

BEFORE THE POLICE BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

IN THE MATTER OF CHARGES FILED AGAINST )  
POLICE OFFICER NATHAN LOPEZ, ) Case No. 99-2391  
STAR NO. 18418 )

**FINDINGS AND DECISION**

On September 8, 1999, the Superintendent of Police filed charges with the Police Board of the City of Chicago against Police Officer Nathan Lopez, Star No. 18418 (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Respondent"), for violating the following rules:

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 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 of the City of Chicago investigated these charges and caused a hearing on these charges against Police Officer Nathan Lopez to be had before Thomas E. Johnson, Hearing Officer of the Police Board of the City of Chicago, on April 5, 2000, April 6, 2000, and July 25, 2000.

Following the hearing, the members of the Police Board read and reviewed the certified transcription of the proceedings of the hearing. Thomas E. Johnson, Hearing Officer, made an oral report and conferred with the Police Board before it rendered a decision.

The Police Board of the City of Chicago, as a result of its investigation of the charges, found and determined that:

1. The Respondent was at all times 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. The hearing was conducted before Thomas E. Johnson, Hearing Officer of the Police Board of the City of Chicago, on April 5, 2000, April 6, 2000, and July 25, 2000.

4. Throughout the hearing, Police Officer Nathan Lopez was present and was represented by counsel.

5. The Respondent Police Officer Nathan Lopez, Star No. 18418, charged herein, contrary to the Rules and Regulations, 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:**

- A. On or about August 20, 1997, at approximately 2130 hours, while in the vicinity of the 1900 block of South Trumbull, Police Officer Nathan Lopez while on duty, mistreated Jerome Banks and struck Jerome Banks about the head and jaw, thereby impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals and bringing discredit upon the Department.
- B. On or about August 27, 1997, while in the vicinity of the alley behind 3254 W. Cermak, Police Officer Nathan Lopez while on duty, mistreated Jerome Banks and struck Jerome Banks, thereby impeding the Department's efforts to

achieve its policy and goals and bringing discredit upon the Department.

- C. On or about August 20, 1997, Police Officer Nathan Lopez made false written reports regarding the arrest of Jerome Banks, in that he included incorrect and false information in written reports, including, but not limited to, falsely listing the address where Jerome Banks was arrested as 3300 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, thereby impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals and bringing discredit upon the Department.
- D. On or about November 24, 1997, Police Officer Nathan Lopez made false statements regarding the arrest of Jerome Banks during a statement to O.P.S., thereby impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals and bringing discredit upon the Department.

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

- A. On or about August 20, 1997, at approximately 2130 hours, while in the vicinity of the 1900 block of South Trumbull, Police Officer Nathan Lopez while on duty, mistreated Jerome Banks and struck Jerome Banks about the head and jaw, thereby engaging in disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty.
- B. On or about August 27, 1997, while in the vicinity of the alley behind 3254 W. Cermak, Police Officer Nathan Lopez while on duty, mistreated Jerome Banks and struck Jerome Banks, thereby engaging in 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, in that:**

- A. On or about August 20, 1997, at approximately 2130 hours, while in the vicinity of the 1900 block of South Trumbull, Police Officer Nathan Lopez while on duty, mistreated Jerome Banks and struck Jerome Banks about the head and jaw, thereby engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.
- B. On or about August 27, 1997, while in the vicinity of the alley behind 3254 W. Cermak, Police Officer Nathan Lopez

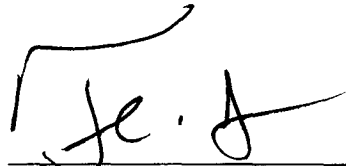
while on duty, mistreated Jerome Banks and struck Jerome Banks, thereby engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.

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

- A. On or about August 20, 1997, Police Officer Nathan Lopez made false written reports regarding the arrest of Jerome Banks, in that he included incorrect and false information in written reports, including, but not limited to, falsely listing the address where Jerome Banks was arrested as 3300 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, thereby making a false report, written or oral.
- B. On or about November 24, 1997, Police Officer Nathan Lopez made false statements regarding the arrest of Jerome Banks during a statement to O.P.S., thereby making a false report, written or oral.

By reason of the findings of fact, the Respondent is guilty of violating Rules 2, 8, 9 and 14.

