

**COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
MERIT BOARD**

**Sheriff of Cook County**

**vs.**

**Susan M. Ferguson  
Deputy Sheriff  
STAR # 10818**

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**DOCKET NO. 1833**

**DECISION**

This matter coming on to be heard pursuant to notice, the board finds as follows:

1. The Respondent, Susan Ferguson, hereinafter "Respondent", was appointed a correctional officer on October 13, 1998 Respondent's current position is as a Deputy Sheriff and involves duties and responsibilities to the public; and
2. 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; and
3. The Board has jurisdiction of the subject matter of the parties in accordance with Chapter 55 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes; and
4. The Respondent was personally served with a copy of the Complaint and notice of hearing and appeared before the Board to contest the charges contained in the compliant.
5. Dr. Byron T Brazier, being the Hearing Officer.

**Background:** By a complaint dated August 28, 2015, Sheriff Tom Dart sought the termination of Correctional Officer Susan Ferguson, Star number 10818. The complaint alleged that on multiple occasions, beginning with October 13, 1998 and ending on August 5, 2015, the Respondent accrued multiple and consecutive unauthorized absences, fully documented in the original complaint. On August 28, 2014 the Department of Human Resources sent a final letter notifying her of her unauthorized, no pay status with the Sheriff's Department and that she was required to present herself to the Cook County Medical Unit. The respondent was given numerous opportunities to report to the medical office and to OPR and the respondent failed to report.

The above actions violated the Rules and Regulations of the Cook County Department of Corrections, specifically:

Sheriff's Order 11.4.1.1 Policy II, III, V- C1and C2, F-3, VI B-3 and 6, VII A

Sheriff's Order 11.2.20.0 Policy II, III, VI A-2 , C3, E-1b-vi

And finally Cook County Sheriff's Merit Board Rules and regulations, Article X, paragraph B, section (3).

**Issues Presented:** Whether the actions of the Respondent violated any of the General orders and rules and regulations set forth above and what if any discipline is appropriate if a violation occurred.

**Resolution of Issues Presented:** the Merit Board finds that the respondent did violate the above General Orders and that the Respondent should be terminated.

**Findings of Fact:** An evidentiary hearing in this matter that began on December 3, 2015. The respondent was not present and not represented by counsel. A prove-up hearing was held and the charges and evidence was presented by the States Attorney.

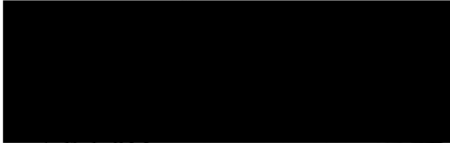
**Conclusions of Law:** Based on the evidence presented, the Merit Board finds that the Respondent did violate the above Sheriff's Orders and finally the Cook County Sheriff's Merit Board Rules and regulations, Article X, paragraph B, section (3).

**Order:** Wherefore, based on the foregoing, it is hereby ordered that the Respondent Susan Ferguson be terminated effective August 27, 2015.

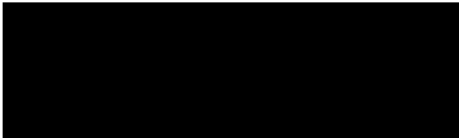
Susan Ferguson - Deputy Sheriff - Docket Number 1833



James P. Nally, Chairman



Vince Winters, Board Member



John Dalcandro, Secretary



Kim R. Widup, Board Member



Byron Brazier, Vice Chairman



Jennifer Bae, Board Member



Pat Brady, Board Member



Gray Mateo-Harris, Board Member

May 31, 2016