

BEFORE THE POLICE BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

IN THE MATTER OF CHARGES FILED AGAINST)	
POLICE OFFICER ERNEST WRIGHT,)	No. 05 PB 2576
STAR No. 2742, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE,)	
CITY OF CHICAGO,)	
)	(CR Nos. 300707,
RESPONDENT)	303174, 303720)

FINDINGS

On July 20, 2005, and January 20, 2006, the Superintendent of Police filed with the Police Board of the City of Chicago charges against Police Officer Ernest Wright, Star No. 2742 (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Respondent"), seeking his discharge for violating the following Rules of Conduct:

- 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 24: Failure to follow medical roll procedures.
- Rule 27: Failure to report promptly any anticipated absence from duty.
- Rule 28: Being absent from duty without proper authorization.

The Police Board caused a hearing on these charges against Police Officer Ernest Wright, Star No. 2742, to be had before Thomas E. Johnson, Hearing Officer of the Police Board, on November 2 and December 18, 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. Hearing Officer Johnson made an oral report to and conferred with the Police Board before it rendered a decision.

The Police Board, 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. Throughout the hearing the Respondent was present and was represented by legal counsel.

4. The Respondent, Police Officer Ernest Wright, Star No. 2742, 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 I: On or about August 9, 2004, Officer Wright failed to contact the Medical Services Section after being instructed to do so, as required by General Order 98-02-02A.

Count II: On or about September 2, 10, and 13, 2004, Officer Wright failed to return telephone messages left by the Medical Services Section.

Count III: From on or about August 9, 2004, through on or about September 12, 2004, Officer Wright failed to contact the Medical Services Section regarding his medical absence.

Count VI: On or about January 25, 2005, Officer Wright failed to report to or contact the Medical Services Section after being instructed to do so, as required by General Order 98-02-02A.

Count VII: On or about January 26, 2005, Officer Wright failed to provide medical documentation to the Medical Services Section as required by General Order 98-02-02A.

5. The Respondent, Police Officer Ernest Wright, Star No. 2742, 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 IV: There was insufficient evidence presented by the Superintendent to prove that on or about January 18, 2005, Officer Wright was scheduled to work Beat 4103, Midway Airport Terminal fixed post, from 2200-0600 hours, and he failed to notify a supervisor of his inability to report for duty.

Count V: There was insufficient evidence presented by the Superintendent to prove that on or about January 18, 2005, Officer Wright was scheduled to work Beat 4103, Midway Airport Terminal fixed post, from 2200-0600 hours, and he was absent from duty without proper authorization.

6. The Respondent, Police Officer Ernest Wright, Star No. 2742, charged herein, is **guilty** of violating, to wit:

Rule 24: Failure to follow medical roll procedures.

Count I: On or about August 9, 2004, Officer Wright failed to contact the Medical Services Section after being instructed to do so, as required by General Order 98-02-02A.

Count II: On or about September 2, 10, and 13, 2004, Officer Wright failed to return telephone messages left by the Medical Services Section.

Count III: From on or about August 9, 2004, through on or about September 12, 2004, Officer Wright failed to contact the Medical Services Section regarding his medical absence.

Count IV: On or about January 25, 2005, Officer Wright failed to report to or contact the Medical Services

Section after being instructed to do so, as required by General Order 98-02-02A.

Count V: On or about January 26, 2005, Officer Wright failed to provide medical documentation to the Medical Services Section as required by General Order 98-02-02A.

7. The Respondent, Police Officer Ernest Wright, Star No. 2742, charged herein, is **not guilty** of violating, to wit:

Rule 27: Failure to report promptly any anticipated absence from duty.

There was insufficient evidence presented by the Superintendent to prove that on or about January 18, 2005, Officer Wright was scheduled to work Beat 4103, Midway Airport Terminal fixed post, from 2200-0600 hours, and he failed to notify a supervisor of his inability to report for duty.

8. The Respondent, Police Officer Ernest Wright, Star No. 2742, charged herein, is **not guilty** of violating, to wit:

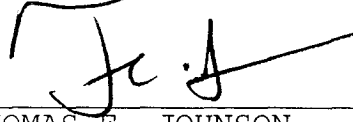
Rule 28: Being absent from duty without proper authorization.

There was insufficient evidence presented by the Superintendent to prove that on or about January 18, 2005, Officer Wright was scheduled to work Beat 4103, Midway Airport Terminal fixed post, from 2200-0600 hours, and he was absent from duty without proper authorization.

