

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

Derek Walker,)
)
)
 Plaintiff,)
) No. 22-cv-5892
-vs-)
) *(Judge Alexakis)*
City of Chicago, Ronald Watts,)
Brian Bolton, Darryl Edwards,)
Robert Gonzalez, Alvin Jones,)
Kallatt Mohammed, Calvin)
Ridgell, John Rodriguez, Jerome)
Summers Jr., and Kenneth Young)
Jr.,)
)
 Defendants.)

JOINT INITIAL STATUS REPORT FOR REASSIGNED CASE

The parties, by counsel, submit this joint status report pursuant to the Court's Order of September 16, 2024:

I. Nature of the Case

A. Attorneys of record:

- Plaintiff is represented by Joel A. Flaxman and Kenneth N. Flaxman of the Law Office of Kenneth N. Flaxman.
- Defendants City of Chicago is represented by Daniel M. Noland, Terrence M. Burns, Paul A. Michalik, Katherine C. Morrison, Daniel J. Burns, and Dhaviella N. Harris of Burns Noland LLP.

- Defendant Watts is represented by Brian P. Gainer, Monica Burkoth and Lisa M. McElroy of Johnson & Bell, Ltd.
- Defendant Mohammed is represented by Eric S. Palles, Sean M. Sullivan, and Lisa Altukhova of Mohan Groble Scolaro.
- Defendant Ridgell is represented by Steven B. Borkan and Timothy P. Scahill of Borkan & Scahill, Ltd.
- The remaining defendants are represented by William E. Bazarek, Andrew M. Hale, Anthony E. Zecchin, Jason M. Marx, Kelly M. Olivier, and Hannah Beswick-Hale of Hale & Monico LLC.

B. Federal jurisdiction is based on 28 U.S.C. § 1343 because of plaintiff's claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Jurisdiction over plaintiff's state law malicious prosecution claim is based on supplemental jurisdiction, 28 U.S.C. § 1337.

C. Plaintiff claims that the defendant police officers framed him for drug possession in 2004. 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. Defendants deny any wrongdoing. Various

defendants have asserted affirmative defenses, including qualified immunity.

D. Plaintiff seeks relief in the form of appropriate compensatory and punitive damages against the individual defendants, appropriate compensatory damages only against defendant City of Chicago, and fees and costs against defendants.

E. All defendants have been served.

II. Discovery and Pending Motions

This case is part of the Watts Coordinated Pretrial Proceedings, 19-cv-1717, a group of 186 cases that are coordinated for pretrial proceedings. ECF No. 20. The coordinated proceedings are assigned to Judge Valderrama, and Magistrate Judge Finnegan is supervising discovery.

Discovery has been stayed in the majority of these cases, including this one, while the parties focus on litigating 19 test cases.

On September 30, 2024, the Watts coordinated cases are scheduled to be returned to the assigned district judges for completion of pretrial proceedings and trial. 19-cv-1717, ECF No. 798 at 3 n.3. Magistrate Judge Finnegan has scheduled a status hearing for October 10, 2024, in the Coordinated Proceedings. 19-cv-1717, ECF No. 810.

The parties propose that the Court schedule a date after October 10, 2024, by which the parties are to submit a proposed discovery plan under Rule 26(f).

III. Trial

A. All parties have demanded a jury trial.
B. The parties will be ready for trial after discovery is completed and after dispositive motions.

C. No deadline for the filing of a final pretrial order has been set.
D. Trial is expected to last 10 days.

IV. Settlement, Referrals, and Consent

A. The parties have not discussed settlement.
B. Magistrate Judge Finnegan has been supervising discovery in the coordinated proceedings.
C. The parties do not jointly request a settlement conference at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joel A. Flaxman
Joel A. Flaxman
ARDC No. 6292818
Kenneth N. Flaxman
200 S Michigan Ave, Ste 201
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 427-3200
attorneys for plaintiff

/s/ Paul A. Michalik (by consent)
Daniel M. Noland
Terrence M. Burns
Paul A. Michalik
Katherine C. Morrison
Daniel J. Burns
Dhaviella N. Harris
Burns Noland LLP
311 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 5200
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 982-0090
attorneys for defendant City of Chicago

/s/ Brian P. Gainer (by consent)
Brian P. Gainer
Monica Burkoth
Lisa M. McElroy
Johnson & Bell, Ltd.
33 West Monroe St., Ste 2700
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 372-0770
attorneys for defendant Watts

/s/ Eric S. Palles (by consent)
Eric S. Palles
Sean M. Sullivan
Lisa Altukhova
Mohan Groble Scolaro, PC
55 West Monroe St., Ste 1600
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 422-9999
attorneys for defendant Mohammed

/s/ Timothy P. Seahill (by consent)
Steven B. Borkan
Timothy P. Seahill
Borkan & Seahill, Ltd.
20 S. Clark St., Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60302
(312) 580-1030

attorneys for defendant Ridgell

/s/ Kelly M. Olivier (by consent)
Special Assistant Corporation
Counsel
William E. Bazarek
Andrew M. Hale
Anthony E. Zecchin
Jason M. Marx
Kelly M. Olivier
Hannah Beswick-Hale
Hale & Monico LLC
53 West Jackson Blvd., Ste 334
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 341-9646
attorneys for remaining defendants