

STATE OF ILLINOIS |  
COUNTY OF COOK | SS

**COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
MERIT BOARD**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**CORRECTIONAL OFFICER  
ALEXIS N. PINA  
EMPLOYEE # 4850749  
STAR #18497**

**DOCKET NO. 2299**

**DECISION**

This matter coming on to be heard pursuant to notice before Robert F. Hogan, Hearing Officer, on March 6, 2024, the Cook County Sheriff's Merit Board finds as follows:

**Jurisdiction**

Alexis N. Pina, hereinafter Respondent, was appointed a Correctional Officer on January 21, 2020. Respondent's position as a Correctional Officer involves duties and responsibilities to the public; 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; the Board has jurisdiction of the subject matter of the parties in accordance with 55 ILCS 5/3-7001. *et seq.*; and the Respondent was served with a copy of the Complaint and notice of hearing and appeared before the Board with counsel to contest the charges contained in the Complaint.

**Issues Presented**

Whether the alleged actions of the Respondent violated any of the General Orders and Rules and Regulations set forth, specifically, Sheriff's Orders 101, Department of Corrections

Policy 101 and Cook County Sheriff's Merit Board Rules and Regulations Article X, paragraph B; and what, if any, discipline is appropriate if a violation occurred.

**Findings of Fact**

The Sheriff filed a Complaint on February 7, 2023. The Sheriff is requesting termination of the Respondent. In the Complaint, the Sheriff alleges that the Respondent, on June 19, 2021, committed the crime of misdemeanor Resisting Arrest and Aggravated Battery to a Police Officer. The Respondent subsequently entered into a plea agreement wherein she pled guilty to misdemeanor Resisting Arrest on August 10, 2022.

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██████████ testified that he has lived in Chicago for 30 years. Mr. ██████████ was involved in a traffic accident on June 19, 2021, on Bryn Mawr Avenue in Chicago. Mr. ██████████ testified that while he was driving home after picking up food from McDonald's for his daughter, sometime around 5:30 to 7 in the evening, another vehicle drove in front of him and abruptly made a left turn onto a street that said, "Do Not Enter." Mr. ██████████ testified that after he got out of the vehicle, the other driver's girlfriend approached him and asked him if he was okay. Mr. ██████████ testified that he responded that he was not okay and was trying to call 911. Mr. ██████████ testified that as he took out his phone and was trying to call 911, the female blamed him and said, "Why are you calling 911?" while pointing her finger at Mr. ██████████ eyes. Mr. ██████████ testified that he asked the female if she was drunk, but because he did not smell alcohol from her, he asked again if she and her boyfriend were high on drugs, and she admitted that they were. Mr. ██████████ testified that as he told the female "Remove your hand, remove your finger," her boyfriend, who was the other driver, punched him in the right side of his face so hard that he was knocked down to the floor, hit his head on the curb, and fell unconscious for a minute or

two. Mr. [REDACTED] testified that approximately 5 minutes later, an ambulance arrived, and he was taken to Lutheran General Hospital. (Tr. 31)

**CPD Officer [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED] testified that he is a police officer with Chicago Police Department (“CPD”) and has been with CPD since 2017. Officer [REDACTED] wears a body worn camera as part of his role as a police officer, and checks multiple times during his shift to ensure his body worn camera is in proper working condition. The body worn camera captures both video and audio.

On June 19, 2021, around 7:50 PM, Officer [REDACTED] was assigned to Beat 1624, and was dispatched to a crash and battery scene at 6130 Bryn Mawr Avenue in Chicago. Officer [REDACTED] body worn camera was in good working condition and fully activated when he arrived at the scene. At the scene, Officer [REDACTED] met the two drivers involved in the crash, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who were also involved in the battery incident. One of the drivers, [REDACTED] got arrested that day. Other than [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Officer [REDACTED] also met the Respondent, who was also arrested that day.

According to Officer [REDACTED], the Respondent interfered with his investigation and battered Officer [REDACTED] at the scene. Officer [REDACTED] described the battery as the Respondent “swatting his wrist”, and that the injuries suffered to his wrist were caused by his interaction with [REDACTED] and not the Respondent.

While [REDACTED] was refusing to bring his foot inside the squad car when he was getting arrested by Officer [REDACTED] and his partner, the Respondent approached them and refused to comply with Officer [REDACTED] orders to step back multiple times. After the Respondent struck Officer [REDACTED] she was placed under arrest and transported to the police station in a squad car. During the incident, the Respondent stated that she worked for Cook

County Sheriff's Office. Officer [REDACTED] further explained that as shown in his body worn video, the Respondent resisted arrest by retreating, flailing her arms, and as he recalled, she struck him three times in the face.

