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**BEFORE THE POLICE BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

**IN THE MATTER OF CHARGES FILED AGAINST )  
POLICE OFFICER DEBRA HOWARD, )  
STAR No. 7886, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE, )  
CITY OF CHICAGO, )  
RESPONDENT )**

**No. 08 PB 2701**

**(CR No. 308066)**

**FINDINGS**

On December 15, 2008, the Superintendent of Police filed with the Police Board of the City of Chicago charges against Police Officer Debra Howard, Star No. 7886 (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Respondent"), recommending that the Respondent be suspended from her position with the Chicago Police Department for a period of sixty (60) days for violating the following Rules of Conduct:

- Rule 1:** Violation of any law or ordinance.
- 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 4:** Any conduct or action taken to use the official position for personal gain or influence.
- Rule 14:** Making a false report, written or oral.
- Rule 20:** Failure to submit immediately a written report that any member, including self, is under investigation by any law enforcement agency other than the Chicago Police Department.

The Police Board caused a hearing of these charges against Police Officer Debra Howard to be had before Thomas E. Johnson, Hearing Officer of the Police Board, on June 15, 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. Throughout the hearing of the charges the Respondent appeared in person and was represented by legal counsel.

4. The Respondent, Police Officer Debra Howard, Star No. 7886, charged herein, is **guilty** of violating, to wit:

Rule 1: Violation of any law or ordinance,

in that:

Count I: On or about August 26, 2005, at approximately 5:05 p.m., Officer Howard, while off duty and operating her personal vehicle, refused to provide to an on-duty, uniformed Indiana State Police trooper her current driver's license when requested to do so, in violation of Indiana Code 34-28-5-3.5.

Count II: On or about August 26, 2005, at approximately 5:05 p.m., Officer Howard, while off duty, operated her personal vehicle at a rate of speed of 65 miles per hour in a 55 miles per hour zone, in violation of Indiana Code 9-21-5-2(2).

5. The Respondent, Police Officer Debra Howard, Star No. 7886, 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 26, 2005, at approximately 5:05 p.m., Officer Howard, while off duty and operating her personal vehicle, refused to provide to an on-duty, uniformed Indiana State Police trooper her current driver's license when requested to do so.

Count II: On or about August 26, 2005, at approximately 5:05 p.m., Officer Howard asked an on-duty, uniformed Indiana State Police trooper for a "professional courtesy" in an attempt to evade issuance of a traffic citation for speeding.

Count III: On or about December 19, 2005, Officer Howard entered into a plea agreement for violation of Indiana Code 34-28-5-3.5 when she refused to provide to an on-duty,

uniformed Indiana State Police trooper her current driver's license when requested to do so.

Count IV: On or about December 19, 2005, Officer Howard entered into a plea agreement for violation of Indiana Code 9-21-5-2(2) when she operated her personal vehicle at a rate of speed of 65 miles per hour in a 55 miles per hour zone.

6. The Respondent, Police Officer Debra Howard, Star No. 7886, charged herein, is **guilty** of violating, to wit:

Rule 4: Any conduct or action taken to use the official position for personal gain or influence,

in that:

Count I: On or about August 26, 2005, at approximately 5:05 p.m., Officer Howard displayed her City of Chicago Police Department identification card to an on-duty, uniformed Indiana State Police trooper in an attempt to evade issuance of a traffic citation for speeding.

Count II: On or about August 26, 2005, at approximately 5:05 p.m., Officer Howard asked an on-duty, uniformed Indiana State Police trooper for a "professional courtesy" in an attempt to evade issuance of a traffic citation for speeding

7. The Respondent, Police Officer Debra Howard, Star No. 7886, charged herein, is **guilty** of violating, to wit:

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

in that:

Count I: On or about January 18, 2006, during a formal statement regarding the allegations of Complaint Register No. 308066, Officer Howard made a false statement when she stated that she was not informed by an on-duty, uniformed Indiana State Police trooper as to the reason for the traffic stop.

Count II: On or about January 18, 2006, during a formal statement regarding the allegations of Complaint Register No. 308066, Officer Howard made a false statement when she stated that she did not ask the on-duty, uniformed Indiana State Police trooper for a "professional courtesy" during the traffic stop.

Count III: On or about January 18, 2006, during a formal statement regarding the allegations of Complaint Register No. 308066, Officer Howard made a false statement when she stated that an on-duty, uniformed Indiana State Police trooper did not request that she exit her personal vehicle during the traffic stop.

8.. The Respondent, Police Officer Debra Howard, Star No. 7886, charged herein, is **guilty** of violating, to wit:

Rule 20: Failure to submit immediately a written report that any member, including self, is under investigation by any law enforcement agency other than the Chicago Police Department,

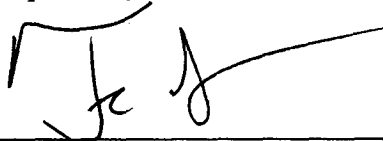
in that:

Count I: On or about August 26, 2005, through on or about January 5, 2006, or for some period of time therein, Officer Howard failed to make any notifications to the Department that she was under investigation by the Indiana State Police Department for violation of Indiana Code 9-21-5-2(2) when she operated her personal vehicle at a rate of speed of 65 miles per hour in a 55 miles per hour zone.

