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     Oath Keepers 2024
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     LOG NUMBER: 2023-0004935
     February 1, 2024
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     AUDIO: retamozo130701_001
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SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Log Number 2023-0004935. This is the audio-recorded statement of accused member Police Officer Alberto Retamozo, Star Number 12815, assigned to the 17th District. This is relative to an allegation made by Sergeant Keshia Frierson.

This interview is being taken place at Chicago Police Department Headquarters, located at 3510 South Michigan Avenue on the Fifth Floor, Bureau of Internal Affairs, on 1 February 2024, in the conference room at 1224 hours.

My name is Sergeant John Bartuch, Star Number 1598, and I'm the primary investigator assigned to the Bureau of Internal Affairs. I'm in charge of this investigation, recorded under Log Number 2023-0004935, and will be the primary interviewer during the course of this statement. Also present in this interview is Sergeant Tiffany Santiago, Star Number 1402, as secondary interviewer.

This statement will be in audiorecorded format and will concern itself with the
following allegation. It is alleged by Sergeant
Frierson that members of the Chicago Police
Department are members of the far-right terror

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1	group, Oath Keepers, as documented in an email to
2	First Deputy Carter, and numerous news articles
3	by WBEZ.
4	Officer Retamozo, can you please state
5	and spell your name for the record?
6	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Officer
7	Alberto Retamozo, A-L-B-E-R-T-O, last name, R-E-
8	T-A-M-O-Z-O.
9	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Can you state your
10	rank, star number, and unit of assignment?
11	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: PO, unit of
12	assignment is 17.
13	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And your star
14	number?
15	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: 12815.
16	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: How long have you
17	been assigned to your present unit?
18	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Five to six
19	years.
20	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And what is your
21	employee number and date of appointment to the
22	department?
23	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO:
24	employee number. And 30 November, '98.
25	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Counsel, can you

	Page 4
1	please state and spell your name for the record?
2	TIM GRACE: Sure, my name is Tim Grace.
3	I am an FOP attorney and I'm here to represent
4	Officer Retamozo.
5	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Officer Retamozo,
6	prior to the start of the audio recording, were
7	you given CPD form 44.140, the Audio Recorded
8	Statement Instructions and Guidelines?
9	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes, I have.
10	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you read and
11	understand did you read, understand, and sign
12	the instructions, and guidelines for the audio-
13	recorded statement?
14	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes.
15	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you have any
16	questions about the process of an audio-recorded
17	statement?
18	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No.
19	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Counsel, you are
20	reminded that in no instance will you answer
21	questions for or on behalf of your client.
22	TIM GRACE: Yes, sir.
23	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Have you been
24	advised. Officer Retamozo, of the allegations

made against you, the name of the complainant,

the date and time of the incident, and your administrative rights?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you read and understand these allegations and your rights?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: You understand that this is an official police department report and that any deviation from the truth could result in allegations or charges being placed against you?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Rule 14 of the Chicago Police Department Rules and Regulations prohibits making false reports, whether written or oral. You may be separated from the Chicago Police Department if you make a false report. Do you understand?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Are you ready to give your statement at this time?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes.

TIM GRACE: Officer is going to give his Garrity statement, but before he does that, we have a couple of objections.

The first objection we have is that the

Oath Keepers, whatever they are, and my client is not a member of them, has never been labeled a domestic terrorist organization by the FBI, Homeland Security, or any other organization, law enforcement organization.

We are concerned about the fact that the general orders do not -- as they are today, as they were back in 2009, do not prohibit officers from joining -- in the off-duty hours, joining up organizations, and in organizations that are not terrorist related. And we are concerned about the First Amendment implications of this CR being initiated due to the fact that the First Amendment allows for freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.

A lot of these -- most of these things do not apply to this officer, but I wanted to put that on the record as an objection.

We also are concerned about the fact that the allegations were brought to the department, and I understand that these Sergeants were not the ones that initiated this CR. They're just following their orders and directives. It was brought by a news organization, and it was brought by a letter from

the Anti-Defamation League, all things that are concerning, that we should not begin investigations based upon, you know, letters and news articles regarding police officers. So, I want that on the record and the officer will read his Garrity rights.

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I would like to preface this statement by stating that I am not giving this statement voluntary, but under duress. I am only giving this statement at this time because I have been advised by Chicago Police Department that if I do not give a statement, I will face disciplinary proceedings that will lead to termination of my employment.

On advice of counsel, I want to object to the delay in investigation. This incident occurred approximately 15 years ago. This delay is prejudicial to my ability to clearly recall the details of this instance so that I may defend myself and provide a clear recitation of the facts.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Thank you, sir.

Officer Retamozo, prior to the start of the audio recording, were you given Exhibit 1, a letter emailed to -- emailed from the Anti-Defamation

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Is your information

4 | included in that letter?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Is that information included in the letter correct?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No.

9 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: No? Could you tell

10 me what's wrong?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: The address

12 was changed.

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SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Was that your

14 | address at some time?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: At one time?

17 OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Is that the

19 | correct email?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: It's an old

21 email.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I don't use

24 it anymore.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And is that a

1 | correct phone number?

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OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Were you ever notified by the Anti-Defamation League?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you know why -- are you currently a member of the Oath Keepers?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Have you ever been a member of the Oath Keepers?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: When I initially signed up.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: When you signed up. Can you tell me about that?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Someone was telling me about this organization, that it protects the Second Amendment. I had just retired from the military, and there was military members, I guess, that were, you know, there was Navy, Marine Corps, and all that. It seemed like a good organization that was going to protect the Second Amendment. I joined at the same time, I think, the Illinois State Rifle Association, and that's approximately when I did it, 2009, 2012, in between there.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. I'm going to
just dissect what you just said. So, what year
was this?
OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I believe it
was between 2009 and 2012.
SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And now, you
said do you remember who told you about this?
OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No, I don't.
SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you know how
much you paid?
OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I think for
the Oath Keepers, initially, \$50 a month, and I
believe Illinois State Rifle Association, same
time, \$50 a month.
SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. So, in
total, for the two organizations, you were paying
\$100 a month?
OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yeah, I was
going to yeah, well no yeah, yeah. For
both, yes, at the same time, yes.

payments, I -- probably three to four months, I

you a member of the Oath Keepers?

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And how long were

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: After a few

stopped.

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SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And what did you know about the Oath Keepers when you joined?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: When I joined, it looked like to me, when I looked at the website, like a good organization that's going to help protect the Second Amendment, which I believe in.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you believe at that point that you were participating with any hate groups or extreme groups, or that they were

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: -- anti-government?

Do you recall how -- what did the membership get

you or what did it mean to you?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I thought it was just an organization that after everybody's attacking the Second Amendment that it was going to try to protect it, help protect it.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And how were you going to help protect the Second Amendment?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Just basically being a member of an organization that showed, you know, people are really interested in the Second Amendment and the Bill of Rights. So,

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1	that's why.
2	TIM GRACE: (Indiscernible).
3	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yeah,
4	basically the legal challenges involved in
5	protecting the Second Amendment.
6	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And you said
7	you had this membership for three or four months,
8	correct?
9	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes.
10	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And do you know
11	what type of membership you had?
12	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I do not
13	recall; I just remember signing up. After some
14	months, after making some payments, I stopped
15	making payments to them because I just saw
16	nothing on the website that were showing
17	anything, doing any progress. So, I thought it
18	was a waste of money at the time.
19	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And now, do
20	you remember what email address you gave them?
21	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: It would
22	have to be this one, I'm assuming. That's my
23	only old email,
24	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Which I had

1	for several years.
2	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And did you
3	participate in any events
4	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No.
5	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: for the Oath
6	Keepers? Did you ever receive emails from the
7	Oath Keepers during this time?
8	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I don't
9	recall. I don't believe so, because all I saw
10	was the website. I didn't receive any emails, I
11	don't believe.
12	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And now, at
13	the same point, you mentioned the Illinois Rifle
14	Association. Was that part of the Oath Keepers?

Association. Was that part of the Oath Keepers?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No, it was separate. They were just separate.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Do you remember how you paid for the membership to the Oath Keepers?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I want to say either credit card or a debit card.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And you did say for the record, you never participated in any Oath Keepers events?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No events,

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Page 14 no meetings. 1 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: So, it's possible that your credit card information or debit card, 3 would have been associated with the Oath Keepers 4 leaked information? 5 OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I believe, 6 7 maybe. SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And the 8 information you provided to get this membership, 9 what did you have to provide to become an Oath 10 11 Keeper? OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: " I don't 12 13 recall. SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Could it 14 15 have -- did you have to provide your name? OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: 16 TIM GRACE: (Indiscernible). 17 OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Okay. 18 19 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you have to provide your address? 20 OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes. 21 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And your email? 22 23 OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO:

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And a phone number?

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1	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Did you ever
2	participate in any Oath Keepers private chat
3	rooms
4	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No.
5	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: during this
6	time? Do you have any social media platforms?
7	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No.
8	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you follow any
9	social media platforms?
10	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No.
11	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: After the three
12	months of stop payment, did you have any other
13	involvement with the Oath Keepers?
14	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No.
15	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever
16	receive any literature or emails from them?
17	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I think,
18	initially when I signed up, they sent an envelope
19	with a pocket-sized Constitution.
20	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.
21	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I think it
22	also included a Bill of Rights.
23	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. How long did
24	you get information from the Oath Keepers?
25	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: That was it.