**CPD Officer [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED] testified that he is a police officer with CPD and has been with CPD since 2015. Officer [REDACTED] wears a body worn camera as part of his role as a police officer. On June 19, 2021, around 7:50 PM, Officer [REDACTED] was assigned to Beat 1613, and was dispatched to a crash and battery scene at 6130 Bryn Mawr Avenue in Chicago.

Upon arrival at the scene, Officer [REDACTED] met the two drivers involved in the crash, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who were also involved in the battery incident. Other than [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], Officer [REDACTED] also met the Respondent.

According to Officer [REDACTED] the Respondent approached Officer [REDACTED] while [REDACTED] was being placed into the rear of the squad car. While [REDACTED] was resisting arrest, Alexis Pina approached the squad car and obstructed the arrest by swinging her arms in Officer [REDACTED] direction. The Respondent was ordered to step back multiple times but did not comply. During the incident, Alexis Pina stated that she worked for Cook County Sheriff's Office. Officer [REDACTED] secured the Respondent in handcuffs.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] testified that he is an investigator with Cook County Sheriff's Office ("CCSO") and has been with CCSO since 2009. Investigator [REDACTED] has been assigned to the CCSO, Office of Professional Review ("OPR") as an investigator since 2015. Investigator

██████████ was assigned to investigate the allegations against the Respondent. This investigation was initiated upon notification of the Respondent's arrest.

Investigator ██████████ confirmed that reviewed the CPD arrest report that he reviewed during this investigation. The CPD arrest report showed that the Respondent was arrested at 8:10 PM on June 19, 2021, for aggravated battery to a peace officer and resisting and obstructing a peace officer. The CPD arrest report further shows that felony charges for the Respondent were approved. Investigator ██████████ testified that he also obtained and reviewed additional reports and body camera videos from CPD relating to this arrest during this investigation.

Investigator ██████████ confirmed that in the CPD body worn camera videos that he reviewed, the Respondent identified herself as a deputy sheriff to the CPD officers.

██████████

██████████ testified that he is the superintendent in the eviction unit of CCSO. He testified that Has worked with the Respondent on a daily basis for about a year and a half. He has never had any reason to discipline the Respondent and has found her to be a reliable employee.

██████████

██████████ testified that he is a Lieutenant in the Civil Process Unit of the CCSO. He has known the Respondent for approximately two years. He has never had any cause to discipline the Respondent and finds her to be a reliable employee and does her job in a professional manner.

██████████

██████████ testified that he is a sergeant with CCSO. He is the Respondent's current supervisor. He has never had any cause to discipline the Respondent and finds her to be a reliable

employee and does her job in a professional manner. He finds her work ethic to be superior to that of others.

**Respondent Alexis Pina**

The Respondent testified on her own behalf and admitted that she was intoxicated on the date of this incident. She got into a verbal altercation with her then boyfriend [REDACTED] at a bar called [REDACTED] located in Portage Park, where they arrived between 4 and 4:30 p.m. and stayed approximately three and half hours. The Respondent testified that they were drinking alcohol, specifically Long Island Iced Teas, which is a drink that contains rum, gin, tequila, vodka, triple sec, with a splash of Coke. The Respondent estimated that she had around five to six of those drinks.

As their argument continued, the Respondent stated that she got angry and got up to leave [REDACTED] because [REDACTED] started shouting and threw drink at her. She got outside and intended to order an Uber. She testified that she went out from [REDACTED] around 7:30 p.m. but due to COVID she couldn't get a ride, because she did not have mask.

The Respondent testified stated that [REDACTED] came out of the bar a few minutes later, and he was parked right in front, so she just went with him. The Respondent testified that while in the car with [REDACTED] he continued to fight with her, and she got out of the car around Bryn Mawr and Northwest Highway. She started walking toward the direction of her house, and also the direction where her friend [REDACTED], lived.

The Respondent stated that that she witnessed the accident between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], but she was intoxicated and emotional. Once she saw the accident she ran to [REDACTED] According to the Respondent, [REDACTED] was out of his vehicle, and she asked him if he was okay, and [REDACTED] was upset. [REDACTED] was mad and pulled his phone to call police. The Respondent testified that

she did not touch [REDACTED] but that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got into a physical altercation. The Respondent observed Garcia strike [REDACTED] in the face. [REDACTED] fell back on his head, and then [REDACTED] jumped on him and just started striking him with closed fists.

At some point the Respondent's friend [REDACTED] arrived and the Respondent left the scene. The Respondent stated that around 30 min. passed between the time she left [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrival, and she still was intoxicated throughout these events. After she arrived at [REDACTED] place, she made a decision to go back to the accident scene. The Respondent testified that, looking back on the incident, she would have made a different decision if she had not been intoxicated, that is, she would not have gone back to the scene.

When she arrived back at the scene, the Respondent saw [REDACTED] detained in the back of a squad car. She saw Officer [REDACTED] standing in front of him. She heard from a distance [REDACTED] shouting and acting belligerent, and she also saw that he was jamming the door with his foot. She approached them, wanted to speak to the officer, but [REDACTED] was just shouting too much so she began to yell at him, and she told him to "shut the fuck up" multiple times. The Respondent testified that she just wanted to de-escalate the situation. She conceded that she swatted the hand of Officer [REDACTED] but did not intend to batter him. [REDACTED] was attempting to grab her wrists to place her under arrest. She was backing up, swatting at his hand, and again conceded that she resisted arrest. She further testified that she told the officers that she worked for the CCSO on multiple occasions.

The Respondent pleaded guilty to a Class A misdemeanor for resisting arrest. She stated that she informed and kept the Sheriff's Office abreast of her arrest and criminal proceedings.

The Respondent testified that she completed a 16-hour Drug and Alcohol Awareness Class. She also completed a Four-Hour Anger Management Class. She is also currently enrolled

in an alcohol treatment program and that she is not drinking at all anymore. She is going to work every day and she has not been disciplined.

The Respondent testified that she had remorse about this incident, and she believes that the incident is an isolated incident and did not represent who she is and is not her character.

### **Analysis**

The Merit Board finds Respondent violated Cook County Sheriff's Department Policies 101 (Conduct), 101 (Policy); Cook County Sheriff's Department of Corrections Policies 101 (Conduct), 101 (Policy); as well as the Cook County Sheriff's Merit Board Rules and Regulations, Article X, paragraph B.

The Respondent was charged with and pled guilty to Resisting Arrest pursuant to a plea agreement which dropped the other charges of Battery to a Police Officer. The Respondent admitted being intoxicated during the course of this incident and has testified that she would not have comported herself in the manner in which she did had she not been intoxicated.

The Respondent testified that she is remorseful for the entire incident and her conduct. She has taken steps to deal with her drinking issue and is currently enrolled in an alcohol treatment program. Her supervisors testified that she is an above average employee and that they have never had an issue with her conduct or work ethic. The Respondent also has no significant prior disciplinary history.

Based on the reasons set for the above, the evidence presented, and the testimony of Respondent and witnesses, the Merit Board finds that the Respondent did violate the General Orders and Policies of the Cook County Sheriff's Department, the Cook County Department of Corrections, and the Rules and Regulations of the Cook County Sheriff's Merit Board.



**Order**

The Merit Board finds that Respondent did violate the General Orders and Policies of the Cook County Sheriff's Department, the Cook County Department of Corrections and the Rules and Regulations of the Cook County Sheriff's Merit Board and that Respondent, Alexis Pina, should be suspended from the Cook County Sheriff's Office for a period of One Hundred and Eighty (180) days, effective February 7, 2023.

**JOHN J. DALICANDRO**, Chairman  
**BYRON BRAZIER**, Vice-Chairman  
**VINCENT T. WINTERS**, Secretary  
**KIMBERLY PATE GODDEN**, Board Member  
**TERRENCE J. WALSH**, Board Member  
**MARLA M. KAIDEN**, Board Member  
**WADE INGRAM SR.**, Board Member  
**JAMES J. SEXTON**, Board Member



Telephone: 312-603-0170  
Fax: 312-603-9865  
Email: [Sheriff.MeritBoard@ccsheriff.org](mailto:Sheriff.MeritBoard@ccsheriff.org)

**ROBERT F. HOGAN**, Hearing Officer

**COOK COUNTY**  
**SHERIFF'S MERIT BOARD**  
69 West Washington - Suite 1100  
Chicago, IL 60602

DOCKET NO. 2299  
CORRECTIONAL OFFICER  
ALEXIS N. PINA  
STAR # 18497

This Decision is adopted and entered by a majority of the Members of the Merit Board:

Voted Yes:

John J. Dalicandro, Kimberly Pate Godden, Terrence J. Walsh, Marla M. Kaiden, Wade Ingram Sr.  
and James J. Sexton

Voted No: None

Not Present: Byron Brazier and Vincent T. Winters

DATED AT COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2024.