

BEFORE THE POLICE BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OF)
POLICE OFFICER ANASTASIA PATTERSON,) No. 14 SR 2322
STAR No. 12577, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE,)
CITY OF CHICAGO.) (CR No. 1061066)

FINDINGS AND DECISION

On March 4, 2014, the Chief of the Bureau of Internal Affairs of the Chicago Police Department recommended the suspension of Police Officer Anastasia Patterson, Star No. 12577, for twenty-five (25) days for violating the following Rules of Conduct:

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

Rule 7: Insubordination or disrespect toward a supervisory member on or off duty. (Two counts.)

Pursuant to Section 9.6A of the Agreement between the City of Chicago and the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #7, Officer Patterson filed with the Police Board a request for Police Board review of the recommendation for suspension on May 5, 2014. On May 9, 2014, Officer Patterson filed with the Police Board a memorandum delineating specific reasons for which the review was requested.

The Executive Director of the Police Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer Thomas E. Johnson. Hearing Officer Johnson reviewed the investigation file and submitted a written report to the Police Board.

The members of the Police Board reviewed the Summary Report of the investigation file, the recommendations of Command Channel Review and the Chief of the Bureau of Internal Affairs, Officer Patterson's memorandum, and Hearing Officer Johnson's report. Hearing Officer Johnson made an oral report to and conferred with the Police Board before it rendered its

findings and decision.

POLICE BOARD FINDINGS

The Police Board of the City of Chicago, as a result of its consideration of this matter, finds and determines that:

1. The allegation, set forth below, that Police Officer Anastasia Patterson, Star No. 12577, violated Rule 6 is supported by sufficient evidence to justify disciplinary action, and the allegation is therefore **sustained**.

On March 30, 2013, at approximately 0430 hours, while at 5101 South Wentworth Avenue, Police Officer Anastasia Patterson refused to edit/change a report in the AIRA Reporting System after receiving two direct orders from Sergeant Thompson.

The Board credits the report of Sgt. Andre' Thompson in which he indicates that Officer Patterson wrote up a case report about a robbery for the AIRA system but that her report was not clear. Officer Patterson does not appear to dispute that her initial report needed to be edited. Sgt. Thompson credibly then ordered Officer Patterson on March 27, 2013, to edit the report. He found that on March 30, 2013, after roll call, she had not done the edit, and so he asked her to do it again. Prior to the conclusion of his shift, Sgt. Thompson checked the report again and it had still not been edited, so he called Officer Patterson into the station and a verbal conflict ensued about whether Officer Patterson needed to make changes to the report and Officer Patterson refused, even in the face of an order, to make such changes. Officer Patterson insists that she did edit the report at some time on March 30, 2013, and provides an edited version of the report, but it is unclear when the editing actually took place—specifically, whether it was before or after the verbal altercation. As such, the Board credits Sgt. Thompson's account over that of Officer Patterson.

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2. The allegation, set forth below, that Police Officer Anastasia Patterson, Star No. 12577, violated Rule 7 is supported by sufficient evidence to justify disciplinary action, and the allegation is therefore **sustained**.

On March 30, 2013, at approximately 0430 hours, while at 5101 South Wentworth Avenue, Police Officer Anastasia Patterson was insubordinate or disrespectful toward a supervisor when she was yelling and hollering at Sergeant Thompson after he ordered her to make corrections to a report.

Sgt. Thompson states that when he confronted Officer Patterson about not making edits to the report at the end of his shift, Officer Patterson screamed and yelled obscenities at him. She was agitated and angry. Sgt. Michael Cooney, the District Station Supervisor, corroborates Sgt. Thompson. Sgt. Cooney says that he attempted to calm Officer Patterson down, but she then approached him in an agitated manner, until Sgt. Cooney had to order Officer Patterson to get out of his face. Officer Donna Sanders Brown also corroborates Sgt. Thompson, as she says she heard a loud verbal altercation between Officer Patterson and Sgts. Thompson and Cooney. Officer Patterson denies any verbal abuse or physical threat, but admits she was frustrated, upset and became animated, including with her hands. The Board credits the account of Sgt. Thompson because of the corroborating evidence.

3. The allegation, set forth below, that Police Officer Anastasia Patterson, Star No. 12577, violated Rule 7 is supported by sufficient evidence to justify disciplinary action, and the allegation is therefore **sustained**.

On March 30, 2013, at approximately 0430 hours, while at 5101 South Wentworth Avenue, Police Officer Anastasia Patterson was insubordinate or disrespectful toward a supervisor when, after being asked to cease her actions, she refused and began walking toward Sergeant Cooney in a threatening manner by pounding her fist in her hand and yelling at him, resulting in her being ordered to get out of the face of Sergeant Cooney.

See the findings set forth in paragraph no. 4 above, which are incorporated here by reference.

4. The Police Board has considered the facts and circumstances of Officer Patterson's conduct, and her complimentary and disciplinary histories.

While the Board deplores the way in which Officer Patterson responded to her two supervisors when Sgt. Thompson confronted her about her failure to edit her report, and Sgt. Cooney merely attempted to calm the matter down, the Board finds there is some confusion about whether Officer Patterson did attempt, at least once, to edit the report.

The Board therefore finds that the 25-day suspension recommended in this case is unwarranted, and finds that a ten-day suspension is a justified penalty on the facts of this particular case.

POLICE BOARD DECISION

The Police Board of the City of Chicago hereby adopts the findings set forth herein by the following vote:

By votes of 8 in favor (Demetrius E. Carney, Ghian Foreman, Melissa M. Ballate, William F. Conlon, Michael Eaddy, Rita A. Fry, Elisa Rodriguez, and Rhoda D. Sweeney) to 0 opposed, the Board **sustains** the allegations that Police Officer Anastasia Patterson violated Rule 6 and Rule 7.

As a result of the foregoing, the Board, by a vote of 8 in favor (Carney, Foreman, Ballate, Conlon, Eaddy, Fry, Rodriguez, and Sweeney) to 0 opposed, hereby determines that cause exists for suspending Police Officer Anastasia Patterson 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 ten (10) days.

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NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the suspension of Police Officer Anastasia Patterson, Star No. 12577, for a period of twenty-five (25) days is **reduced to a period of ten (10) days.**

This disciplinary action is adopted and entered by a majority of the members of the Police Board: Demetrius E. Carney, Ghian Foreman, Melissa M. Ballate, William F. Conlon, Michael Eaddy, Rita A. Fry, Elisa Rodriguez, and Rhoda D. Sweeney.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 17th DAY OF JULY, 2014.

Attested by:

/s/ Demetrius E. Carney
President
Police Board

/s/ Max A. Caproni
Executive Director
Police Board

DISSENT

The following members of the Police Board hereby dissent from the Findings and Decision of the majority of the Board.

[None]

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THESE FINDINGS AND DECISION

THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2014.

GARRY F. McCARTHY
Superintendent of Police