

BEFORE THE POLICE BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

IN THE MATTER OF CHARGES FILED AGAINST)	
POLICE OFFICER KAREN OAKS,)	No. 07 PB 2645
STAR No. 19927, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE,)	
CITY OF CHICAGO,)	
)	
RESPONDENT.)	(CR No. 304525)

FINDINGS AND DECISION

On August 8, 2007, the Superintendent of Police filed with the Police Board of the City of Chicago, charges against Police Officer Karen Oaks, Star No. 19927 (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Respondent"), recommending that the Respondent be discharged from the Chicago Police Department 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 41: Disseminating, releasing, altering, defacing or removing any Department record or information concerning police matters except as provided by Department orders.
- Rule 47: Associating or fraternizing with any person known to have been convicted of any felony or misdemeanor, either State or Federal, excluding traffic and municipal ordinance violations.

The Police Board of the City of Chicago caused a hearing on these charges against Police Officer Karen Oaks, Star No. 19927, to be had before Jacqueline A. Walker, Hearing Officer of the Police Board, on October 14 and October 28, 2008.

Following the Hearing, the members of the Police Board read and reviewed the record of proceedings and viewed the video-recording of the testimony of witnesses. Hearing Officer Walker made an oral report to and conferred with the Police Board before it rendered a decision.

As a result of the foregoing, the Police Board of the City of Chicago finds and determines that:

(1) The Respondent was, at all times mentioned herein, a police officer employed 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 on the charges was to be held, together with a copy of the original charges, were served upon the Respondent more than five (5) days prior to the hearing on the charges.

(3) Throughout the hearing, the Respondent appeared in person and was represented by legal counsel.

(4) The Respondent, Police Officer Karen Oaks, Star No. 19927, as 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,

in that:

The Superintendent did not prove by a preponderance of evidence that on or about March 24, 2005, the Respondent disclosed information to Michael Meyers regarding a covert narcotics investigation being conducted by the Chicago Police Department in and around

one or more buildings located at or near 2310, 2330, and/or 2450 South State Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

(5) The Respondent, Police Officer Karen Oaks, Star No. 19927, as 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,

in that:

From in or around 2002, to the date the charges were filed, or for some period of time
therein, the Respondent fraternized and/or maintained an association with Michael
Meyers, an individual convicted of one or more felonies and/or misdemeanors.

(6) The Respondent, Police Officer Karen Oaks, Star No. 19927, as charged herein, is **not**
guilty of violating, to wit:

Rule 41: Disseminating, releasing, altering, defacing or removing any Department
record or information concerning police matters except as provided by
Department orders,

in that:

The Superintendent did not prove by a preponderance of evidence that on or about March
24, 2005, the Respondent disclosed information to Michael Meyers regarding a covert
narcotics investigation being conducted by the Chicago Police Department in and around

one or more buildings located at or near 2310, 2330, and/or 2450 South State Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

(7) The Respondent, Police Officer Karen Oaks, Star No. 19927, as charged herein, is
guilty of violating, to wit:


Rule 47: Associating or fraternizing with any person known to have been convicted
of any felony or misdemeanor, either State or Federal, excluding traffic
and municipal ordinance violations,

in that:

From in or around 2002, to the date the charges were filed, or for some period of
time therein, the Respondent fraternized and/or maintained an association with
Michael Meyers, an individual convicted of one or more felonies and/or
misdemeanors.

BY REASON of the findings of fact and of guilt herein, cause exists for the discharge of
the Respondent, Police Officer Karen Oaks, Star No. 19927, from her position as a police officer,
and from the services of the City of Chicago.