By reason of the findings of fact that the Respondent, Police Officer Ernest Wright, Star No. 2742, is guilty of violating Rules 2 (counts I, II, III, VI, and VII) and 24, and not guilty of violating Rules 27 and 28, cause exists for suspending the Respondent from his position as a police officer with the Department of Police, and from the services of the City

of Chicago, for a period of one (1) year, from July 22, 2005, to
and including July 21, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

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

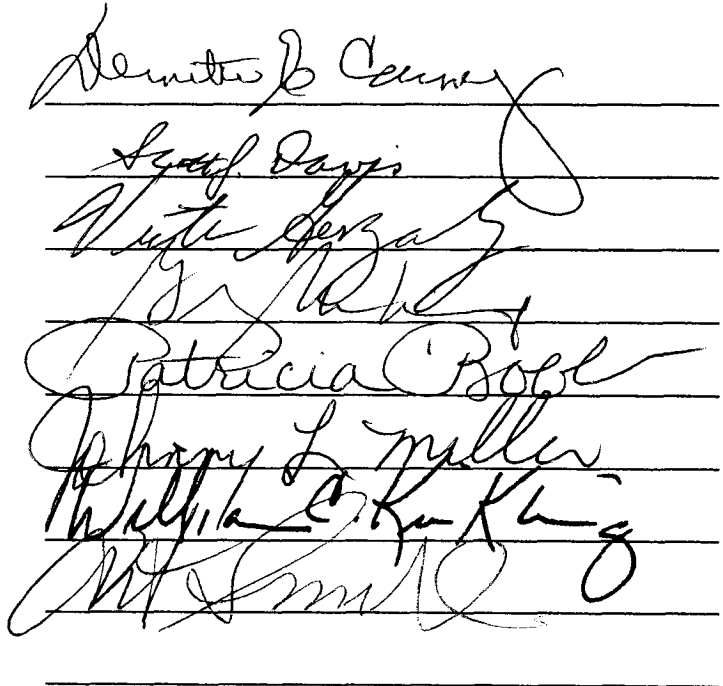
THOMAS E. JOHNSON
Hearing Officer

DECISION

The Police Board of the City of Chicago, 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 adopts 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 Ernest Wright, Star No. 2742, as a result of having been found **guilty** of charges in Police Board Case No. 05 PB 2576, be and hereby is **suspended** from his position as a police officer, and from the services of the City of Chicago, for a period from 22 July 2005 to and including 21 July 2006 (one year).

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 18th DAY OF JANUARY, 2007.


The block contains seven handwritten signatures, each written over a horizontal line. From top to bottom, the signatures are: Dennis B. Conway, Scott Davis, Victor Gerzag, [illegible], Patricia Bowl, [illegible], and [illegible].

Attested by:


The block contains a single handwritten signature, "Max A. Caproni", written over a horizontal line.

Executive Director
Police Board

DISSENT

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 _____, 2007.

SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE

SSN [REDACTED]	EMP # 301476	NAME WRIGHT	ERNEST	M	TITLE 9161	TOTAL
MONTH AND YEAR RECEIVED						
JR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	/	/	/	/	/	0
RICHARD J DALEY AWARD	/	/	/	/	/	0
POLICE MEDAL	/	/	/	/	/	0
PT AWARD VALOR	/	/	/	/	/	0
COPT 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

Ex A 1/4

CR. # 303174
 ATTACHMENT # 12
 PAGE # 1 OF 2

SSN [REDACTED]	EMP # 301476	NAME WRIGHT	ERNEST	M	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	10	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
HONORABLE MENTION 00013 COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS 001						
OTHER AWARDS						

Ex A 2/4

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**INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
RECORDS SECTION**

09 MARCH 2005

TO: COMMANDING OFFICER UNIT 121
FROM: RECORDS SECTION
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
SUBJECT: PREVIOUS SUSTAINED DISCIPLINARY HISTORY OF:

WRIGHT ERNEST	701
NAME (LAST, FIRST M.I.)	STAR UNIT
M BLK	
SEX RACE	S.S.N.

REFERENCE: COMPLAINT REGISTER NUMBER 303 174

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

SGT.	GUZMAN C	1725	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:

PATRICIA JOHNSON

SEE ATTACHED

FOR: COMMANDING OFFICER
RECORDS SECTION
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

Ex. A 3/4

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ATTACHMENT # 13
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CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sustained Complaints History Report

09-MAR-2005 11:31:43 AM

Social Sec. # Name Star # Emp. # Rank Description
 [REDACTED] WRIGHT ERNEST M. 301476 9161 POLICE OFFICER

Sex Race Birth Date Appointed Date No. Of CR's No. Of SPAR's
 M BLACK 10-APR-1953 25-JAN-1988 3 1

<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 263606	03-JUL-2000		3 DAY SUSPENSION	10A-ABSENT WITHOUT PERMISSION	

Civil Suit #Comments

<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 277893	25-JAN-2002	23-APR-2003	5 DAY SUSPENSION	10Z-MISCELLANEOUS	

Civil Suit #Comments

<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 278957	13-MAR-2002	26-SEP-2003	5 DAY SUSPENSION	10A-ABSENT WITHOUT PERMISSION	

Civil Suit #Comments

<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>
S050082	09-JAN-2005	02-FEB-2005	EXCUSED WITHOUT PAY 2 DAYS		002-ABSENCE WITHOUT PERMISSION

Civil Suit #Comments

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Ex. A 4/4