

Chicago Police Board Public Meeting

Meeting

Taken on: April 16, 2015

JENSEN LITIGATION SOLUTIONS

180 North LaSalle Street

Suite 2800

Chicago, IL 60601

312.236.6936

877.653.6736

www.jensenlitigation.com



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POLICE BOARD PUBLIC MEETING

The public meeting of the Chicago Police Board, convened at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2015, at City of Chicago Office of Public Safety Headquarters, 3510 South Michigan Avenue, taken before Michelle M. Scalise, Certified Shorthand Reporter within the State of Illinois. Mr. Demetrius E. Carney, presiding.

PRESENT:

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

- DEMETRIUS E. CARNEY
- GHIAN FOREMAN
- MELISSA M. BALLATE
- WILLIAM CONLON
- ELISA RODRIGUEZ
- RHODA SWEENEY
- RITA FRY (telephonically)

ALSO PRESENT:

- STEVEN MITCHELL, First Deputy Chief Administrator, Independent Police Review Authority;
- RALPH PRICE, General Counsel to the Superintendent;
- GARY F. McCARTHY, Superintendent of Police;
- MAX CAPRONI, Police Board Executive Director

1 MR. CARNEY: Good evening. We're calling the
2 April 16th, 2015 meeting to order.

3 Board Member Rita Fry is unable to attend this
4 meeting in person and wishes to attend via audio
5 conference. Is there a motion to permit her to do so?

6 MR. FOREMAN: Second.

7 MR. CARNEY: All in favor?

8 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

9 MR. CAPRONI: Hi, Rita. It's Max Caproni.

10 MS. FRY: Hi, Max.

11 MR. CARNEY: Hi, Rita. We're into the public
12 meeting right now so we'll just continue. We just
13 stopped to entertain the vote to have you participate
14 via -- by telephone conference. So we've approved and
15 you're here. Good evening.

16 Okay. The first item of business is approval
17 of the minutes of the Board's public meeting of
18 March 19th. Is there a motion to approve the
19 meetings -- minutes?

20 MR. FOREMAN: So moved.

21 MR. CARNEY: All in favor?

22 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

23 MR. FOREMAN: The next public meeting will be here
24 on Thursday, May 21st right here at 35th and Michigan

1 and the meeting will begin as usual at 7:30.

2 At this time I ask for a motion to close the
3 series of executive sessions for the purpose of
4 considering litigation and personnel matters as
5 authorized by the Open Meetings Act. Is there such a
6 motion?

7 MS. BALLATE: So moved.

8 MR. FOREMAN: Second.

9 MR. CARNEY: All in favor?

10 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

11 MR. CARNEY: A report of disciplinary actions taken
12 by the Board during the previous month has been made
13 available at this evening's meeting. This report and
14 the Board's written findings and decisions are posted on
15 the Board's Website.

16 Now, I'm going to take action on the final
17 cases that were entertained last month at our executive
18 session. The Police Board is authorized by the Open
19 Meetings Act as considered in a closed meeting, one --
20 only one disciplinary case. The Board will now take
21 final action on this case. It's regarding
22 Case No. 14 Police Board 2876. Is there a motion to
23 find Police Officer James Franklin guilty of violating
24 Rule 3 by attesting to a falsified police report and to

1 suspend him without pay for 30 days?

2 MS. BALLATE: So moved.

3 MR. CARNEY: All in favor by show of hands?

4 (A raising of hands.)

5 MR. CARNEY: Any opposed?

6 MS. FRY: Opposed.

7 MR. FOREMAN: (Raising hand.)

8 MR. CARNEY: That's Board Member Fry. Voting in
9 favor are Board Members Ballate, Conlon, Rodriguez,
10 Sweeney, and myself. Opposed are Board Members Foreman
11 and Fry. The motion passes.

12 Is there a motion to adopt a written finding
13 and decisions and dissent that have been reviewed by all
14 Board Members who participated in the case?

15 MS. BALLATE: So moved.

16 MR. CONLON: Second.

17 MR. CARNEY: All in favor.

18 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

19 MR. CARNEY: Any opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. CARNEY: The motion passes by unanimous
22 decision.