Count II: On or about August 26, 2005, through on or about January 5, 2006, or for some period of time therein, Officer Howard failed to make any notifications to the Department that she was under investigation by the Indiana State Police Department for violation of Indiana Code 34-28-5-3.5 when she refused to provide to an on-duty, uniformed Indiana State Police trooper her current driver's license when requested to do so.

By reason of the findings of fact and guilt set forth herein, cause exists for the suspension of the Respondent, Police Officer Debra Howard, Star No. 7886, from her position as a police officer with the Department of Police, and from the services of the City of Chicago, for a period of sixty (60) days.

Respectfully submitted,



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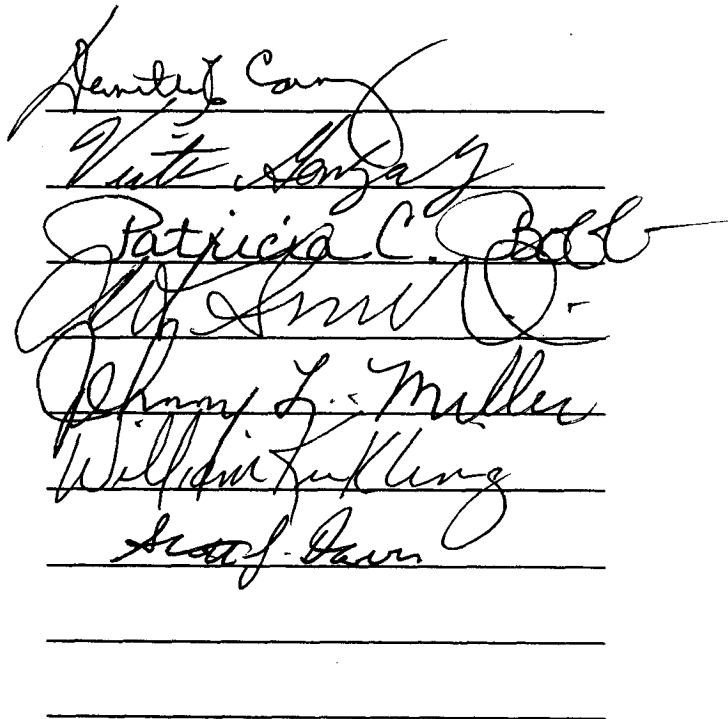
THOMAS E. JOHNSON  
Hearing Officer

**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 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 Debra Howard, Star No. 7886, as a result of having been found **guilty** of charges in Police Board Case No. 08 PB 2701, be and hereby is **suspended** from her position as a police officer with the Department of Police, and from the services of the City of Chicago, for a period of sixty (60) days.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2009.

  
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Attested by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Executive Director  
Police Board

Police Board Case No. 08 PB 2701  
Police Officer Debra Howard  
Page 5A

### 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 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 Debra Howard, Star No. 7886, as a result of having been found **guilty** of charges in Police Board Case No. 08 PB 2701, be and hereby is **suspended** from her position as a police officer with the Department of Police, and from the services of the City of Chicago, for a period of sixty (60) days.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2009.

*Samuel C. Carr*  
*Victor A. Long*  
*Patricia C. Bell*  
*W. L. Miller*  
*William F. Miller*  
*Scott. Davis*  
*John A. Bell*

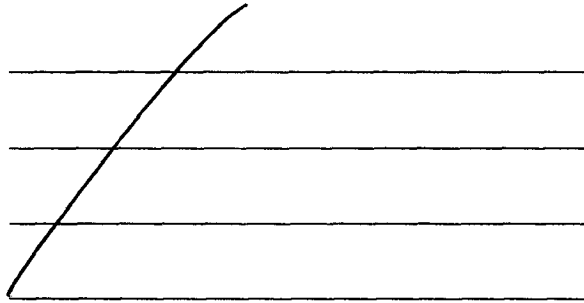
Attested by:

*W. 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

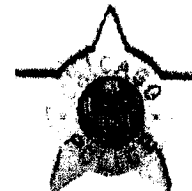
THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

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

Report Date: 08 Feb 2006  
Report Time: 0854 Hrs

# Chicago Police Department

## Personnel Division



Information Services Division  
Data Warehouse  
Produced by: PC0X893

### Complimentary Hist

NAME	DOB	Star	Unit	Total Unit	Emp Number
HOWARD, DEBRA A	9166	7886	002		34386

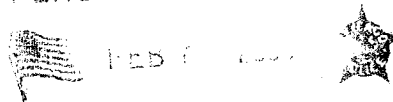
### Achievements

Total No.

HONORABLE MENTION

1

PERSONNEL SERVICES



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

NOTE: THIS REPORT IS FOR OFFICIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT / AUTHORIZED USE ONLY.  
THE INFORMATION IS CURRENT AS OF THE DATE AND TIME OF THE REPORT.  
THIS REPORT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION.

