

**COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S MERIT BOARD**

Sheriff of Cook County )  
 )  
vs. )  
 ) **Docket No. 2219**  
 )  
**DEPUTY SHERIFF** )  
**ANTHONY P. KOLASKI** )  
**STAR #10609** )

**DECISION**

This matter coming on to be heard pursuant to notice before Vincent T. Winters, Board Member, on October 19, 2021, the Merit Board conducted a hearing before Commissioner Vincent T. Winters. Both parties were represented by counsel and had a full and fair opportunity to present evidence. The Cook County Sheriff's Merit Board finds as follows:

**Jurisdiction**

Anthony Kolaski, (Respondent) was appointed a Deputy Sheriff on December 21, 1994. That on December 11, 2006, Respondent was assigned to the Daley Center Courts, located at 50 W. Washington, Chicago, Illinois. Respondent's position as a Deputy Sheriff involves duties and responsibilities to the public; each member of the Cook County Sheriff's Merit Board, hereinafter Board, has been duly appointed to serve as a member of the Board pursuant to confirmation by the Cook County Board of Commissioners, State of Illinois, to sit for a stated term; the Board has jurisdiction of the subject matter of the parties in accordance with 55 ILCS 5/3-7001, *et seq*; and Respondent was served with a copy of the Complaint and notice of hearing and appeared before the Board with counsel to contest the charges contained in the Complaint.

**Background**

The Sheriff (Petitioner) filed a Complaint on December 31, 2019, Petitioner seeking termination of Respondent. Petitioner alleged that Respondent was placed under arrest, photographed, and fingerprinted by the Norridge Police Department ("NPD") for the crime of leaving an accident on or about May 25, 2007. On or about August 25, 2017, the Illinois State Police ("ISP") alerted the Cook County Sheriff's Office, Office of Professional Review ("OPR") that there had been a significant change to Respondent's official record and forwarded a copy of the report.

After the case was continued from time to time, and discovery completed, it was called for a formal hearing on October 19, 2021. At the hearing, court reporter being present, all witnesses sworn under oath, testimony was taken from witnesses called by the Sheriff as well as testimony from the Respondent and witnesses called on her behalf. Documents were introduced by Petitioner and Respondent and received into evidence.

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**Issues Presented:**

The Respondent was charged with violations of the Rules and Regulations of the Cook County Department of Corrections, more specifically:

**CCCSD GENERAL ORDER 3401.1 (effective: March 15, 2001)**  
**RULES OF CONDUCT**

**CCCSD GENERAL ORDER 1009 (effective: December 8, 1997)**  
**STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES**

**SHERIFF'S ORDER 11.2.20.0 (effective: January 25, 2013)**  
**RULES OF CONDUCT**

**SHERIFF'S ORDER 11.2.20.1 (effective: March 12, 2015)**  
**CONDUCT POLICY**

**COOK COUNTY COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL**  
**POLICY 321<sup>1</sup> (effective 10-1-15)**  
**CONDUCT**

**COOK COUNTY COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT IL POLICY MANUAL**  
**POLICY 100<sup>2</sup> (effective 9-1-17)**  
**CONDUCT**

**COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MERIT BOARD RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**Article X, Paragraph B**

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<sup>1</sup> The Lexipol Conduct Policy for the Cook County Court Services Department was initially issued as Lexipol Policy 321 on August 26, 2015 and effective October 1, 2015. On September 1, 2017, the Lexipol Conduct Policy was reissued and renumbered as Lexipol Policy 100. On March 1, 2018, July 2, 2018, August 1, 2018, November 1, 2018, and December 3, 2018, the Lexipol Conduct Policy was reissued and renumbered in the Lexipol Cook County Court Services Department IL Policy Manual (released as recently as November 1, 2019) as Lexipol Policy 101.

<sup>2</sup> The Lexipol Conduct Policy for the Cook County Court Services Department was initially issued as Lexipol Policy 321 on August 26, 2015 and effective October 1, 2015. On September 1, 2017, the Lexipol Conduct Policy was reissued and renumbered as Lexipol Policy 100. On March 1, 2018, July 2, 2018, August 1, 2018, November 1, 2018, and December 3, 2018, the Lexipol Conduct Policy was reissued and renumbered in the Lexipol Cook County Court Services Department IL Policy Manual (released as recently as November 1, 2019) as Lexipol Policy 101.

