

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE)	
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISCIPLINE OF)	
)	
LIEUTENANT KEVIN KEEFE, STAR No. 283,)	No. 23 RR 06
)	
SERGEANT NICHOLAS URBAN, STAR No. 1762,)	No. 23 RR 07
)	
POLICE OFFICER JONATHAN RIDGNER, STAR No. 5144, AND)	No. 23 RR 08
)	
POLICE OFFICER NICHOLAS ABRAMSON, STAR No. 13605,)	No. 23 RR 09
)	
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE,)	(CR No.
CITY OF CHICAGO.)	2021-0596)

REQUEST FOR REVIEW

On August 21, 2023, the Executive Director of the Police Board of the City of Chicago received from the Chief Administrator of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability a request for review of the Chief Administrator’s recommendations for discipline of Lieutenant Kevin Keefe, Star No. 283, Sergeant Nicholas Urban, Star No. 1762, Police Officer Jonathan Ridgner, Star No. 5144, and Police Officer Nicholas Abramson, Star No. 13605, arising out of the investigation of Complaint Register No. 2021-0596 (“Request for Review”).

The investigation stems from an incident on August 23, 2020, in the 11th police district. According to the summary report of the investigation, Police Officers Ridgner and Abramson, while on patrol and driving past a group on a public sidewalk, observed an individual whom they determined was possibly armed. As the officers exited their vehicle, the individual began to walk away. The officers ran toward the individual and attempted to detain him. A struggle ensued. Following the conclusion of the investigation, the Chief Administrator issued recommendations for discipline of Officers Ridgner and Abramson and two supervisors, Sergeant Urban and

Nos. 23 RR 06 – 09
Lt. Keefe, Sgt. Urban, P.O. Ridgner, and P.O. Abramson
Request for Review and Opinion

Lieutenant Keefe. The Superintendent of Police did not agree with the Chief Administrator's recommendations and proposed action different from that recommended by the Chief Administrator.

Police Officer Jonathan Ridgner

The Chief Administrator recommended that the following allegations against Officer Ridgner be *Sustained*:

On August 23, 2020, at approximately 5:51 p.m., at or near 3804 West Augusta Boulevard in Chicago, Officer Ridgner:

1. Grabbed Leroy Kennedy by the throat without justification;
2. Took Leroy Kennedy to the ground without justification;
3. Detained Leroy Kennedy without justification;
4. Arrested Leroy Kennedy without justification;
5. Made one or more false, misleading, incomplete, and/or inaccurate statements when completing the Arrest Report, Case Report, Tactical Response Report, and/or Investigatory Stop Report related to RD #JD342692; and
6. Failed to activate his body worn camera in violation of Chicago Police Department Special Order S03-14, "Body Worn Cameras."

The Chief Administrator recommended that Officer Ridgner be discharged from the Chicago Police Department.

The Superintendent disagreed with the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline of Officer Ridgner in that the Superintendent proposed that Allegation Nos. 2 – 4 be classified as *Unfounded*. The Superintendent agreed with the Chief Administrator's recommendation that Officer Ridgner be discharged from the Chicago Police Department.

Police Officer Nicholas Abramson

The Chief Administrator recommended that the following allegations against Officer Abramson be *Sustained*:

On August 23, 2020, at approximately 5:51 p.m., at or near 3804 West Augusta Boulevard in Chicago, Officer Abramson:

1. Stated words to the effect of, “I’m going to catch a body today”;
2. Failed to report the excessive force used by Officer Ridgner against Leroy Kennedy;
3. Detained Leroy Kennedy without justification;
4. Arrested Leroy Kennedy without justification;
5. Made one or more false, misleading, incomplete and/or inaccurate statements when completing the Tactical Response Report related to RD #JD342692; and
6. Failed to activate his body worn camera in violation of Chicago Police Department Special Order S03-14, “Body Worn Cameras.”

The Chief Administrator recommended that Officer Abramson be discharged from the Chicago Police Department.

The Superintendent disagreed with the Chief Administrator’s recommendation for discipline of Officer Abramson in that the Superintendent proposed that Allegation Nos. 3 – 4 be classified as *Unfounded*. The Superintendent agreed with the Chief Administrator’s recommendation that Officer Abramson be discharged from the Chicago Police Department.

Lieutenant Kevin Keefe and Sergeant Nicholas Urban

The Chief Administrator recommended that the following allegations against Lieutenant Keefe and Sergeant Urban be *Sustained*:

1. Lieutenant Keefe and Sergeant Urban made or approved one or more false, misleading, incomplete, and/or inaccurate statements when approving the Tactical Response Report completed by Officer Ridgner related to RD #JD342692; and
2. Lieutenant Keefe and Sergeant Urban made or approved one or more false, misleading, incomplete, and/or inaccurate statements when approving the Tactical Response Report completed by Officer Abramson related to RD #JD342692.

The Chief Administrator recommended that Lieutenant Keefe and Sergeant Urban each be discharged from the Chicago Police Department.

The Superintendent disagreed with the Chief Administrator’s recommendations for

Nos. 23 RR 06 – 09
Lt. Keefe, Sgt. Urban, P.O. Ridgner, and P.O. Abramson
Request for Review and Opinion

discipline of Lieutenant Keefe and Sergeant Urban. The Superintendent agreed with the sustained findings for Allegation Nos. 1 -2 but did not agree that either Lieutenant Keefe and Sergeant Urban violated Rule 14, which prohibits making a false report, written or oral. The Superintendent proposed that Lieutenant Keefe and Sergeant Urban each be suspended for thirty (30) days for violating Rule 5, which prohibits failure to perform any duty, and Rule 6, which prohibits disobedience of an order or directive, whether written or oral.

According to the Certificate submitted by the Chief Administrator: (1) the Chief Administrator issued the recommendations for discipline on August 31, 2022; (2) the Chief Administrator received the Superintendent's written response on November 23, 2022; (3) the Chief Administrator's designees met with the Superintendent's designees and concluded their discussion of this matter on August 21, 2023; and (4) the Request for Review was sent via email to the Executive Director of the Police Board on August 21, 2023.

The Executive Director of the Police Board prepared and forwarded the Request for Review file to Ghian Foreman, the member of the Police Board who was selected on a random basis, pursuant to Article VI of the Police Board's Rules of Procedure ("Reviewing Member"). On August 28, 2023, Reviewing Member completed his review of the Request for Review pursuant to Section 2-78-130(a)(iii) of the Municipal Code of Chicago and Article VI of the Police Board's Rules of Procedure.

OPINION

It is my opinion that, based on a thorough review of the Request for Review material, the Superintendent did not meet the burden of overcoming the Chief Administrator's

Nos. 23 RR 06 – 09
Lt. Keefe, Sgt. Urban, P.O. Ridgner, and P.O. Abramson
Request for Review and Opinion

recommendations for discipline. Based on the facts and circumstances of this matter, an evidentiary hearing before the Police Board is necessary to determine whether any of these four Department members violated any of the Chicago Police Department's Rules of Conduct and, if so, the appropriate disciplinary action.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 2-78-130(a)(iii) of the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Chief Administrator's recommendations for discipline of Lieutenant Kevin Keefe, Star No. 283, Sergeant Nicholas Urban, Star No. 1762, Police Officer Jonathan Ridgner, Star No. 5144, and Police Officer Nicholas Abramson, Star No. 13605, shall be deemed accepted by the Superintendent.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 29th DAY OF AUGUST, 2023.

/s/ GHIAN FOREMAN
President
Police Board

Attested by:

/s/ MAX A. CAPRONI
Executive Director
Police Board