

BEFORE THE POLICE BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

IN THE MATTER OF CHARGES FILED AGAINST)	
POLICE OFFICER RAYSURNET MORRIS,)	No. 07 PB 2661
STAR No. 12996, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE,)	
CITY OF CHICAGO,)	
)	(CR Nos. 304744
RESPONDENT)	and 309513)

FINDINGS

On October 18, 2007, the Superintendent of Police filed with the Police Board of the City of Chicago charges against Police Officer Raysurnet Morris, Star No. 12996 (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 6: Disobedience of an order or directive, whether written or oral.
- Rule 14: Making a false report, written or oral.
- Rule 30: Leaving duty assignment without being properly relieved or without proper authorization.

The Police Board caused a hearing on these charges against Police Officer Raysurnet Morris to be had before Michael G. Berland, Hearing Officer of the Police Board, on May 15, May 20, and June 3, 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 the witnesses. Michael G. Berland, 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, were served upon the Respondent more than five (5) days prior to the hearing on the charges.

3. The Respondent appeared throughout the hearing and was represented by legal counsel.

4. After the evidentiary hearing was completed but before a judgment was entered, the Police Board remanded this case for a status hearing. At that status hearing, on September 4, 2008, the Superintendent made an oral Motion to Amend the Charges by replacing the word "disobeyed" with the word "received" for Counts II, III, and IV of the Rule 2 violation, and Counts I, II, and III of the Rule 6 violation, since the original Charges contained typographical and/or clerical errors. The Respondent objected to the Motion and both parties were permitted to file

legal memoranda in connection with their respective legal positions.

Sections 5/2-616 (a) and (c) of the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure provides, inter alia, that before or after a final judgment amendments be allowed on just and reasonable terms, "either of form and substance," and even changing the "cause of action or defense or adding new causes of action or defenses...." Rule 15 (b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure similarly provides for liberal amendment of pleadings.

The Police Board finds and determines that it is in the interests of justice to allow such amendments to be made and that there is no prejudice to the Respondent to allow the amendments in this case. The Respondent received extensive discovery (the production of the Complaint Register investigation file) before the hearing, which provided both the dates of the alleged Orders to the Respondent not to contact or conduct surveillance of or follow Ronald Holt, or members of his family, and the dates the Respondent allegedly violated those Orders. Each of the Counts in question also specifically identified the dates that the Respondent allegedly violated those Orders. Respondent's argument that the Charges only established that the Orders were allegedly violated on the dates they were given is contradicted by a complete reading of each of the Counts on which the Superintendent requested the amendment. During the hearing the testimony was uncontested as to the dates that the Respondent received the Orders. Numerous witnesses for both sides provided

contradictory evidence as to whether or not the Respondent violated the Orders. The Board considered all of such evidence in reaching its decision. Even though substantive amendments to the pleadings are authorized by the provisions of the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure cited above, the Police Board believes the amendments are procedural only and correct typographical and/or clerical errors. Furthermore, "charges in administrative proceedings need not be drawn with the same precision required of pleadings in judicial actions." *Kelly v. Police Board Of City Of Chicago*, 25 Ill. App.3d 559, 323 N.E. 2d 624, (1st Dist. 1975) See also *Joyce v. City of Chicago*, 216 Ill 466. Even assuming arguendo the amendments were substantive, they are authorized, subject to Police Board approval, by the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure. Therefore, the Police Board grants the Motion and allows the oral amendments requested by the Superintendent.

5. The Respondent, Police Officer Raysurnet Morris, Star No. 12996, 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:

Count I: On or about August 1, 2003, through on or about November 30, 2005, or on one or more dates therein, in the vicinity of 3632 South Calumet Avenue and/or 764 East 104th Place and or 11601 South Bishop Street and/or 3700 South Calumet Avenue, she drove past and/or parked near Ronald Holt's residence and/or peered through Ronald Holt's residence's window and/or contacted Ronald Holt and/or a friend and/or family member of Ronald Holt, thereby impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals and/or bringing discredit upon the Department.

Count II: On or about October 5, 2002, she received a direct order given by Captain Cynthia White in that Captain White directed Officer Morris to not contact and/or cause contact and/or conduct surveillance of and/or follow Ronald Holt and/or any member of his family, and on or about August 1, 2003, through on or about November 30, 2005, or on one or more dates therein, in the vicinity of 3632 South Calumet Avenue and/or 764 East 104th Place and or 11601 South Bishop Street and/or 3700 South Calumet Avenue, Officer Morris drove past and/or parked near Ronald Holt's residence and/or peered through Ronald Holt's residence's window and/or contacted Ronald Holt and/or a friend and/or family member of Ronald Holt, thereby impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals and/or bringing discredit upon the Department.

Count III: On or about January 24, 2003, she received a direct order given by Captain Cynthia White in that Captain White directed Officer Morris to not contact and/or cause contact and/or conduct surveillance of and/or follow Ronald Holt and/or any member of his family, and on or about August 1, 2003, through on or about November 30, 2005, or on one or more dates therein, in the vicinity of 3632 South Calumet Avenue and/or 764 East 104th Place and or 11601 South Bishop Street and/or 3700 South Calumet Avenue, Officer Morris drove past and/or parked near Ronald Holt's residence and/or peered through Ronald Holt's residence's window and/or contacted Ronald Holt and/or a friend and/or family member of Ronald Holt, thereby impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals and/or bringing discredit upon the Department.

Count IV: On or about April 29, 2005, she received a direct order given by Captain Cynthia White in that Captain White directed Officer Morris to not contact and/or cause contact and/or conduct surveillance of and/or follow Ronald Holt and/or any member of his family, and on or about August 1, 2003, through on or about November 30, 2005, or on one or more dates therein, in the vicinity of 3632 South Calumet Avenue and/or 764 East 104th Place and or 11601 South Bishop Street and/or 3700 South Calumet Avenue, Officer Morris drove past and/or parked near Ronald Holt's residence and/or peered through Ronald Holt's residence's window and/or contacted Ronald Holt and/or a friend and/or family member of Ronald Holt, thereby impeding the Department's

efforts to achieve its policy and goals and/or bringing discredit upon the Department.

Count V: On or about April 27, 2005, she left her duty assignment without being properly relieved and/or without proper authorization, in that in the vicinity of 3632 South Calumet Avenue, while on duty and/or while driving a Chicago Police Department squadrol, she drove past and/or parked near Ronald Holt's residence and/or peered through Ronald Holt's residence's window and/or contacted Ronald Holt and/or a friend and/or family member of Ronald Holt, thereby impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals and/or bringing discredit upon the Department.

Count VI: On or about September 26, 2006, she made a false report, written or oral, in that she gave a statement to the Chicago Police Department Office of Professional Standards investigator(s) and/or tendered to the Chicago Police Department Office of Professional Standards investigator(s) notarized witness statements containing false information, thereby impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals and/or bringing discredit upon the Department.

6. The Respondent, Police Officer Raysurnet Morris, Star No. 12996, charged herein, is **guilty** of violating, to wit:

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

in that:

Count I: On or about October 5, 2002, she received a direct order given by Captain Cynthia White in that Captain White directed Officer Morris to not contact and/or cause contact and/or conduct surveillance of and/or follow Ronald Holt and/or any member of his family, and on or about August 1, 2003, through on or about November 30, 2005, or on one or more dates therein, in the vicinity of 3632 South Calumet Avenue and/or 764 East 104th Place and or 11601 South Bishop Street and/or 3700 South Calumet Avenue, Officer Morris drove past and/or parked near Ronald Holt's residence and/or peered through Ronald Holt's residence's window

and/or contacted Ronald Holt and/or a friend and/or family member of Ronald Holt.

Count II: On or about January 24, 2003, she received a direct order given by Captain Cynthia White in that Captain White directed Officer Morris to not contact and/or cause contact and/or conduct surveillance of and/or follow Ronald Holt and/or any member of his family, and on or about August 1, 2003, through on or about November 30, 2005, or on one or more dates therein, in the vicinity of 3632 South Calumet Avenue and/or 764 East 104th Place and or 11601 South Bishop Street and/or 3700 South Calumet Avenue, Officer Morris drove past and/or parked near Ronald Holt's residence and/or peered through Ronald Holt's residence's window and/or contacted Ronald Holt and/or a friend and/or family member of Ronald Holt.

Count III: On or about April 29, 2005, she received a direct order given by Captain Cynthia White in that Captain White directed Officer Morris to not contact and/or cause contact and/or conduct surveillance of and/or follow Ronald Holt and/or any member of his family, and on or about August 1, 2003, through on or about November 30, 2005, or on one or more dates therein, in the vicinity of 3632 South Calumet Avenue and/or 764 East 104th Place and or 11601 South Bishop Street and/or 3700 South Calumet Avenue, Officer Morris drove past and/or parked near Ronald Holt's residence and/or peered through Ronald Holt's residence's window and/or contacted Ronald Holt and/or a friend and/or family member of Ronald Holt.

7. The Respondent, Police Officer Raysurnet Morris, Star No. 12996, charged herein, is **guilty** of violating, to wit:

Rule 14: Making a false report, written or oral,
in that:

On or about September 26, 2006, she made a false report, written or oral, in that she gave a statement to the Chicago Police Department Office of Professional Standards investigator(s) and/or tendered to the Chicago Police Department Office of Professional Standards investigator(s) notarized witness statements containing false information.

