height  
Employee No. 501695

D I S S E N T

The following members of the Police Board hereby dissent from the decision of the majority of the Board.



RECEIVED A COPY OF THIS COMMUNICATION

THIS 1 DAY OF December, 2004

Philip J. Clevi  
SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE

Chicago Police Department  
Personnel Division

08/22/2002

COMPLIMENTARY HISTORY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>SSN</u>	<u>Star</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Detail Unit</u>
HEIGHT CHESTER	9122			018	

HONORABLE MENTIONS

0

COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

0

DEPT. COMMENDATIONS

AWARD NUMBER:

1

2

3

4

5

0

6

7

8

9

10

OTHER AWARDS:

0

SPECIAL AWARDS:

Jr. Chamber . of Comm	0	Unit Meritorious	0	Fitness Award	0
Rich. J Daley Award	0	Lambert Tree	0	Appearance Award	0
Police Medal	0	Carter Harrison	0	Special Commendation	0
Supt. Awd of Valor	0	WGN Award	0	Partnership Award	0
Supt. Awd of Merit	0	Honored Police Star	0	Special Serv. Award	0
Police Blue Star	0	Life Saving Awd	0	Problem Solving Awd	0
Officer of The Month	0	Hnd Cld Med. of Val	0	Blue Shield Awd	0

Complimentary History Requested By:

NAME SPAGNOLA MICHAEL POLICE OFFICER

STAR: 18880

UNIT: 121

Completed by:

CR #: 273162

BETTY FLYNN  
Personnel Division  
Records Section -2089-2092  
Pax 0-342 or Bell 5-5390

EX. A

C.R. # 273162  
ATTACHMENT # 20  
PAGE # 1 OF 1

INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION  
RECORDS SECTION

28 AUGUST 2002

TO: COMMANDING OFFICER UNIT 121

FROM: RECORDS SECTION  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

SUBJECT: PREVIOUS SUSTAINED DISCIPLINARY HISTORY OF:

HEIGHT	CHESTER	CIV	018
NAME (LAST, FIRST M.I.)	STAR	UNIT	
M	B		
SEX	RACE	S.S.N.	

REFERENCE: COMPLAINT REGISTER NUMBER 273 162

THE PREVIOUS SUSTAINED DISCIPLINARY HISTORY OF THE SUBJECT  
ACCUSED HAS BEEN REQUESTED IN YOUR NAME BY:

PO	SPAGNOLA	18880		121
RANK	NAME	STAR	S.S.N.	UNIT

RELATIVE TO A SUSTAINED FINDING IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE  
ABOVE REFERENCED COMPLAINT REGISTER NUMBER.

THE RECORDS SECTION, INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION, DISCLOSES THE  
FOLLOWING DISCIPLINARY ACTION ADMINISTERED TO THE SUBJECT  
ACCUSED FOR THE PAST FIVE (5) YEARS.

VERIFIED/PREPARED BY:

KAREN CALAHAN #10685

SEE ATTACHED

FOR: COMMANDING OFFICER  
RECORDS SECTION  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

C.R. # 273162  
ATTACHMENT # 21  
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# CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Sustained Complaints History Report

28-AUG-2002 08:14:19 AM

<u>Social Sec. #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Star #</u>	<u>Emp. #</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Unit</u>
[REDACTED]	HEIGHT CHESTER L.		302693	9122	DETENTION AIDE	018

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Appointed Date</u>	<u>No. Of CR's</u>	<u>No. Of SPAR's</u>
M	BLACK	23-JUL-1964	01-MAY-1992	1	0

<u>Case #</u>	<u>Incident Date</u>	<u>Suspension Dates</u>	<u>Disciplinary Action Taken</u>	<u>Final Category</u>	<u>Less Serious Transgression</u>
C 259233	11-JAN-2000	16-OCT-2000	2 DAY SUSPENSION	04D-SEARCH, PERSON/PROPERTY	

<u>Civil Suit #</u>	<u>Police Board #</u>
	17-OCT-2000

<u>Comments</u>

**ISSUED FOR USE IN CR # 273 162 ONLY**

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 ATTACHMENT # 21  
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