Respectfully submitted,



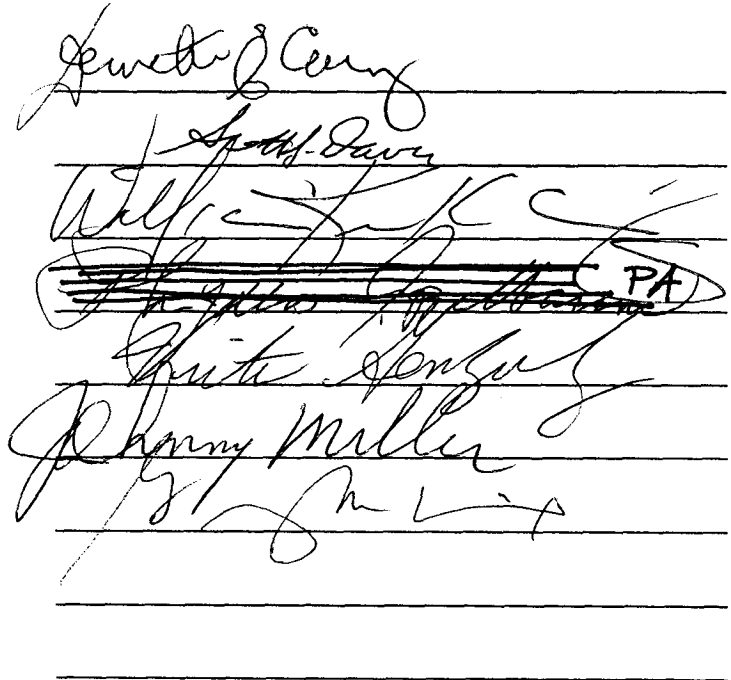
JACQUELINE A. WALKER
Hearing Officer

DECISION

The Police Board of the City of Chicago, having read and reviewed the record of proceedings in this case, having viewed the video-recording of the testimony of the witnesses, having received the oral report of the Hearing Officer, Jacqueline A. Walker, 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 Karen Oaks, Star No. 19927, as a result of having been found **guilty** of charges in Police Board Case No. 07 PB 2645, be and hereby is **discharged** from her position as a police officer, and from the services of the City of Chicago.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 15th DAY OF JANUARY, 2009.


The block contains five handwritten signatures, each on a horizontal line. From top to bottom, the signatures are: 1. A cursive signature that appears to be 'Jacqueline A. Walker'. 2. A cursive signature that appears to be 'Scott Davis'. 3. A cursive signature that appears to be 'William J. ...'. 4. A cursive signature that appears to be 'Philip ...'. 5. A cursive signature that appears to be 'Phonny Miller'. Below the fifth signature is another horizontal line, and then two more empty horizontal lines.

Attested by:


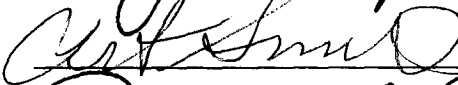


The block contains a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Max A. Caproni'.

Executive Director
Police Board

DISSENT

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

The undersigned voted to find the Respondent not guilty of all charges.

RECEIVED A COPY OF

THE FOREGOING COMMUNICATION

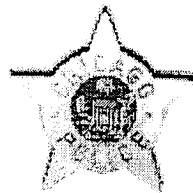
THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2009.

SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE

Report Date: 17 Jul 2006
Report Time: 1553 Hrs

Chicago Police Department

Personnel Division



Information Services Division
Data Warehouse
Processed by: PC0N913

Complimentary Hist

Name	Title	Star	Unit	Detail Unit	Emp Number
OAKS, KAREN A	9161	19927	003		56273

Achievements

Total No.