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**Findings of Fact**

Anthony Kolaski, Respondent testified, that he has been with the department for 24 years and that the incident stems from an accident that occurred at a Walgreens in 2006. (R. 27, 29). He testified that on May 25, 2007, his supervisor, Lieutenant [REDACTED], informed him that he needed to report to the NPD to be questioned about an allegation of leaving the scene of an accident. (R. 30).

Director [REDACTED] testified that he has been with the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department since 2004 and served as Director in OPR from 2014-2019. (R. 4, 5). [REDACTED] testified that he had direct involvement with the Respondent's OPR investigation, and that the Complaint focused on the fact that Respondent did not notify his chain of command or OPR that he was arrested by the NPD. (R. 5, 7). [REDACTED]'s testified that once the investigation was started OPR reviewed records from the Illinois State Police, NPD, OPR Management inquires, the Circuit Court of Cook County inquiry, and internal database photograph of Respondent. (R. 7). Respondent was interviewed by OPR on February 2, 2018, and he was provided with all the required notification, rights, and paperwork. (R. 8, 9). Copies of the arrest record from the NPD were provided to the Respondent and his attorney prior to the interview. (R. 10). Documents and files from the NPD all related to the activities that occurred on May 27, 2017, when the Respondent was accused and arrested for leaving the scene of an accident with a Citation 625 ILCS 5.0/11-402(a). (R. 11). During his OPR interview, Respondent admitted that he was fingerprinted, photographed, given a ticket, as well as an I-Bond. (R. 12, 13). Although later in his interview he changed his story and said he did not recall if these things happened. During the interview Respondent claimed that he did not know he was arrested until OPR contacted him in February 2018, although he admitted that he had to go to court in Rolling Meadows for the matted, which was then dismissed. (R. 13, 14). Respondent testified that he can not recall if he was fingerprinted or photographed although he told OPR that he was. (R. 39, 40). The OPR interview was played, and it clearly states that Respondent admits that he was fingerprinted and photographed. (R. 48). Respondent also told OPR that he did sign out on an I-Bond but testified that he did not recall if he did. (R. 52). Respondent did testify that he never reported anything to the Sheriff's Office. (R. 45). Respondent has been with the Sheriff's office for over 24 years and testified that he did not know that he was arrested for a Misdemeanor and left the scene. (R. 47).

**Conclusion**

Based on the evidence presented, and after assessing the credibility of witnesses and the weight given by the evidence in the record, the Board finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that Respondent Anthony Kolaski did violate the Cook County Sheriff's Department Rules and Regulations, SHERIFF'S GENERAL ORDER 3401.1 RULES OF CONDUCT, GENERAL ORDER 1009 STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES, SHERIFF'S ORDER 11.2.20.0 RULES OF CONDUCT, SHERIFF'S ORDER 11.2.20.1 CONDUCT POLICY, COOK COUNTY COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL POLICY 321 CONDUCT, COOK COUNTY COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT IL POLICY MANUAL POLICY 100 CONDUCT, AND

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**COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MERIT BOARD RULES AND REGULATIONS, ARTICLE X, PARAGRAPH B.**

Respondent admitted to OPR that he was fingerprinted, photographed, given a ticket, and given an I-Bond. Later in the interview Respondent changed his story and said that he did not remember if he was or not. When Respondent testified, he said the only reason that he admitted to being fingerprinted, photographed, given a ticket, and given an I-Bond was because he saw it on the arrest report. Respondent testified that he did not realize that he was arrested until OPR questioned him and that is why he did not report this to his supervisors. The Board does not believe the Respondent is credible.

**Order**

Wherefore, based on the foregoing, it is hereby ordered that Respondent Anthony Kolaski be terminated from the Cook County Sheriff's Office effective December 31, 2019.

**JOHN J. DALICANDRO**, Chairman  
**BYRON BRAZIER**, Vice-Chairman  
**VINCENT T. WINTERS**, Secretary  
**KIMBERLY PATE GODDEN**, Board Member  
**ELENI P. SIANIS**, Board Member  
**TERRENCE J. WALSH**, Board Member



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**COOK COUNTY**  
**SHERIFF'S MERIT BOARD**  
69 West Washington - Suite 1100  
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This Decision is adopted and entered by a majority of the Members of the Merit Board:

John J. Dalicandro, Vincent T. Winters, Kimberly Pate Godden, Eleni P. Sianis and Terrence J. Walsh.

Not Present: Byron Brazier

DISSENT

The following Members of the Merit Board dissent from the Findings and Decision of the majority of the Board.

[NONE]

DATED AT COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.