23 The Board's decision in the case on which the
24 Board took final action this evening will be entered as

1 of today's date and will be issued to the parties. A
2 copy of the written decision will be posted on the
3 Board's Website in ten days per this meeting as
4 required by the Municipal Code of Chicago.

5 At the January 15th meeting this year the
6 Board announced its plans to reconsider revisions to its
7 Rules of Procedure for the handling of disciplinary
8 cases and invited comments on the proposed revisions.
9 The Board's executive director provided a written
10 notification of this announcement and invitation to the
11 presidents of the unions that represent sworn members of
12 the Police Department, and to counsel who regularly
13 represents parties before the Board.

14 A draft of the proposed revisions was posted
15 on the Board's Website. The Board received no comments
16 on the proposed revision. We will now take final action
17 on the matter.

18 Is there a motion to amend the Board's Rules
19 of Procedure as set forth in the draft of the proposed
20 revisions that were posted to the Board's Website and
21 which had been made available in the blue books this
22 evening? These (indicating) books right here.

23 Do I have a motion?

24 MR. FOREMAN: So moved.

1 MR. CARNEY: All in favor?

2 MS. BALLATE: Second.

3 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

4 MR. CARNEY: Copies of orders issued by the
5 Superintendent for the previous month are listed in the
6 blue books and are available on the Police Department's
7 Website.

8 The next item is the Superintendent's report
9 to the Board.

10 Mr. Superintendent.

11 MR. MCCARTHY: Good evening, everyone.

12 So, as you all know, Mayor Emanuel was just
13 reelected and one of the issues that was raised during
14 the campaign was, naturally, crime and violence in the
15 City of Chicago. I hate to sound like a broken record,
16 but in the first quarter of 2015 we had an uptick in
17 shootings and homicides which caused a lot of
18 consternation, and rightfully so. But what was never
19 reported, and this was reported extensively in the
20 press, what was never reported was that in the -- in the
21 first quarter of this year we had a 43 percent increase
22 in the number of gun arrests that we've made in the City
23 of Chicago.

24 I just want to give you a little background on

1 guns in Chicago. The Chicago Police Department ceases
2 more guns than any city in the country every single
3 year. Every year. And this goes back 30 years at
4 least. In 2013 we ceased three guns for every one that
5 the Los Angeles Police Department ceased and we ceased
6 seven guns for every one that the New York City Police
7 Department ceased. So with those statistics as
8 background, think about a 43 percent increase in the
9 number of guns that we took off the street in the first
10 quarter. So it's very logical to say that there's
11 probably more guns since there's more arrests, more
12 shootings, and more homicides.

13 Now, this has been a problem and it's
14 something I've talked about since I got here four years
15 ago, which is the fact that people who illegally possess
16 firearms need to go to jail. In the first quarter we
17 made 692 arrests of individuals with illegal firearms to
18 the tune of somewhere in the vicinity of 800 or 900
19 guns. But out of those 692 arrests, we only arrested
20 688 subjects. In other words, four people who were
21 arrested two times in a 90-day period for illegal
22 possession of a firearm; caught, released, caught, and
23 released.

24 Our police officers are putting their lives in

1 jeopardy by confronting armed criminals to get those
2 guns off the street. Something else needs to happen
3 here because, as we sit here right now on April 15th,
4 65 percent of those individuals who are arrested with
5 firearms in the first quarter are already back on the
6 street. It's a very small component, very small
7 percentage of the population that causes the vast
8 majority of the violence. Probably 7 or 8 percent
9 causes about 80 percent of the violence in the City and
10 they're offenders today and victims tomorrow. Probably
11 95 percent of our violence is committed by one group of
12 individuals; 5 percent are unfortunate innocent
13 bystanders.

14 Until such time as that changes, we can only
15 do so much in policing because our job is law
16 enforcement. We're taking the guns off the street,
17 those individuals are going right back on the street,
18 and until such time as something changes and we get some
19 backup to that system we're drinking from a firehose,
20 we're like hamsters on a wheel running in circles. So
21 this is why for four years I've been talking about gun
22 laws and what happens to people who get arrested with
23 firearms. Nothing has changed yet.

