

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

Jermaine Coleman,)
)
)
 Plaintiff) 19-cv-2346
)
)
 -vs-) (*Judge Kocoras*)
)
)
City of Chicago, et al.,)
)
)
 Defendants)

**UNOPPOSED MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE CASE NUMBERS
20-cv-935 AND 22-cv-5842 WITH THIS CASE**

Plaintiff, by counsel and without opposition from defendants, moves the Court to consolidate case numbers 20-cv-935 and 22-cv-5842 with this case, No. 19-cv-2346.

Grounds for this motion are as follows:

I. Coleman v. Chicago, 19-cv-2346

1. On February 13, 2019, the Circuit Court of Cook County vacated plaintiff Jermaine Coleman's conviction for an alleged drug offense in Cook County Case Number 06-CR-12908-01.

2. The arresting officers in that case were members of the tactical team led by former Chicago Police Sergeant Ronald Watts.

3. Coleman alleges that these officers falsely arrested him on May 3, 2006, and that he was wrongfully prosecuted. Plaintiff claims that the

officers' conduct was caused by the failure of high-ranking officials within the Chicago Police Department to stop the defendant officers, by the code of silence within the Chicago Police Department, and by the Chicago Police Department's defective discipline policy. (Exhibit 1, Complaint in 19-cv-2346.)

II. Stokes v. Chicago, 20-cv-935

4. Jabal Stokes was arrested with Jermaine Coleman on May 3, 2006, and he was charged as Coleman's co-defendant in Cook County Case Number 06-CR-12908-02.

5. Stokes's conviction was also vacated on February 13, 2019.

6. Stokes filed his own lawsuit as Case Number 20-cv-935 against the same defendants named by Coleman. Stokes also alleges that the defendant police officers falsely arrested him for a drug offense on May 3, 2006, and that he was wrongfully prosecuted. Stokes makes the same allegations against the City of Chicago as Coleman. (Exhibit 2, Complaint in 20-cv-935.) Stokes and Coleman are represented by the same law firm.

7. Case Number 20-cv-935 is currently assigned to Judge Jenkins.

III. Coleman v. Chicago, 22-cv-5842

8. On February 1, 2022, the Circuit Court of Cook County vacated Coleman's conviction for another alleged drug offense, Cook County Case Number 03-CR-5599.

9. The arrest in that case was also made by members of the tactical team led by former Chicago Police Sergeant Ronald Watts.

10. Coleman then filed a lawsuit, through the same undersigned counsel, about that conviction as Case Number 22-cv-5842, alleging that the defendant officers falsely arrested him for a drug offense on January 20, 2003, and that he was wrongfully prosecuted. (Exhibit 3, Complaint in 22-cv-5842.)

11. The defendants in 22-cv-5842 and 19-cv-2346 are similar: defendant Watts, Bolton, Jones, and Mohammed are defendants in both cases. The City of Chicago is also a defendant in both cases, and Coleman makes the same allegations against the City in both cases.

12. Case Number 22-cv-5842 is currently assigned to Judge Jenkins.

IV. These Case Should be Consolidated

13. Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 42(a):

If actions before the court involve a common question of law or fact, the court may:

- (1) join for hearing or trial any or all matters at issue in the actions;
- (2) consolidate the actions; or
- (3) issue any other orders to avoid unnecessary cost or delay.

14. As shown above, these three cases involve common questions of law and fact. Case Numbers 19-cv-2346 and 20-cv-935 are about the exact same incident, and the plaintiffs make the same allegations against the same defendants. Case Number 19-cv-2346 and 22-cv-5842 are about different incidents involving the same plaintiff, they involve a similar set of defendants, and plaintiff makes identical allegations about the liability of those defendants.

15. Consolidation is appropriate because it would “promote convenience and judicial economy” and it would not “cause prejudice to any party.” *Sylverne v. Data Search N.Y., Inc.*, No. 08 C 0031, 2008 WL 4686163, at *1 (N.D. Ill. May 28, 2008).

16. Plaintiff shared a copy of this motion with defense counsel in all three cases, and defendants do not oppose this motion.

ACCORDINGLY, the court should consolidate case numbers 20-cv-935 and 22-cv-5842 with this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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