Respectfully submitted,



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THOMAS E. JOHNSON  
Hearing Officer

D E C I S I O N

The members of the Police Board, having read and reviewed the certified copy of the transcription of the hearing, having received the oral report of the Hearing Officer, Thomas A. Johnson, and having conferred with the Hearing Officer on the credibility of the witnesses and the evidence, hereby adopt 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 history, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the respondent, Police Officer Nathan Lopez, Star # 18418, as a result of having been found guilty of the charges in Police Board Case 99-2391, is hereby separated and discharged from his position as a Police Officer, and from the services of the City of Chicago.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS  
DAY OF September, 2000.

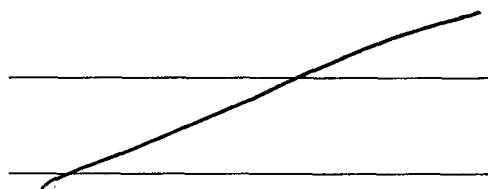
27<sup>th</sup>

*Keith E. Coan*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Ken J. Miller*  
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*Scott Davis*  
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*Al Smith*  
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*William J. Kelly*  
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*Victor Lopez*  
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*Phyllis Paulson*  
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*Paula*  
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Executive Director of the Police Board

Page 6 -- Findings and Decision  
Police Officer Nathan Lopez  
Star # 18418

D I S S E N T

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



RECEIVED A COPY OF THIS COMMUNICATION  
THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2000

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

26 NOVEMBER 1997

INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION  
RECORDS SECTION

TO: COMMANDING OFFICER OF UNIT 113

FROM: RECORDS SECTION  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

SUBJECT: PREVIOUS DISCIPLINARY RECORD OF:

LOPEZ	NATHAN	18418	010
NAME	(LAST, FIRST, M. I.)	STAR	UNIT
M	W/H	[REDACTED]	
SEX	RACE	S.S.N.	

REFERENCE: COMPLAINT REGISTER NUMBER(S) 239 384

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

SUPV. J BYRNE	5	[REDACTED]	113
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(S) ADMINISTERED TO THE SUBJECT ACCUSED, FOR THE PAST FIVE (5) YEARS.

VERIFIED/PREPARED BY:

SEE

Ex A

PATRICIA JOHNSON

FOR: COMMANDING OFFICER  
RECORDS SECTION  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

1997-11-26  
10:54 AM  
[Handwritten signature]

172 PREVIOUS DISCIPLINARY ACTION SUMMARY FUNCTION DRPV  
ID MORE CLOSED - SUSTAINED CR'S (PAST 5 YEARS) OR SP'S (PAST 1 YEAR)  
SN- [REDACTED] NAME: LAST LOPEZ FIRST NATHAN MI.P. STAR 18418  
INIT 010 EMP NO 304147 SEX M RACE S DOB 13 FEB 65 DATE APPTD 17 MAY 93  
RANK 9161 POLICE OFFICER

CASE NO	INCIDENT DATE	DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN	DATES SUSPENDED OR WORKED (FROM - TO)	OPEN/TO REPORT ID
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213570	12 NOV 94	SUSPENSION		
	F/CAT: EXCESSIVE FORCE	MISCELLANEOUS		
	LESS SER TRAN			
	COMMENTS FORFEIT 1 DAY OF COMP TIME			STATUS CLO

	F/CAT:			
	LESS SER TRAN:			
	COMMENTS			STATUS

	F/CAT:			
	LESS SER TRAN:			
	COMMENTS			STATUS

**ISSUED FOR USE IN CR #239 284 ONLY**



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
COMPLIMENTARY HISTORY

DATE 26 NOV 1997

NAME Lopez, Nathan Rank PO SSN [REDACTED] Star 18418 Unit 010

SPECIAL AWARDS 000

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DEPARTMENT  
COMMENDATIONS: 000

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HONORABLE  
MENTIONS: 017

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COMPLIMENTARY  
LETTERS: 001

\_\_\_\_\_

Complimentary History Requested By:

NAME Byrne, Julie RANK Supv STAR 5 UNIT 113

CR# 239384

Completed By: Demetra Berry  
Personnel Division  
Records Section Room  
Pax 0-342 or Bell 7-5549