

COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S MERIT BOARD

Sheriff of Cook County)
)
vs.)
) **Docket No. 1798**
Gwendolyn D. Atkins)
Correctional Sgt.)
Star #1110)

DECISION

This matter coming on to be heard pursuant to the Order of Remand for additional findings of facts supporting the decision of the Cook County Sheriff's Merit Board to impose a 60-day suspension on Respondent Correctional Sgt. Gwendolyn D. Atkins. The following additional findings are made by the Cook County Sheriff's Merit Board:

The Cook County Sheriff's Merit Board issued its original decision this matter on September 15, 2016 imposing a 60 day suspension on the Respondent Gwendolyn D. Atkins, Correctional Sgt., and setting forth in detail the rules and regulations violations that were charged in the complaint, as well as a detailed exposition of the evidence through witness testimony and documents admitted into evidence.

The Board found that Sgt. Gwendolyn Atkinson violated Sheriff's orders 11.2.1.0, 11.2.20 General Orders 24.9.1.0 and 9.21 and Article X Paragraph B of the Merit Board Rules.

Although the Sheriff in the complaint sought the imposition of a 120 day suspension, the Board finds that the following facts, in addition to the factual findings contained in the original decision, support a 60 day suspension:

The Respondent has been employed by the Cook County Sheriff since 1995, and became a Sgt. in May 2008. The Respondent has a good disciplinary history, aside from this incident, over the entirety of that time.

Respondent testified un rebutted that she informed Lieutenants [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that there was use of force regarding Correctional Ofc. [REDACTED] and inmate [REDACTED], where she had to pull [REDACTED] away. Both Lieutenants left to review the video and came back to tell her that it was a good use of force. Because her superiors told her it was a good use of force, she did not file a complaint register. The Respondent relied on the review of the incident by her superior officers in deciding to handle the situation the way she did.

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Respondent was not allowed at the time of making her report to review video of the incident. In retrospect if she had viewed the video she would have reacted differently.

Order

Based on the evidence presented, and after assessing the credibility of witnesses and the weight given to the evidence in the record, the Board finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that Sgt. Gwendolyn Atkinson violated Sheriff's orders 11.2.1.0, 11.2 .20 General Orders 24.9.1.0 and 9.21 and Article X Paragraph B of the Merit Board Rules, and that a 60 day suspension is warranted, effective December 23, 2014.

Gwendolyn Atkins
Correctional Officer
Docket #1798



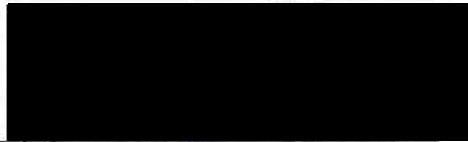
James P. Nally, Chairman



Byron Brazier, Vice-Chairman



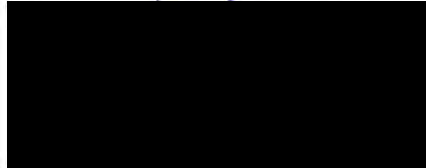
John D'Alcandro, Secretary



Kim R. Widup, Board Member



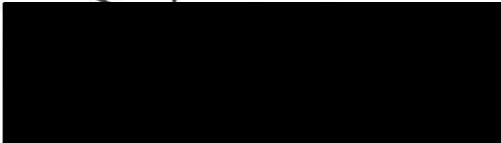
Vincent T. Winters, Board Member



Juan L. Baltierres, Board Member



Patrick Brady, Board Member



Gray Mateo - Harris, Board Member

Date - December 26, 2018