

BEFORE THE POLICE BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

IN THE MATTER OF CHARGES FILED AGAINST )  
POLICE OFFICER SEPHERE TAYLOR, ) No. 05 PB 2570  
STAR No. 17161, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE, )  
CITY OF CHICAGO, )  
RESPONDENT ) (CR No. 294325)

FINDINGS AND DECISION

On July 19, 2005 the Superintendent of Police filed charges with the Police Board of the City of Chicago against Police Officer Sephere Taylor, Star No. 17161 (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 6: Disobedience of an order or directive, whether written or oral.

Rule 15: Intoxication on or off duty.

Rule 38: Unlawful or unnecessary use or display of a weapon.

The Police Board of the City of Chicago caused a hearing on these charges against Police Officer Sephere Taylor, Star No. 17161, to be had before Thomas E. Johnson, Hearing Officer of the Police Board of the City of Chicago, on December 9, 2005, January 6, 2006, and January 27, 2006.

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

The Police Board of the City of Chicago, as a result of its hearing of the charges, finds and determines that:

1. The Respondent was at all times mentioned herein employed as a police officer 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 December 9, 2005, January 6, 2006, and January 27, 2006.

4. Throughout the hearing, the Respondent was present and was represented by counsel of her choice.

5. The Respondent Police Officer Sephere Taylor, Star No. 17161, charged herein, 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.

Count II: On or about December 8, 2003, while off duty and inside 10025 South Crandon Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, at approximately 0015 hours, Police Officer Sephere Taylor was intoxicated.

Count III: On or about December 8, 2003, while off duty and inside 10025 South Crandon Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, at approximately 0015 hours, Police Officer Sephere Taylor unlawfully or unnecessarily displayed or used a weapon.

6. The Respondent Police Officer Sephere Taylor, Star No. 17161, charged herein, is **not 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.

Count I: On or about December 8, 2003, while off duty and inside 10025 South Crandon Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, at approximately 0015 hours, Police Officer Sephere Taylor did not violate General Order 02-09-01, Section III, regarding notification of the Office of Emergency Management and Communications and the desk sergeant of the district of occurrence after she discharged her weapon.

7. The Respondent Police Officer Sephere Taylor, Star No. 17161, charged herein, is **not guilty** of violating, to wit:

Rule 6: Disobedience of an order or directive, whether written or oral.

On or about December 8, 2003, while off duty and inside 10025 South Crandon Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, at approximately 0015 hours, Police Officer Sephere Taylor did not violate General Order 02-09-01, Section III, regarding notification of the Office of Emergency Management and Communications and the desk sergeant of the district of occurrence after she discharged her weapon.

8. The Respondent Police Officer Sephere Taylor, Star No. 17161, charged herein, is **guilty** of violating, to wit:

Rule 15: Intoxication on or off duty.

On or about December 8, 2003, while off duty and inside 10025 South Crandon Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, at approximately 0015 hours, Police Officer Sephere Taylor was intoxicated.

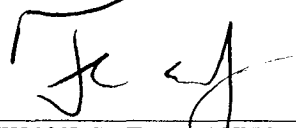
9. The Respondent Police Officer Sephere Taylor, Star No. 17161, charged herein, is **guilty** of violating, to wit:

Rule 38: Unlawful or unnecessary use or display of a weapon.

On or about December 8, 2003, while off duty and inside 10025 South Crandon Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, at approximately 0015 hours, Police Officer Sephere Taylor unlawfully or unnecessarily displayed or used a weapon.

By reason of the findings of fact that the Respondent is guilty of violating Rules 2 (Counts II and III), 15, and 38, and not guilty of violating Rules 2 (Count I) and 6, cause exists for the suspension of the Respondent from her position as a police officer with the Department of Police, and from the services of the City of Chicago, for a period from July 20, 2005 to and including March 31, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. E. 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 transcription of the hearing, having viewed the video-recording 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 histories, copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the Respondent, Police Officer Sephere Taylor, Star #17161, as a result of having been found **guilty** of charges in Police Board Case No. 05 PB 2570, be and hereby is **suspended** from her position as a Police Officer, and from the services of the City of Chicago, for a period from 20 July 2005 to and including 31 March 2006.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2006.

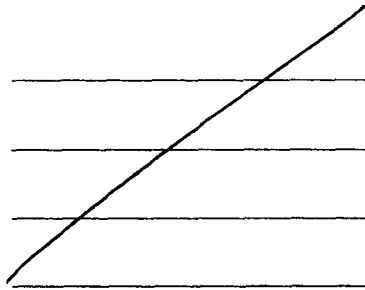
*Demetri J. Carr*  
*Phyllis Appleton*  
*Patricia C. Cobb*  
*William G. Smith*  
*Joseph J. Davis*  
*Vito Demza*  
*William J. Smith*  
*William J. Smith*  
*Max A. Conner*

Executive Director  
Police Board

Page 6- Findings and Decision  
Police Officer Sephire Taylor  
Star No. 17161

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

THE FOREGOING COMMUNICATION

THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE

PI00

\* \* AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS \* \*

FUNCTION:

SSN	EMP #	NAME	TAYLOR	SEPHERE	L	TITLE	9161	
			MONTH AND YEAR RECEIVED				TOTAL	
JR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	
RICHARD J DALEY AWARD	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	
POLICE MEDAL	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	
SUPT AWARD VALOR	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	
SUPT AWARD MERIT	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	
POLICE BLUE STAR	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	
OFFICER OF THE MONTH	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	
UNIT MERITORIOUS PERFORMANCE	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	
LAMBERT TREE	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	
CARTER HARRISON	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	
WGN AWARD	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	
HONORED POLICE STAR	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	
LIFE SAVING AWARD	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	
HUNDRED CLUB MEDAL OF VALOR	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	
FITNESS AWARD	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	
APPEARANCE AWARD	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	

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\* \* \* AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS \* \* \*

FUNCTION:

SSN [REDACTED] EMP # 300943 NAME TAYLOR SEPHERE L TITLE 9161  
MONTH AND YEAR RECEIVED TOTAL  
SPECIAL COMMENDATION / / / / 0  
PARTNERSHIP AWARD / / / / 0  
SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD / / / / 0  
PROBLEM SOLVING AWARD / / / / 0  
BLUE SHIELD AWARD / / / / 0  
JOINT OPERATIONS AWARD / / / / 0  
DEPT COMMENDATION 000 AWARDS NUMBER 1 2 3  
4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
HONORABLE MENTION 00010 COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS 001  
OTHER AWARDS

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167.165.0.140

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**INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION  
RECORDS SECTION**

10 MARCH 2004

**TO:** COMMANDING OFFICER UNIT 113  
**FROM:** RECORDS SECTION  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION  
**SUBJECT:** PREVIOUS SUSTAINED DISCIPLINARY HISTORY OF:

TAYLOR	SEPHERE	022
NAME (LAST, FIRST M.I.)	STAR	UNIT
F	B	
SEX	RACE	S.S.N.

**REFERENCE:** COMPLAINT REGISTER NUMBER 294325

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

INV III	DUBIEL	210	113
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:**

DEANNA C. MAGSBY

NONE

**FOR: COMMANDING OFFICER  
RECORDS SECTION  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**