

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE

.....

In the matter of the appeal of

WILLIE O. MURPHY

COMPLAINT

.....

TO THE HONORABLE, THE BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE:

Now comes EDWARD A. FLYNN, Chief of the Police Department of the City of Milwaukee, and makes the following charges against POLICE SERGEANT WILLIE O. MURPHY, who, on March 8, 2010, was ordered suspended for a total of twenty (20) working days without pay.

**RULE 4, SECTION 155.00:** Members of the Department shall not communicate verbally or in writing, directly or indirectly, in any manner or form, any information which may enable persons involved in criminal acts or city ordinance violations to escape arrest or punishment, or which may permit them to dispose of or secrete any money, goods, or other valuables unlawfully obtained.

**SPECIFICATION:** On September 23, 2009, Police Sergeant Willie O. MURPHY, while off duty and using his personal cell phone, sent a text message to thirty-three

supervisory members of the Milwaukee Police Department in an attempt to initiate a protest related to the slow transition to the digital radio system. Sergeant MURPHY requested the other supervisors to instruct officers to cease making traffic stops to force the administration to immediately address concerns related to the radios and officer's safety.

Pursuant to a PI-21, Sergeant MURPHY indicated that he was aware that the Department takes cognizance of traffic enforcement and that he did not have proper authority to instruct officers to cease enforcement of related laws and ordinances. Sergeant MURPHY acknowledged that the cessation of traffic stops could have enabled persons committing traffic violations to escape arrest or punishment.

Police Sergeant Willie O. MURPHY communicated information that may have enabled persons involved in criminal acts or ordinance violations to escape arrest or punishment.

**RULE 4, SECTION 268.00:** Members of the Department feeling aggrieved at the treatment or orders of a supervisory officer, or members wishing to call attention to any matter of police business or neglect of duty, or to make suggestion for the improvement of the service, shall consult with their commanding officer and if the matter is not resolved satisfactorily shall communicate in writing and such report shall be forwarded by the commanding officer to the Chief of Police. When necessary, such communication shall be followed by a personal interview. Failure of a supervisory officer to forward such

communication through official channels shall be treated as a serious dereliction of duty.  
(See SOP 3/530.00.)

**SPECIFICATION:** On September 23, 2009, Police Sergeant Willie O. MURPHY sent a text message to thirty-three supervisory members of the Milwaukee Police Department to organize a department-wide protest. Sergeant MURPHY requested their assistance in spreading the word to officers to cease making traffic stops altogether for the purpose of making administration immediately aware of concerns related to the transition to digital radios.

Sergeant MURPHY's Commanding Officer, Captain Andra WILLIAMS, reported that Sergeant MURPHY had neither voiced any specific concerns nor had he made a written report related to the digital radios.

When interviewed pursuant to a PI-21, Sergeant MURPHY indicated that he did not consult with his commanding officer or make a written report regarding his concerns with the digital radios. He stated that he had no good reason as to why he did not utilize those avenues to address the matter.

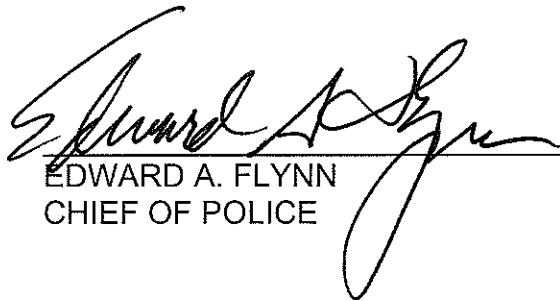
Police Sergeant Willie O. MURPHY, when attempting to call attention to a matter of police business, failed to consult with his commanding officer or to make a written report to the Chief of Police.

\* \* \* \* \*

A copy of Personnel Order No. 2010-51 concerning the disciplinary action I have taken against Police Sergeant Willie O. MURPHY is attached.

In the interest of public welfare, good order of the City, and for the good of the police service, the disciplinary action I have taken against Police Sergeant Willie O. MURPHY is required, such disciplinary action being set forth in Department Personnel Order No. 2010-51.

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin this 8th day of March 2010.



EDWARD A. FLYNN  
CHIEF OF POLICE

EAF:smc  
Attachment (1)



Police Department

Edward A. Flynn  
Chief of Police

PERSONNEL ORDER 2010 - 51

March 8, 2010

RE: DISCIPLINARY ACTION

POLICE SERGEANT WILLIE O. MURPHY, (010752), Technical Communications Division, charged with violation of Department Rules and Procedures as follows:

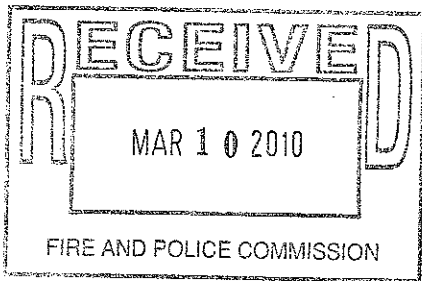
Rule 4, Section 155.00:	Communicated information, which may have enabled persons involved in criminal acts or ordinance violations to escape arrest or punishment.
Rule 4, Section 268.00:	When attempting to call attention to a matter of police business, failed to consult with his commanding officer or to make a written report to the Chief of Police.

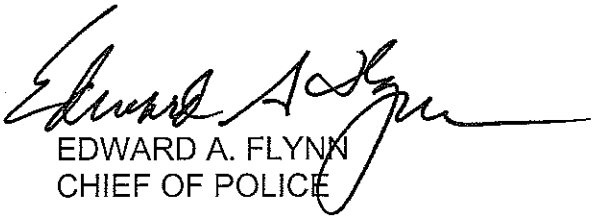
The charges having been substantiated, he is found guilty as charged and the penalty adjudged appropriate by the Chief of Police is as follows:

Communicated information, which may have enabled persons involved in criminal acts or ordinance violations to escape arrest or punishment.	Fifteen (15) day suspension without pay.
When attempting to call attention to a matter of police business, failed to consult with his commanding officer or to make a written report to the Chief of Police.	Five (5) day suspension without pay.

MARCH 8, 2010

It is hereby ordered that POLICE SERGEANT WILLIE O. MURPHY be suspended for a total of twenty (20) working days without pay. If not appealed, POLICE SERGEANT WILLIE O. MURPHY shall be suspended without pay for the following periods: April 15, 2010 through May 4, 2010. May 9, 2010 through May 15, 2010.



  
EDWARD A. FLYNN  
CHIEF OF POLICE

EAF:smc  
(09-0539)