24 We've made enormous changes to the Chicago

1 Police Department. You heard us talk about putting the
2 same officers on the same beat every single day. You
3 heard us talk about our gang violence reduction strategy
4 and now I'm telling you about the number of guns that
5 we're ceasing. This is something that the public at
6 large has to understand because something has to change
7 here in the State of Illinois.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. CARNEY: Thank you.

10 I will now call upon those members who have
11 signed up to speak in advance. When your name is
12 called, please come up to the microphone and please
13 limit your comments to two minutes.

14 Mr. Robert More.

15 MR. MORE: It is the 16th of April of 2014. The
16 Chicago Police Board Meeting -- I had technical
17 difficulty with that other phone. This is the -- The
18 Superintendent there and the members of the Police Board
19 that are present and -- I've already got 22 seconds
20 gone. I have a number of things that I was trying to
21 address to the Superintendent, but before I do that, I
22 cannot remain silent about Sergeant Eric Winstrom. The
23 guy just restored my faith in human nature. Okay. I
24 mean, this guy is like right up there with Detective

1 Joseph Lucero, the Chicago Police Department, in my
2 estimation. I just hold the guy on a pedestal to see
3 what he did today to take me out of this bureaucratic
4 nightmare of being tangled up in a bureaucratic octopus
5 and to just observe the situation and just intervene and
6 straighten out the situation. This guy is
7 underemployed, Sergeant Eric Winstrom. And I told this
8 gentleman he should be the Cook County Sheriff. Okay.
9 I will nominate him. I wonder if I can make a \$20
10 donation.

11 Can I give you \$20 to give to Sergeant Eric
12 Winstrom?

13 MR. MCCARTHY: No.

14 MR. MORE: I can't do that? I got to donate -- I
15 got to reciprocate. When a guy looks at my distress and
16 looks at this nightmare that I'm under, you know, this
17 bureaucratic avalanche, and just straightens out the
18 situation, I'm just like -- It just restored my faith in
19 human nature.

20 I only got 30 seconds left and I had a whole
21 number of things to address. I have to do what I can.
22 I -- Finally, spiritual testimonial -- And the guy
23 deserves to be supported. And his enemies are my
24 enemies to the extent that his enemies are the enemies

1 of the Catholic cause.

2 But, anyway, I have a question,
3 Superintendent. Oh, first I have to get this Danilo
4 Rojas (phonetic) -- This is the issue. Danilo Rojas is
5 trying to get indicted in a federal grand jury. I'm
6 going to go tonight to 2740 West Thomas and I'm just
7 going to deliver this document to him which is the
8 document I delivered today to Sergeant Winstrom. You
9 know, it's unobtrusive, there's absolutely no law that
10 it's violating. So I'm just notifying you,
11 Mr. Supervisor, that this is my understanding. My
12 burden is under the circumstances to make sure that he
13 cannot evade having to answer for what he did on the --

14 MR. CARNEY: Thank you.

15 MR. MORE: Thank you for your time. And this Eric
16 Winstrom is a just gem. He's the one we can least --
17 He's one of the ten we can least afford to lose in the
18 City of Chicago --

19 MR. CARNEY: Thank you. We have no other speakers
20 lined up to speak, so I'll ask for a motion to adjourn?

21 MS. BALLATE: So moved.

22 MR. CARNEY: Meeting is adjourned. See you next
23 month.

24 (WHEREUPON, were all the proceedings had.)

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2) SS.
3 COUNTY OF COOK)

4 Michelle M. Scalise, being first duly sworn,
5 on oath says that she is a Certified Shorthand Reporter
6 doing business in the City of Chicago, County of Cook
7 and the State of Illinois;

8 That she reported in shorthand the proceedings
9 had at the foregoing Police Board Public Meeting;

10 And that the foregoing is a true and correct
11 transcript of her shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid
12 and contains all the proceedings had at the said Police
13 Board Public Meeting.

14
15 Michelle M. Scalise
16 MICHELLE M. SCALISE, CSR
17

18 CSR No. 084-004616

19 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO
20 before me this 4th day of
21 May, A.D., 2015.

22
23 Laura M. Smith



24 NOTARY PUBLIC

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