

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE)	
RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE OF)	No. 20 RR 05
POLICE OFFICER JOHN CATANZARA JR.,)	
STAR No. 19897, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE,)	
CITY OF CHICAGO.)	(CR No. 1086910)

REQUEST FOR REVIEW

On November 16, 2020, the Office of the Police Board of the City of Chicago received from the Chief Administrator of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (“COPA”) a request for review of the Chief Administrator’s recommendation for discipline of Police Officer John Catanzara Jr., Star No. 19897, arising out of the investigation of Complaint Register No. 1086910 (“Request for Review”).

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

Allegation No. 1: On or about November 22, 2016, Officer Catanzara made a statement on Facebook that used offensive language and advocated killing people, by stating, “Wtf its seriously time to kill these motherfuckers,” in violation of Rules 2, 3, and 6.

Allegation No. 2: On or about November 25, 2016, Officer Catanzara made a statement on Facebook that encouraged other Department members to stop chasing offenders, in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 53

Allegation No. 3: On or about December 1, 2016, Officer Catanzara shared a picture on Facebook that was disrespectful to public benefit recipients, in violation of Rules 2, 3, and 6.

Allegation No. 4: On or about January 22, 2017, Officer Catanzara made an obscene statement on Facebook directed to a member of the public by stating, “Is it too late to abort thekla (*sic*)...the stupidity of some humans like her only prove the saying...the best part dripped down her moms (*sic*) leg,” in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 8.

Allegation No. 5: On or about January 30, 2017, Officer Catanzara made a statement on Facebook that was biased against Muslims, by stating, “Savages they all deserve a bullet,” in violation of Rules 2, 3, and 6.

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Allegation No. 6: On or about January 30, 2017, at approximately 10:55 a.m., Officer Catanzara attempted to influence others' actions about a non-police matter by referencing his official position as a Chicago Police Officer, in violation of Rule 4.

Allegation No. 8: On or about November 16, 2017, at approximately 9:33 a.m., Officer Catanzara made an obscene statement on Facebook directed to a member of the public by stating, "Blow me. You know you want to," in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 8.

Allegation No. 9: On or about November 16, 2017, at approximately 3:58 p.m., Officer Catanzara directed a threat to a member of the public on Facebook by stating, "Ok loser now that you attack people on my page you will be blocked. Keep listening for that knock on the door," in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 8.

Allegation No. 10: On or about October 15, 2017, at approximately 2:34 p.m., Officer Catanzara posted a statement on Facebook that was disrespectful to CPD management by calling superior officers "spineless," in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 32.

Allegation No. 11: On or about October 15, 2017, Officer Catanzara made an obscene statement on Facebook directed to a member of the public by stating, "Steve would you like to make a bet that you and your pathetic friends attempts to get any results will be as useless as the little bit of skin you have in your pants? I'll even give you odds!" in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 8.

Allegation No. 12: On or about October 15, 2017, at approximately 2:32 p.m., Officer Catanzara made an obscene statement on Facebook directed to a member of the public by stating, "You're making me get pretty thick to (*sic*) Steve I love you so much," in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 8.

Allegation No. 13: On or about October 18, 2017, Officer Catanzara made an obscene statement on Facebook directed to a member of the public by stating, "Lmao... Yeah join it so you can all group spank it together..." in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 8.

Allegation No. 14: On December 15, 2017, Officer Catanzara posted a photograph on Facebook that depicted him in CPD uniform and making a political statement, in violation of Rules 6 and 42.

Allegation No. 15: On or about February 1, 2018, at 5:56 p.m., Officer Catanzara posted a statement on Facebook that was disrespectful to CPD management, in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 32

Allegation No. 16: On or about February 3, 2018, at approximately 12:04 a.m., Officer Catanzara posted a statement on Facebook that was disrespectful to CPD management, in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 32.

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Allegation No. 17: On or about February 3, 2018, at approximately 5:00 p.m., Officer Catanzara posted a statement on Facebook that was disrespectful to CPD management, in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 32.

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

The Superintendent objected in part to the Chief Administrator's recommendation. The Superintendent did not concur with the findings of *Sustained* for Allegation Nos. 6 and 9 (the Superintendent agreed with the findings of *Sustained* for Allegation Nos. 1-5, 8, and 10-17). The Superintendent recommended that Officer Catanzara be suspended for one year.

According to the Certificate submitted by the Chief Administrator: (1) the Chief Administrator issued the recommendation for discipline on June 30, 2020; (2) the Chief Administrator received the Superintendent's written response on October 1, 2020; (3) the Chief Administrator's designees met with the Superintendent's designees and discussed this matter on November 9, 2020; and (4) the Request for Review was sent via email to the Executive Director of the Police Board on November 16, 2020.

The Executive Director of the Police Board prepared and forwarded the Request for Review file to Andrea Zopp, 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 November 24, 2020, 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.

OPINION

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

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recommendation for discipline. Based on the facts and circumstances of this matter, an evidentiary hearing before the Police Board is necessary to determine whether Officer Catanzara violated any of the Police Department's Rules of Conduct.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 2-78-130(a)(iii) of the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline shall be deemed accepted by the Superintendent.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2020.

/s/ ANDREA ZOPP
Member
Police Board

Attested by:

/s/ MAX A. CAPRONI
Executive Director
Police Board