EMBLEM OF RECOGNITION - PHYSICAL FITNESS
COMPLIMENTARY LETTER
HONORABLE MENTION

2
2
7



NOTE: THIS REPORT IS FOR OFFICIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT / AUTHORIZED USE ONLY.
THE INFORMATION IS CURRENT AS OF THE DATE AND TIME OF THE REPORT.
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CR. 304525



Citizen & Law Enforcement Analysis & Reporting System

C.R. # 304525
ATTACHMENT # 39
PAGE # 1 OF 1

INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
RECORDS SECTION

17 JULY 2006

TO: COMMANDER, UNIT 121

FROM: RECORDS SECTION
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

SUBJECT: PREVIOUS DISCIPLINARY RECORD OF:

OAKS	KAREN A	19927	001
NAME	(LAST, FIRST M.I.)	STAR	UNIT
F	WHI	56273	
SEX	RACE	EMPLOYEE	

REFERENCE: COMPLAINT REGISTER NUMBER(S) 304 525

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

RANK	NAME	STAR	EMPL	UNIT
SGT A	BOEHMER	1066	12050	121C

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(S) ADMINISTERED TO THE
SUBJECT ACCUSED FOR THE PAST FIVE (5) YEARS.

None ☒
Attached ☐

VERIFIED/PREPARED BY:

PO K Calahan 4423
FOR: COMMANDING OFFICER
RECORDS SECTION
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

C.R. # 304525
ATTACHMENT # 40
PAGE # 1 OF 1

BEFORE THE POLICE BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

IN THE MATTER OF CHARGES FILED AGAINST)	
POLICE OFFICER KAREN OAKS,)	No. 07 PB 2645
STAR No. 19927, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE,)	
CITY OF CHICAGO,)	
RESPONDENT)	(CR No. 304525)

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

On August 8, 2007, the Superintendent of Police filed with the Police Board of the City of Chicago charges against Police Officer Karen Oaks, Star No. 19927 (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Respondent"), recommending that the Respondent be discharged from the Chicago Police Department for violating several Rules of Conduct. The Police Board caused a hearing on these charges against the Respondent to be had before Jacqueline A. Walker, Hearing Officer of the Police Board, on October 14 and October 28, 2008.

On January 15, 2009, the Police Board found the Respondent guilty of violating Rules 2 and 47, and ordered the Respondent discharged from her position as a police officer, and from the services of the City of Chicago.

The Respondent filed a petition for administrative review in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division, seeking the reversal of the Board's Findings and Decision. On April 30, 2010, Judge Martin S. Agran entered an Order remanding the case to the Police Board for an alternative penalty to be considered.

For the purpose of determining the penalty to be imposed in response to the Court's Order, the Police Board has reviewed and considered the Court's April 30, 2010, Memorandum Opinion, the Board's January 15, 2009, Findings and Decision, and the Respondent's

complimentary and disciplinary histories.

After reviewing and considering this matter, the Board remains convinced that a penalty of discharge in this case is warranted. Officer Oaks's misconduct related directly to the core responsibilities of a police officer. Officer Oaks fraternized with Michael Meyers, a convicted felon. On or about March 25, 2005, during an undercover drug investigation being conducted in the Harold Ickes housing projects, Meyers was arrested. Initially, Meyers asserted that Officer Oaks provided him with information pertaining to the investigation. Even though Officer Oaks denied this assertion, evidence showed that Officer Oaks spoke with Meyers on her cell phone for a total of 118 minutes during the dates of the undercover investigation and visited Meyers while he was in the lockup in the First District station, prompting the instant disciplinary action.

Officer Oaks admitted that she did not inform any supervisory member that she spoke with Meyers while he was held in lockup, that Meyers telephoned her from the lock-up, nor did Officer Oaks request permission to speak with Meyers while he was in the lock-up.

Additionally, competent testimony was obtained that Officer Oaks had no work-related reason to be in the lock-up while Meyers was there, as she had no arrestee at the time, and that it was out of her way to get to the lock-up where Meyers was being held.

Oaks's disregard for Department rules and procedures could have compromised the Police Department's investigation and the lives of fellow officers. It is imperative that officers follow the Department's rules and procedures in order to prevent such mishaps and, primarily, to uphold the policies and goals of the Department.

