

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE</b>	)	
<b>RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE OF</b>	)	<b>No. 23 RR 04</b>
<b>LIEUTENANT MICHAEL KEENEY,</b>	)	
<b>STAR No. 427, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE,</b>	)	<b>(CR No. 2021-1496)</b>
<b>CITY OF CHICAGO.</b>	)	

**REQUEST FOR REVIEW**

On June 2, 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 recommendation for discipline of Lieutenant Michael Keeney, Star No. 427, arising out of the investigation of Complaint Register No. 2021-1496 (“Request for Review”).

The investigation stems from an incident on April 22, 2021, in the 25<sup>th</sup> police district.<sup>1</sup> According to the summary report of the investigation, then-Sergeant Keeney and other officers responded to multiple reports of a person with a gun, a robbery, carjacking, and shots fired in proximity to each other. Then-Sergeant Keeney saw a subject matching the description, Santiago Leon, running towards him and towards a fence on the Bloomingdale Trail. Then-Sergeant Keeney discharged his weapon three times in Mr. Leon’s direction but did not strike him. Mr. Leon was subsequently placed into custody.

Following the conclusion of the investigation, the Chief Administrator issued a recommendation for discipline of then-Sergeant Keeney. The Superintendent of Police did not agree with the Chief Administrator’s recommendation and proposed no discipline for then-Sergeant Keeney.

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<sup>1</sup>When the incident occurred Keeney’s rank was sergeant and his star number 2439.

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The Chief Administrator recommended that the following allegations against then-Sergeant Keeney be *Sustained*:

On or about April 22, 2021, at approximately 7:34 a.m., at or near 3730 West Bloomingdale Trail in Chicago, then-Sergeant Keeney:

1. Discharged his firearm at or in the direction of Santiago Leon, in violation of Chicago Police Department General Order G03-02 and/or G03-02-01; and
2. Failed to timely and/or accurately notify the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) that he discharged his firearm, in violation of General Order G03-06.

The Chief Administrator recommended that then-Sergeant Keeney be discharged from the Chicago Police Department.

The Superintendent disagreed with the Chief Administrator's recommendations for discipline in that he proposed classifying Allegation Nos. 1 and 2 as *Unfounded*.

According to the Certificate submitted by the Chief Administrator: (1) the Chief Administrator issued the recommendation for discipline on October 13, 2022; (2) the Chief Administrator received the Superintendent's written response on January 11, 2023; (3) the Chief Administrator's designees met with the Superintendent's designees and concluded their discussion of this matter on May 26, 2023; and (4) the Request for Review was sent via email to the Executive Director of the Police Board on June 2, 2023.

The Executive Director of the Police Board prepared and forwarded the Request for Review file to Steven Block, 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"). The Reviewing Member reviewed 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. Following his initial review of this matter on June 16, 2023, the Reviewing Member requested,

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received, and reviewed all video and audio recordings from the investigation file.

### **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 recommendation for discipline. Based on the facts and circumstances of this matter, an evidentiary hearing before the Police Board is necessary to determine whether then-Sergeant Keeney 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 recommendation for discipline of Lieutenant Michael Keeney, Star No. 427, shall be deemed accepted by the Superintendent. My decision that the Superintendent did not meet his burden should not be interpreted as an indication that the Chief Administrator's recommendation is correct or justified by the available evidence. Rather, it is merely my determination that a hearing where all evidence and arguments will be considered is necessary because of the burden placed on the Superintendent to overcome the Chief Administrator's recommendation at this stage of the proceedings.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 07<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2023.

/s/ STEVEN A. BLOCK  
Member  
Police Board

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Attested by:

/s/ MAX A. CAPRONI  
Executive Director  
Police Board