

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OF )**  
**POLICE OFFICER JOHN T. SULLIVAN, ) No. 14 SR 2319**  
**STAR No. 8479, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE, )**  
**CITY OF CHICAGO. ) (CR No. 1003786)**

**FINDINGS AND DECISION**

On or about May 4, 2011, the Superintendent of Police ordered the suspension of Police Officer John T. Sullivan, Star No. 8479, for thirty (30) days for violating the following Rules of Conduct:

- Rule 1: Violation of any law or ordinance.
- Rule 8: Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty.
- Rule 15: Intoxication on or off duty.

Officer Sullivan received notification of this suspension on June 19, 2011. This matter was referred to the Police Board on January 30, 2014. This suspension is being reviewed by the Police Board pursuant to Section 9.6A of the Agreement between the City of Chicago and the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #7, which states in relevant part “In the event an officer does not make an election within ten (10) working days, the recommendation for suspension will be reviewed by the Police Board.”

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 Command Channel Review reports, 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 John T. Sullivan, Star No. 8479, violated Rule 8, is supported by sufficient evidence to justify disciplinary action, and the allegation is therefore **sustained**.

On March 1, 2007, at [REDACTED] West 87<sup>th</sup> Street, Officer John Sullivan pulled Cynthia Baas-Kaplan's hair and struck and/or kicked Cynthia Baas-Kaplan about the face and body.

Anne Baas, Cynthia Baas-Kaplan's mother, stated that on March 1, 2007, she received a call from her daughter, who was in tears and reported that her boyfriend (Officer Sullivan) was keeping her at his home against her will, and had punched her in the face and body, as well as kicked her in the back. According to Ms. Baas, Officer Sullivan took the phone from Ms. Baas-Kaplan and told her mother he was just trying to help, but then he became enraged with the mother and hung up on her.

Ms. Baas and Alan Kaplan (the estranged husband) then called the police together shortly after 10:00 p.m. on March 1, 2007, to report what was happening. Police Officers Thomas Loeb and Julian Morgan were assigned to go to Officer Sullivan's home to conduct a "well-being check." They arrived at 10:30 p.m. They reported that initially they did not receive a response when they knocked at the door, but heard a woman screaming inside the apartment. The officers reported that Ms. Baas-Kaplan told them that Officer Sullivan had awakened her by kicking her in the back and pulling her hair, and that when she tried to leave to go to the hospital, Officer

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Sullivan prevented her from going. Ms. Baas-Kaplan told the officers that she and Officer Sullivan had been drinking. The officers reported that Officer Sullivan denied hitting her but did say she could not leave, and claimed he was helping her. The responding officers took Ms. Baas-Kaplan and Officer Sullivan to the 8<sup>th</sup> District station, where the officers reported that she repeated that Officer Sullivan had struck her and restrained her. She was photographed with bruises and scrapes on her left and right cheeks, right arm, the right portion of her back, left and right shoulders, left buttocks, right lower back, and right knee. She declined to press charges.

Ms. Baas-Kaplan was admitted to St. Joseph Hospital. She was found to be intoxicated and to have bruises and a subdural hematoma. Hospital personnel reported that she repeated her statement that Officer Sullivan had beaten her, though she was unable to recall details.

The Board finds credible Ms. Baas-Kaplan's immediate reports to the responding officers and to hospital personnel that Officer Sullivan physically maltreated her and restrained her against her will, and finds credible the report of Officers Loeb and Morgan that Officer Sullivan told them she was not leaving his home.

(Board Members Melissa M. Ballate and Rhoda D. Sweeney dissent from the finding that there is sufficient evidence to sustain the allegation that Officer Sullivan physically maltreated Ms. Baas-Kaplan. Based on the high level of intoxication of Ms. Baas-Kaplan and the lack of any witnesses to physical abuse, Board Members Ballate and Sweeney find that there was insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation that Officer Sullivan caused Ms. Baas-Kaplan's injuries.)

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2. The allegation, set forth below, that Police Officer John T. Sullivan, Star No. 8479, violated Rule 1, is supported by sufficient evidence to justify disciplinary action, and the allegation is therefore **sustained**.

On March 1, 2007, at [REDACTED] West 87<sup>th</sup> Street, at approximately 2300 hours, Officer John Sullivan unlawfully restrained Cynthia Baas-Kaplan.

See the findings set forth in paragraph no. 1 above, which are incorporated here by reference.

3. The allegation, set forth below, that Police Officer John T. Sullivan, Star No. 8479, violated Rule 15, is supported by sufficient evidence to justify disciplinary action, and the allegation is therefore **sustained**.

On March 1, 2007, at [REDACTED] West 87<sup>th</sup> Street, Officer John Sullivan, while off duty, was intoxicated.

See the findings set forth in paragraph no. 1 above, which are incorporated here by reference. Officer Sullivan admitted in his statement to the Independent Police Review Authority that he was intoxicated on the day in question.

4. The Police Board has considered the facts and circumstances of Officer Sullivan's conduct, and his complimentary and disciplinary histories. Officer Sullivan, while off duty, was intoxicated, physically abused his girlfriend, and kept her in his home against her will. Officer Sullivan's abusive actions are serious offenses, and the thirty-day suspension ordered in this case is not unwarranted.

**POLICE BOARD DECISION**

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

By a vote of 7 in favor (Demetrius E. Carney, Ghian Foreman, William F. Conlon, Michael Eaddy, Rita A. Fry, Susan L. McKeever, and Elisa Rodriguez) to 2 opposed (Melissa M. Ballate and Rhoda D. Sweeney), the Board **sustains** the allegation that Police Officer John T. Sullivan violated Rule 8.

By votes of 9 in favor (Carney, Foreman, Ballate, Conlon, Eaddy, Fry, McKeever, Rodriguez, and Sweeney) to 0 opposed, the Board **sustains** the allegations that Police Officer John T. Sullivan violated Rule 1 and Rule 15.

As a result of the foregoing, the Board, by a vote of 9 in favor (Carney, Foreman, Ballate, Conlon, Eaddy, Fry, McKeever, Rodriguez, and Sweeney) to 0 opposed, hereby determines that cause exists for suspending Police Officer John T. Sullivan from his position as a police officer with the Department of Police, and from the services of the City of Chicago, for a period of thirty (30) days.

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the suspension of Police Officer John T. Sullivan, Star No. 8479, for a period of thirty (30) days is **sustained**.

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, Susan L. McKeever, Elisa Rodriguez, and Rhoda D. Sweeney.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 17<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2014.

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Attested by:

/s/ Ghian Foreman  
Vice 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.

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GARRY F. McCARTHY  
Superintendent of Police