The Board finds and determines that the Respondent's conduct renders her continuance in her office detrimental to the discipline and efficiency of the service of the Chicago Police

Department and is something which the law recognizes as good cause for her no longer occupying her office. However, in order to comply with the Court's Order, the Board will order the suspension of the Respondent for a period of five (5) years, from August 10, 2007, to and including August 9, 2012.

POLICE BOARD ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Respondent, Police Officer Karen Oaks, Star No. 19927, as a result of having been found guilty of charges in Police Board Case No. 07 PB 2645, be and hereby is **suspended** from her position as a police officer, and from the services of the City of Chicago, for a period of five (5) years, from August 10, 2007, to and including August 9, 2012.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 17th DAY OF JUNE, 2010.

Debra J. Cunniff
Vicki Benza
Scott Davis
Phonny L. Miller

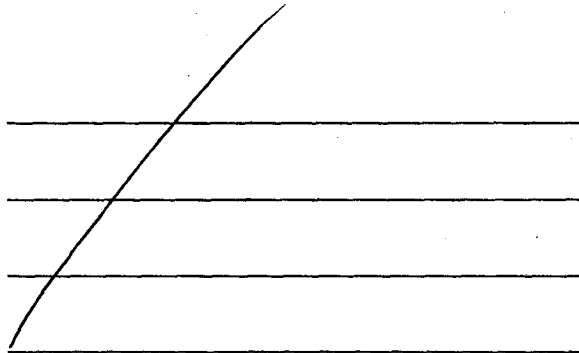
Attested by:

Max A. Caproni

Executive Director
Police Board

DISSENT

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



RECEIVED A COPY OF

THE FOREGOING COMMUNICATION

THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2010.

SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE

**IN THE MATTER OF CHARGES FILED AGAINST)
POLICE OFFICER KAREN OAKS,) No. 07 PB 2645
STAR No. 19927, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE,)
CITY OF CHICAGO,)
)
)
RESPONDENT.) (CR No. 304525)**

The Police Board of the City of Chicago caused a hearing on these charges against Police Officer Karen Oaks, Star No. 19927, to be had before Jacqueline A. Walker, Hearing Officer of the Police Board, on October 14 and October 28, 2008.

Following the Hearing, the members of the Police Board read and reviewed the record of proceedings and viewed the video-recording of the testimony of witnesses. Hearing Officer Walker made an oral report to and conferred with the Police Board before it rendered a decision.

As a result of the foregoing, the Police Board of the City of Chicago finds and determines that:

(1) The Respondent was, at all times mentioned herein, a police officer employed 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 on the charges was to be held, together with a copy of the original charges, were served upon the Respondent more than five (5) days prior to the hearing on the charges.

(3) Throughout the hearing, the Respondent appeared in person and was represented by legal counsel.

(4) The Respondent, Police Officer Karen Oaks, Star No. 19927, as 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,

in that:

The Superintendent did not prove by a preponderance of evidence that on or about March 24, 2005, the Respondent disclosed information to Michael Meyers regarding a covert narcotics investigation being conducted by the Chicago Police Department in and around

one or more buildings located at or near 2310, 2330, and/or 2450 South State Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

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BY REASON of the findings of fact and of guilt herein, cause exists for the discharge of
the Respondent, Police Officer Karen Oaks, Star No. 19927, from her position as a police officer,
and from the services of the City of Chicago.

Respectfully submitted,



JACQUELINE A. WALKER
Hearing Officer

DECISION

The Police Board of the City of Chicago, having read and reviewed the record of proceedings in this case, having viewed the video-recording of the testimony of the witnesses, having received the oral report of the Hearing Officer, Jacqueline A. Walker, 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 Karen Oaks, Star No. 19927, as a result of having been found **guilty** of charges in Police Board Case No. 07 PB 2645, be and hereby is **discharged** from her position as a police officer, and from the services of the City of Chicago.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 15th DAY OF JANUARY, 2009.