CR 08066



Citizen & Law Enforcement Analysis & Reporting System

C.R.# 308066  
ATTACHMENT

21.0



**INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION  
RECORDS SECTION**

08 FEB 2006

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

HOWARD DEBRA	7886	002
NAME (LAST, FIRST M.I.)	STAR	UNIT
FEMALE	BLACK	
SEX	RACE	S.S.N.

**REFERENCE: COMPLAINT REGISTER NUMBER** 308066

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

PA	WENDT	13635	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:**

NIYA SCOTT

NONE

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

C.R.# 308066  
ATTACHMENT

### CHARGES

Police Officer Debra Howard, Star #7886, is charged with violating the following rules contained in Article V of the Rules and Regulations of the Chicago Police Department, which were in full force and effect on the dates of the alleged violations.

- Rule 1: Violation of any law or ordinance.
- 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 4: Any conduct or action taken to use the official position for personal gain or influence.
- Rule 14: Making a false report, written or oral.
- Rule 20: Failure to submit immediately a written report that any member, including self, is under investigation by any law enforcement agency other than the Chicago Police Department.

### SPECIFICATIONS

1. Police Officer Debra Howard, Star #7886, is charged with violating Rule 1, "Violation of any law or ordinance," in the following instances:

COUNT I: On or about August 26, 2005, at approximately 5:05 p.m., Officer Howard, while off duty and operating her personal vehicle refused to provide to an on duty, uniformed Indiana State Police Trooper her current driver's license when requested to do so, in violation of Indiana Code 34-28-5-3.5.

COUNT II: On or about August 26, 2005, at approximately 5:05 p.m., Officer Howard, while off duty, operated her personal vehicle at the rate of speed of 65 miles per hour in a 55 miles per hour zone, in violation of Indiana Code 9-21-5-2(2).

2. Police Officer Debra Howard, Star #7886, is charged with violating 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 the following instances:

COUNT I: On or about August 26, 2005, at approximately 5:05 p.m., Officer Howard, while off duty and operating her personal vehicle refused to provide to an on duty, uniformed Indiana State Police Trooper her current driver's license when requested to do so.

COUNT II: On or about August 26, 2005, at approximately 5:05 p.m., Officer Howard asked an on duty, uniformed Indiana State Police Trooper for a "professional courtesy" in an attempt to evade issuance of a traffic citation for speeding

COUNT III: On or about December 19, 2005, Officer Howard entered into a plea agreement for violation of Indiana Code 34-28-5-3.5 when she refused to provide to an on duty, uniformed Indiana State Police Trooper her current driver's license when requested to do so.

COUNT IV: On or about December 19, 2005, Officer Howard entered into a plea agreement for violation of Indiana Code 9-21-5-2(2) when she operated her personal vehicle at the rate of speed of 65 miles per hour in a 55 miles per hour zone.

3. Police Officer Debra Howard, Star #7886, is charged with violating Rule 4, "Any conduct or action taken to use the official position for personal gain or influence," in the following instances:

COUNT I: On or about August 26, 2005, at approximately 5:05 p.m., Officer Howard displayed her City of Chicago Police Department Identification Card to an on duty, uniformed Indiana State Police Trooper, in an attempt to evade issuance of a traffic citation for speeding.

COUNT II: On or about August 26, 2005, at approximately 5:05 p.m., Officer Howard asked an on duty, uniformed Indiana State Police Trooper for a "professional courtesy" in an attempt to evade issuance of a traffic citation for speeding.

4. Police Officer Debra Howard, Star #7886, is charged with violating Rule 14, "Making a false report, written or oral," in the following instances:

COUNT I: On or about January 18, 2006, during a formal statement regarding the allegations of Complaint Register Number 308066, Officer Howard made a false statement when she stated that she was not informed by an on duty, uniformed Indiana State Police Trooper as to the reason for the traffic stop.

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5. Police Officer Debra Howard, Star #7886, is charged with violating Rule 20, "Failure to submit immediately a written report that any member, including self, is under investigation by any law enforcement agency other than the Chicago Police Department," in the following instances:

COUNT I: On or about August 26, 2005, through on or about January 5, 2006, or for some time period therein, Officer Howard failed to make any notifications to the Department that she was under investigation by the Indiana State Police Department for violation of Indiana Code 9-21-5-2(2) when she operated her personal vehicle at the rate of speed of 65 miles per hour in a 55 miles per hour zone.

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Based on the foregoing charges and specifications, the Superintendent recommends that Police Officer Debra Howard, Star #7886, be suspended for 60 days from the Chicago Police Department.



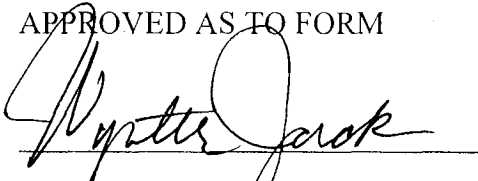
JODY P. WEIS  
Superintendent of Police

P. D. CASE # FILED

08-2701 DEC 15 2008

CHICAGO POLICE BOARD

APPROVED AS TO FORM



Wynter C.N. Jackson  
Assistant Corporation Counsel