8. The Respondent, Police Officer Raysurnet Morris, Star No. 12996, charged herein, is **guilty** of violating, to wit:

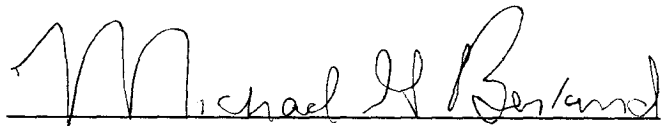
Rule 30: Leaving duty assignment without being properly relieved or without proper authorization,

in that:

On or about April 27, 2005, she left her duty assignment without being properly relieved and/or without proper authorization, in that in the vicinity of 3632 South Calumet Avenue, while on duty and/or while driving a Chicago Police Department squadrol, she drove past and/or parked near Ronald Holt's residence and/or peered through Ronald Holt's residence's window and/or contacted Ronald Holt and/or a friend and/or family member of Ronald Holt.

By reason of the findings of fact and guilt set forth herein, cause exists for the discharge of the Respondent, Police Officer Raysurnet Morris, Star No. 12996, from her position as a police officer with the Department of Police, and from the services of the City of Chicago.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael G. Berland". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

MICHAEL G. BERLAND
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, Michael G. Berland, 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 Raysurnet Morris, Star No. 12996, as a result of having been found **guilty** of charges in Police Board Case No. 07 PB 2661, be and hereby is **discharged** from her position as a police officer with the Department of Police, and from the services of the City of Chicago.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS
16th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2008.

Demetrius B. Conner
Victor J. Gonzalez
Scott J. Davis
William J. King
John A. Smith

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.

RECEIVED A COPY OF

THE FOREGOING COMMUNICATION

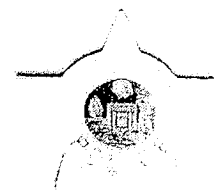
THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2008.

SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE

Report Date: 13 Jun 2007
Report Time: 1628 Hrs

Chicago Police Department

Personnel Division



Information Services Division
Data Warehouse
Produced by: PC0X417

Complimentary History

Name	Title	Star	Unit	Detail Unit	Emp Numb
MORRIS, RAYSURNET	9161	12996	005	376	13146

Achievements

Total No.

HONORABLE MENTION

3

PERSONNEL SERVICES
JUN 13 2007
CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

CR# 309513

EXHIBIT A

INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
RECORDS SECTION

14 JUNE 2007

TO: COMMANDER OFFICER UNIT 113

FROM: RECORDS SECTION
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

SUBJECT: PREVIOUS SUSTAINED DISCIPLINARY HISTORY OF:

MORRIS	RAYSURNET	12996	376
NAME	(LAST,FIRST)	STAR	UNIT
FEMALE	BLACK	13146	
SEX	RACE	EMPLOYEE#	

REFERENCE: COMPLAINT REGISTER/ LOG NUMBER 309513

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

SUPV.	STOUTENBOROUGH	118		113
RANK	NAME	STAR	EMPLOYEE#	UNIT

RELATIVE TO A SUSTAINED FINDING IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE
ABOVE REFERENCE COMPLAINT LOG NUMBER.

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

VERIFIED/PREPARED BY:

NONE ☐
SEE ATTACHED ☐

DEANNA C. MAGSBY
FOR: COMMANDING OFFICER
RECORDS SECTION
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sustained Complaints History Report

14-JUN-2

07:00:51

<u>Social Sec. #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Star #</u>	<u>Emp. #</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Unit</u>
[REDACTED]	MORRIS RAYSURNET	12996	13146	9161	POLICE OFFICER	376

<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>
F	BLACK	18-FEB-1960	04-DEC-1995	5	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 282502	10-JUL-2002		REPRIMAND	10T-REPORTS - FAILED TO SUBMIT/IMPROPER	

Civil Suit # Police Board #

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 284744	05-OCT-2002	01-APR-2007	15 DAY SUSPENSION	05K-DOMESTIC ALTERCATION/INCIDENT - OFF DUTY	

Civil Suit # Police Board #

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 285917	21-NOV-2002	01-JUN-3006	1 DAY SUSPENSION	04J-MISCELLANEOUS	

Civil Suit # Police Board #

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 290120	14-JUN-2003	17-MAY-2004	4 DAY SUSPENSION	10T-REPORTS - FAILED TO SUBMIT/IMPROPER	

Civil Suit # Police Board #

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 306309	13-JUN-2005		REPRIMAND	10J-NEGLECT OF DUTY/CONDUCT UNBECOMING - ON DUTY	

Civil Suit # Police Board #

Comments