

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

London Weekly, )  
                  )  
                  )  
                  *Plaintiff*, )  
                  )     No. 24-cv-4752  
-vs-            )  
                  )     *(Judge Hunt)*  
City of Chicago, Ronald Watts, )  
Alvin Jones, and Kenneth Young )  
Jr.,            )  
                  )  
                  )  
                  *Defendants*. )

**JOINT INITIAL STATUS REPORT**

The parties, by counsel, submit this joint status report pursuant to the Court's Orders of June 11, 2024 and August 1, 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.

- Defendants Jones and Young 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. Plaintiff claims that the defendant police officers framed him for drug possession in 2005. 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.

C. The major legal and factual issues will be whether the evidence supports plaintiff's claims.

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.

## **II. Jurisdiction**

A. 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.

### **III. Status of Service**

All defendants have been served and have appeared through counsel.

### **IV. Pending Motions**

There are no pending motions. Defendants Watts, Jones, Young, and the City have answered the complaint.

### **V. Case Plan**

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 were 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. However, as of this date, there has been no order entered terminating the Coordinated Proceedings. 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 enter an Order to submit, on or before October 31, 2024, a joint report on the status of the Coordinated

Proceedings, or, if the Coordinated Proceedings have terminated and this case returned to this Court, a proposed discovery plan.

**VI. 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.

**VII. 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,

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