



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

CHICAGO LODGE #7

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PRESS RELEASE

Police Officer Bill Cozzi made a terrible mistake for which he has already paid a dear price. He was charged criminally, went to court and apologized to the victim for his actions, pled guilty and was sentenced. The Chicago Police Department then attempted to fire Officer Cozzi and he had a hearing at the Chicago Police Board. The victim was struck by the officer but received no injuries. The Police Board weighed the evidence and reached the only conclusion it could, based on the evidence presented, and imposed a two year suspension. That amounts to a \$160,000 fine, not to mention the physical and mental toll it placed on the officer. The victim has been compensated by the City and agreed with the decision of the Court and the Police Board. The case was over.

Then, in January 2008, before he was even appointed as Superintendent, Jody Weis told the media that he had requested a briefing on the case and would be taking a close, hard look at it for "further action." Weis later said that he would do everything in his power to make sure that Officer Cozzi was never again a Chicago Police officer.

More than three years later, William Cozzi is indicted regarding the exact same incident that he already pled guilty to. What about double jeopardy? This officer has pled guilty twice and been punished. Officer Cozzi successfully completed his criminal sentence served a two year suspension without pay – a six figure fine. The Police Board saw Officer Cozzi and heard from Officer Cozzi and determined that there was something worth saving here. William Cozzi served our country honorably in the Armed Forces and has an otherwise impeccable work history. Superintendent Weis, for his part, has never met the man. He's reacting to a public outcry that does not exist. This is not the Rodney King case. No one was injured. There was no outcry. There were no riots. No one was killed.

Since taking the job as Superintendent, Jody Weis has preached nonstop about accountability and responsibility. Officer Cozzi is a good example of someone who took responsibility for his actions. His reward? A federal indictment. It is a terrible message to send the rest of the Department. And, of course, it's not right.

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