James J. Conry
Scott Davis
William J. [unclear]
[unclear] PA
Quintin [unclear]
Phonny Miller
[unclear]

Attested by:

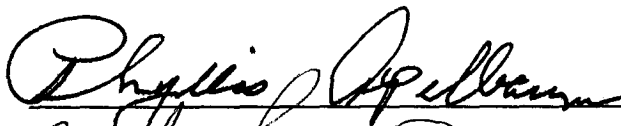
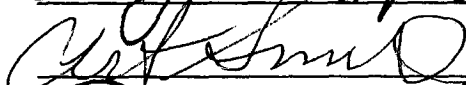
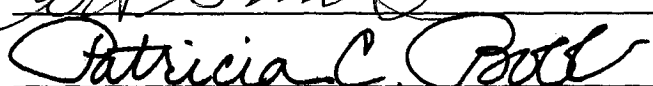
Max A. Caproni

Executive Director
Police Board

DISSENT

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

The undersigned voted to find the Respondent not guilty of all charges.

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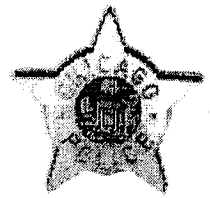
THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2009.

SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE

Report Date: 17 Jul 2006
Report Time: 1553 Hrs

Chicago Police Department

Personnel Division



Information Services Division
Data Warehouse
Processed by: PC0N913

Complimentary Hist

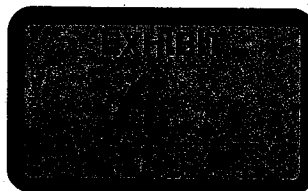
Name	Title	Star	Unit	Detail Unit	Emp Number
OAKS, KAREN A	9161	19927	003		56273

Achievements

Total No.

EMBLEM OF RECOGNITION - PHYSICAL FITNESS
COMPLIMENTARY LETTER
HONORABLE MENTION

2
2
7



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CR. 304525

C.R. # 304525
ATTACHMENT # 39
PAGE # 1 OF 1



Citizen & Law Enforcement Analysis & Reporting System

INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
RECORDS SECTION

17 JULY 2006

TO: COMMANDER, UNIT 121

FROM: **RECORDS SECTION
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

SUBJECT: **PREVIOUS DISCIPLINARY RECORD OF:**

OAKS KAREN A 19927 001

NAME (LAST, FIRST M.I.) STAR UNIT

F WHI 56273

SEX RACE EMPLOYEE

REFERENCE: **COMPLAINT REGISTER NUMBER(S)** 304 525

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

RANK	NAME	STAR	EMPL	UNIT
SGT A	BOEHMER	1066	12050	121C

**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(S) ADMINISTERED TO THE
SUBJECT ACCUSED FOR THE PAST FIVE (5) YEARS.**

None ☒
Attached ☐

VERIFIED/PREPARED BY:

POK Callahan 4423
**FOR: COMMANDING OFFICER
RECORDS SECTION
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

C.R. # 304525
ATTACHMENT # 40
PAGE # 1 OF 1



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Police Board

Demetrius E. Carney
President

Scott J. Davis
Vice President

Phyllis L. Apfelbaum
Patricia C. Bobb
Victor M. Gonzalez
William C. Kirkling, D.D.S.
Rev. Johnny L. Miller
Art Smith
George M. Velcich

Max A. Caproni, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Suite 1220
30 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

(312) 742-4194
(312) 742-4193 (FAX)
(312) 6876 (TTY)

Re: Police Board Case No. 07 PB 2645, Karen Oaks

NOTICE

Under Illinois law, a party to a Police Board case has the right to appeal the Board's decision by filing a petition for administrative review in the Circuit Court of Cook County, County Department, Chancery Division.

In accordance with 735 Illinois Compiled Statutes 5/3-102, the time limit for filing an appeal is 35 days from the date the Board personally serves a party with a copy of the decision, or 35 days from the postmark of the date the Board mails a copy of the decision to a party. Filing an appeal after this time limit may result in the dismissal of the case.

