

BEFORE THE POLICE BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

IN THE MATTER OF CHARGES FILED AGAINST )  
POLICE OFFICER REYNALDO VALDEZ JR., ) No. 08 PB 2695  
STAR No. 19146, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE, )  
CITY OF CHICAGO, )  
RESPONDENT ) (CR No. 311248)

FINDINGS

On August 21, 2008, the Superintendent of Police filed with the Police Board of the City of Chicago charges against Police Officer Reynaldo Valdez Jr., Star No. 19146 (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 8: Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty.
- Rule 9: Engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.
- Rule 14: Making a false report, written or oral.

The Police Board caused a hearing on these charges against Police Officer Reynaldo Valdez Jr. to be had before Thomas E. Johnson, Hearing Officer of the Police Board, on March 4, March 5, April 20, and May 1, 2009.

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. Hearing Officer Johnson 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 was represented by legal counsel throughout the hearing. The Respondent appeared throughout the proceedings held on March 4, April 20, and May 1, 2009. The Respondent was excused by his attorney from part of the proceedings held on March 5, 2009.

4. The Respondent, Police Officer Reynaldo Valdez Jr., Star No. 19146, 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 February 16, 2006, in the vicinity of 2519 West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chicago, he placed Javan Hill in a chokehold and/or placed a gun against Javan Hill's face and/or pushed Javan Hill against a gated window and/or directed profanity toward Javan Hill, thereby impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals and/or bringing discredit upon the Department.

Count II: On or about February 16, 2006, in the vicinity of 2519 West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chicago, he threatened to kill Javan Hill, thereby impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals and/or bringing discredit upon the Department.

Count III: On or about February 16, 2006, in the vicinity of 2519 West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chicago, he directed profanities at and/or threatened to arrest Nigel Sherwood, thereby impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals and/or bringing discredit upon the Department.

5. The Respondent, Police Officer Reynaldo Valdez Jr., Star No. 19146, 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 February 16, 2006, in the vicinity of 2519 West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chicago, he detained and/or seized Javan Hill without probable cause, in violation of General Order 02-10, Section III-B-1.

Count II: On or about February 16, 2006, he failed to complete a Contact Information Card relating to his encounter with Javan Hill, in violation of Special Order 03-09B, Section IV-A.

6. The Respondent, Police Officer Reynaldo Valdez Jr., Star No. 19146, charged herein, is **guilty** of violating, to wit:

Rule 8: Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty,

in that:

Count I: On or about February 16, 2006, in the vicinity of 2519 West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chicago, he placed Javan Hill in a chokehold and/or placed a gun against Javan Hill's face and/or pushed Javan Hill against a gated window and/or directed profanity toward Javan Hill, thereby disrespecting or maltreating any person, while on or off duty.

Count II: On or about February 16, 2006, in the vicinity of 2519 West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chicago, he threatened to kill Javan Hill, thereby disrespecting or maltreating any person, while on or off duty.

Count III: On or about February 16, 2006, in the vicinity of 2519 West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chicago, he directed profanities at and/or threatened to arrest Nigel Sherwood, thereby disrespecting or maltreating any person, while on or off duty.

7. The Respondent, Police Officer Reynaldo Valdez Jr., Star No. 19146, charged herein, is **guilty** of violating, to wit:

Rule 9: Engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty,

in that:

Count I: On or about February 16, 2006, in the vicinity of 2519 West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chicago, he placed Javan Hill in a chokehold and/or placed a gun against Javan Hill's face and/or pushed Javan Hill against a gated window and/or directed profanity toward Javan Hill, thereby engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.

Count II: On or about February 16, 2006, in the vicinity of 2519 West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chicago, he threatened to kill Javan Hill, thereby engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.

Count III: On or about February 16, 2006, in the vicinity of 2519 West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chicago, he directed profanities at and/or threatened to arrest Nigel Sherwood, thereby engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.

8. The Respondent, Police Officer Reynaldo Valdez Jr., Star No. 19146, charged herein, is **guilty** of violating, to wit:

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

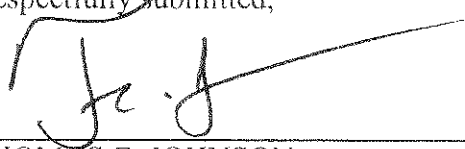
in that:

Count I: On or about September 8, 2006, and/or August 17, 2007, he falsely told investigators at the Office of Professional Standards (now known as the Independent Police Review Authority) that on or about February 16, 2006, he did not place Javan Hill in a chokehold and/or place a gun against the right side of Javan Hill's face and/or push Javan Hill against a gated window, thereby making a false report, written or oral.

Count II: On or about September 8, 2006, and/or August 17, 2007, he falsely told investigators at the Office of Professional Standards (now known as the Independent Police Review Authority) that on or about February 16, 2006, he did not direct profanities at and/or threaten to arrest Nigel Sherwood, thereby making a false report, written or oral.

By reason of the findings of fact and guilt set forth herein, cause exists for the discharge of the Respondent, Police Officer Reynaldo Valdez Jr., Star No. 19146, from his position as a police officer with the Department of Police, and from the services of the City of Chicago.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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THOMAS E. JOHNSON  
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, 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 1; and

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the Respondent, Police Officer Reynaldo Valdez Jr., Star No. 19146, as a result of having been found **guilty** of charges in Police Board Case No. 08 PB 2695, be and hereby is **discharged** from his 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 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2009.

*Deborah P. Carr*  
*Scott Davis*  
*William L. King*  
*Johnny L. Miller*

Attested by:

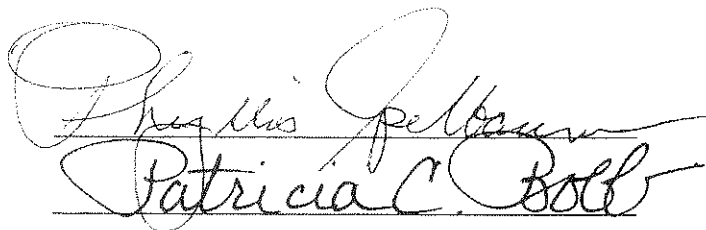
*Max A. Caproni*

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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RECEIVED A COPY OF

THE FOREGOING COMMUNICATION

THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

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SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE