	CATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE HERTS IN STATES OF ILLINOIS, EASTERN DIVISION
	Lh # 111 9-83310
DONALD DRNEK,) for first one of the
Plaintiff	01C 0840
v.) No.
CITY OF CHICAGO,	JUDGE BUCKLO
an Illinois Municipal Corporation,)
) Trial by Jury Demanded
Defendant) MAGISTRATE JUDGE ASHMAN

COMPLAINT

The plaintiff, Donald Drnek, by and through his attorneys, for his complaint against the first of Chicago, an Illinois Municipal Corporation, states as follows:

THE PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff Donald Drnek ("Drnek") is a citizen of the United States and a resident of Chicago, Illinois. Drnek is a former police officer and former employee of the City of Chicago who was wrongfully terminated or "involuntarily retired" on December 31, 2000 because of his age. Plaintiff Drnek was age 65 at the time of his termination. Plaintiff Drnek is an "employee" for the purposes of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act ("ADEA"), 29 U.S.C. §630(f).
- 2. Defendant City of Chicago is an Illinois Municipal Corporation located within this judicial district which maintains its own police force. The City of Chicago is an "employer" under the ADEA, 29 U.S.C. §630(b).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. This cause of action lies pursuant to Section 7 of the ADEA, 29 U.S.C. § 626.
- 4. Jurisdiction is based upon 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 29 U.S.C. § 626.

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5. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1391(b) because the claim arose in this judicial district.

SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

A. Conditions Precedent Met

6. All conditions precedent to this action have been fulfilled. On September 19, 2000, Plaintiff timely filed a charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleging age discrimination in termination (attached as Exhibit 1) and received his right to sue letter within the last ninety days (attached as Exhibit 2).

B. Background

- 7. Plaintiff was born on May 22, 1935 and is 65 years old.
- 8. On or about July 1, 1957, plaintiff was hired by the City of Chicago as a police officer.
- 9. At all times pertinent hereto, plaintiff performed his job duties as a police officer in a satisfactory manner.
- 10. Nevertheless, sometime in December 2000, plaintiff was informed that pursuant to an ordinance adopted by the City of Chicago on May 17, 2000, plaintiff was to be terminated or "involuntarily retired" because he was over the age of 63 years.
- 11. Beginning on or around September 30, 1996 and continuing to the present, there existed and continues to exist a legislatively-created "public safety" exception to the ADEA, 29 U.S.C. 623(j), which provides in relevant part:
 - (j) Employment as firefighter or law enforcement officer

It shall not be unlawful for an employer which is a State, a political subdivision of a State, an agency or instrumentality of a State or a political subdivision of a State, or an interstate agency to fail or refuse to hire or to discharge any individual because of such individual's age if such action is taken—

- (1) with respect to the employment of an individual as a firefighter or as a law enforcement officer, the employer has complied with section 3(d)(2) of the Age Discrimination in Employment Amendments of 1996 if the individual was discharged after the date described in such section, and the individual has attained—
 - (A) the age of hiring or retirement, respectively, in effect under applicable State or local law on March 3, 1983; or
 - (B)

 (i) if the individual was not hired, the age of hiring in effect on the date of such failure or refusal to hire under applicable State or local law enacted after September 30, 1996; or
 - (ii) if applicable State or local law was enacted after September 30, 1996, and the individual was discharged, the higher of-
 - (I) the age of retirement in effect on the date of such discharge under such law; and
 - (II) age 55; and
- (2) pursuant to a bona fide hiring or retirement plan that is not a subterfuge to evade the purposes of this chapter.
- 12. On May 17, 2000, the City of Chicago adopted an ordinance which amended Chapter 2-152-140 of the Municipal Code to read as follows:
 - (a) Effective December 31, 2000, the age of 63 shall be the maximum age for employment of sworn members of the police department, including a sworn member who is transferred or appointed to a supervisory or administrative position.

* * *

(d) All persons to whom this ordinance applies shall be retired upon attainment of age 63. Any person to whom this ordinance applies whose age is 63 or more on December 31, 2000 shall be retired upon that date.

Chicago Municipal Code 2-152-140 (hereinafter, the "Ordinance" or "Municipal Code").

13. Following enactment of the Ordinance, plaintiff was terminated by the City of Chicago on December 31, 2000, the effective date of the Ordinance, for exceeding the mandatory retirement age.

C. The Real Purpose in Enacting the Ordinance

- 14. The purpose of Section 2-152-410 of the Municipal Code was not to promote the interests of public safety. Rather, the Ordinance was enacted as a subterfuge to evade the purposes of the ADEA. The Ordinance was passed to accomplish objectives which were unrelated to public safety, through the mandatory retirement of police officers over the age of 63.
- 15. The enactment of Section 2-152-410 of the Municipal Code was for the purpose of eliminating from the ranks of the Police Department plaintiff and other police officers who had surpassed 63 years of age, among other reasons, to allow the City of Chicago to hire and promote younger officers within the City of Chicago Police Department.

COUNT I

AGE DISCRIMINATION IN TERMINATION

- 16. Plaintiff adopts and realleges paragraphs 1 through 15.
- 17. By enacting Municipal Code 2-152-410 and terminating plaintiff's employment, defendant and its agents have willfully and intentionally discriminated against plaintiff on the basis of his age in a manner that acts as a subterfuge of the ADEA.

- 18. Section 2-152-410 of the Municipal Code was not part of a bona fide hiring or retirement plan as required by Section 623(j) of the ADEA.
- 19. By terminating plaintiff's employment, defendant knew and/or showed a reckless disregard for the matter of whether its conduct violated the ADEA.
- 20. As a result of the unlawful and willful acts complained of herein, Plaintiff has suffered loss of employment, wages, benefits, and other compensation, as well as emotional distress, embarrassment, humiliation, and other mental anguish.

COUNT II

AGE DISCRIMINATION IN TERMINATION

- 21. Plaintiff adopts and realleges paragraphs 16-20.
- 22. In 1996, at the same time as it enacted the current provisions of 29 U.S.C. Section 623 (j) of the ADEA, Congress also enacted regulations requiring development and implementation of performance tests for police officers attaining mandatory retirement age to determine whether they are fit to continue their employment despite their age. The regulation, Public Law 104-208, 110 Stat. 3009-24 (Sept. 30, 1996), provides in relevant part:

* * *

(c) ADVISORY GUIDELINES.--Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop and issue, based on the results of the study required by subsection (a), advisory guidelines for the administration and use of physical and mental fitness tests to measure the ability and competency of law enforcement officers and firefighters to perform the requirements of the jobs of the officers and firefighters.

(d) JOB PERFORMANCE TESTS. - -

- (1) IDENTIFICATION OF TESTS.--After issuance of the advisory guidelines described in subsection (c), the Secretary shall issue regulations identifying valid, nondiscriminatory job performance tests that shall be used by employers seeking the exemption described in section 4(j) of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 with respect to firefighters or law enforcement officers who have attained an age of retirement described in such section 4(j).
- (2) USE OF TESTS.--Effective on the date of issuance of the regulations described in paragraph (1), any employer seeking such exemption with respect to a firefighter or law enforcement officer who has attained such age shall provide to each firefighter or law enforcement officer who has attained such age an annual opportunity to demonstrate physical and mental fitness by passing a test described in paragraph (1), in order to continue employment.
- When read in conjunction with the above regulations, the spirit and letter of Section 423(j) provides an exception to the ADEA for mandatory retirement laws only when the officer can no longer meet the fitness requirements of his job.
- 24. Municipal Code §2-152-410, as written and as currently interpreted by the City of Chicago, is in direct contravention to Section 423(j) in that it fails to provide any officer, including plaintiff, with an opportunity to prove his fitness for duty. This is not the result intended or contemplated by Section 423(j).

- 25. Consequently, Municipal Code §2-152-410 violates the ADEA and is void and unenforceable since the Federal law, in this case, preempts the Ordinance.
- 26. At no time was plaintiff ever offered the opportunity to prove his "physical and mental" fitness to remain on the job.
- 27. In the absence of determining plaintiffs' mental and physical fitness for duty, the City of Chicago's termination of the plaintiff pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2-152-410 is in violation of the ADEA.
- 28. By terminating plaintiff's employment, defendant and its agents have willfully and intentionally discriminated against plaintiff on the basis of his age.
- 29. As a result of the unlawful and willful acts complained of herein, Plaintiff has suffered loss of employment, wages, benefits, and other compensation, as well as emotional distress, embarrassment, humiliation, and other mental anguish.

COUNT III

FEDERAL DUE PROCESS – DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

- 30. Plaintiff adopts and realleges paragraphs 21-29.
- 31. Section 2-152-410 of the Municipal Code is unconstitutionally vague in that it does not provide an opportunity for City of Chicago police officers, like plaintiff, who reach the age of 63, to demonstrate their fitness for duty.
- 32. Section 2-152-410 is unenforceable and void as written in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States (U.S.C.A. Const. Amend. 14).
- 33. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law as he is currently 65 years old and every day that passes shortens his useful working life, which cannot be replaced. For the same reason, he has

and continues to suffer irreparable injury due to his inability to work as a police officer, including not only the inability to earn the same type of living as before his termination, but the inability to finish his career in his chosen profession.

34. As a result of the unlawful and willful acts complained of herein, Plaintiff has suffered loss of employment, wages, benefits, and other compensation, as well as emotional distress, embarrassment, humiliation, and other mental anguish, and loss of his useful working life as a police officer.

COUNT IV

ILLINOIS DUE PROCESS – DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

- 35. Plaintiff adopts and realleges paragraphs 30-34.
- 36. Section 2-152-410 is unenforceable and void as written in violation of Article I, Section 2 of the Illinois Constitution.
- 37. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law as he is currently 65 years old and every day that passes shortens his useful working life, which cannot be replaced. For the same reason, he has and continues to suffer irreparable injury due to his inability to work as a police officer, including not only the inability to earn the same type of living as before his termination, but the inability to finish his career in his chosen profession.
- 38. As a result of the unlawful and willful acts complained of herein, Plaintiff has suffered loss of employment, wages, benefits, and other compensation, as well as emotional distress, embarrassment, humiliation, and other mental anguish, and loss of his useful working life as a police officer.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Donald Drnek respectfully requests that this Court enter an order:

- a. Declaring that Municipal Code Section 2-152-410 is in violation of, and superceded by, the ADEA, and is void and unenforceable;
- b. Declaring that the conduct of the defendant as described herein is in violation of Section 7 of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), 29 U.S.C. 621 et.seq.;
- c. Awarding plaintiff the salary, with interest, that he has lost as a result of defendant's conduct;
- d. Awarding plaintiff compensatory damages;
- e. Awarding plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees and costs;
- f. Declaring that City of Chicago Municipal Code Section 2-152-410 is unconstitutionally void and unenforceable on its face;
- g. Issuing a mandatory injunction against Defendant requiring that plaintiff be reinstated to his position as police officer with full back pay, salary, benefits, and seniority applicable to him on the date of termination and subsequently as if he had remained employed today; and
- h. Awarding plaintiff such other and further relief as this Court deems proper and just.

Respectfully submitted,

One of the Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Date: February 6, 2001

Clint Krislov Michael R. Karnuth KRISLOV & ASSOCIATES, LTD. Civic Opera Building, Suite 1350 20 North Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 (312) 606-0500 Ronald L. Futterman Joan Matlack FUTTERMAN & HOWARD, CHTD. 122 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1850 Chicago, IL 60603 (312) 427-3600 JS 44 (Rev. 12/96)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filling and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the united States in September 197

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Attachment to Civil Cover Sheet

1.(c). ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

In the Matter of

Donald Drnek,

Plaintiff,

V.

City of Chicago, an Illinois Municipal Corporation, Defendant. **01C** 0840

JUDGE BUCKLO

Case Number:

APPEARANCES ARE HEREBY FILED BY THE UNDERSIGNED AS ATTORNEY(S) FOR:

Donald Drnek, Plaintiff			MAGISTRATE JUDGE ASHMAN				
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SIGNATURE	TAN Clast Kuslos	SIGNATURE (//	Vichael & Sumitte				
NAME	Clint Krislov	NAME	Michael R. Karnuth				
FIRM	Krislov & Associates, Ltd.	FIRM	Krislov & Associates, Ltd.				
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CITY/STATE/ZIP	Chicago, IL 60606	CITY/STATE/ZIP	Chicago, IL 60606				
TELEPHONE NUMBER	312-606-0500	TELEPHONE NUMBER	312-606-0500				
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FIRM	Futterman & Howard, Chtd.	FIRM	Futterman & Howard, Chtd.				
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