1	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And now,
2	what do you know about the Oath Keepers today?
3	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Exact what I
4	see on the news, that they're a far-right wing
5	extreme group.
6	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And did you believe
7	that you still had any do you believe at this
8	point you had any involvement with the Oath
9	Keepers from back then?
10	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I'm sorry,
11	can you repeat the question?
12	TIM GRACE: Do you have continued
13	connection
14	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Yeah. Did you
15	believe that you had a continued connection to
16	the Oath Keepers?
17	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No. No.
18	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And no one
19	from the Oath Keepers ever tried to contact you
20	to get remark
21	OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Never.
22	SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Okay, I
23	showed you prior to the start of the audio
24	recording, I showed you this NPR article,
25	identified as Exhibit 2, which you initialed,

1 | went through and initialed.

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OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did anyone from the newspaper attempt to try to call you?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Did you give a statement?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: He asked me questions pertaining to my membership to the organization, but not speaking on the behalf of the department.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And what did you tell him?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: At one time,

I -- basically, the same thing, that I initially

joined the Oath Keepers, because it was the

Second Amendment was under attack and I just felt

like it was an organization that might be helpful

for that.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And who was attacking the Second Amendment?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Basically the, I guess everybody was, they wanted to get rid of the Second Amendment, at that time. I think that even Illinois, I think maybe

- 1 | federally, but more Illinois, I think.
- 2 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And this is back in
- 3 | 2009 and --
- 4 OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: In 2009,
- 5 | 2012, somewhere around there. I can't remember -
- 6 -- recall exactly what year I signed up.
- 7 | SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever make -
- 8 did make any other comments to this NPR?
- 9 OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Not that I
- 10 can recall.
- 11 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: During the time
- 12 | that you were a member of an Oath Keeper, did you
- 13 | ever not comply with an order given to you by a
- 14 | CPD supervisor because it conflicted with --
- 15 OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No.
- 16 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: -- what the Oath
- 17 | Keepers were saying?
- 18 OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No
- 19 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Were you
- 20 | ever disciplined for not complying with an order
- 21 or directive because it didn't comply with the
- 22 Oath Keepers?
- 23 OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No
- 24 | SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Did you ever
- 25 notify a supervisor that the newspaper reached

- 1 out to you for comment?
- OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Supervisor?

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SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And then did you ever generate any reports or documentation about being notified by the newspaper?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

SGT. SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: So, approximately between 2009 and 2012 is when you joined the Oath Keepers?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes.

SGT. SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Where were you assigned?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I want to say it's either, I was in MSF, or I was teaching NATO. I just can't remember when.

SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Okay. And then how did you hear about the Oath Keepers?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I think someone just mentioned it to me, and to take a look at it. It looked like a good organization, and that was it. I -- at that time I looked at it, myself personally went through the website and I looked at the Illinois State Rifle

Association, and that's when I made a decision to go ahead and support it.

SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Was there a correlation between the Rifle Association and the Oath Keepers?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I just felt like they were, at that time, both organizations were going to protect the Second Amendment, or try to help protect them, you know, with legal help, you know.

SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Okay. Was there something specific that made you stop being a member of the Oath Keepers?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I got nothing on that website when I was looking at it, monthly to see where, you know, what they were doing, you know, with my membership, and it seemed like they weren't really doing anything, and so I just stopped making payments.

SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: And then that Hotmail address that I think is in Exhibit 1 -- OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes.

SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: -- what time frame did you use --

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I used this

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- when I got activated from 9-11, I believe, so probably 2001 through maybe when I got separated, probably about five or six years ago. So, 2018, maybe -- 2019.
- 5 SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: And did you 6 stop using it or did you deactivate it?
 - OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No, I just stopped using it. I have old military guys that still send me emails through there.
- SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Okay. So, do

 11 you still utilize that email address -- the

 12 Hotmail?
 - OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I don't use it as my -- no, I just use it to -- when people send me email from the military, that's it.
- 16 SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Okay.
- OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I don't use it for anything, except to get emails from all the guys.
- SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Okay. That's all I have.
- SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you know if the
 Oath Keepers is a 501(c)(3)?
- OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: I don't even
- 25 know.

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SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Hum. Okay. At this point, Officer Retamozo, I'm going to read to you a verbal and direct order identified as Addendum A.

You are hereby ordered both verbally and in writing form, by me, Sergeant Bartuch, Star Number 1598, on Thursday, February 1st, 2024, at 1239 hours, at 3510 South Michigan, Bureau of Internal Affairs, the following administrative order.

Police Officer Alberto Retamozo, you are ordered to deliver to the Bureau of Internal Affairs, a package addressed to me, Sergeant John Bartuch, Star Number 1598, on or before, Wednesday, 7 February 2024 at 10:00. This package will contain the following listed documents, any membership information that you still might have regarding the Oath Keepers, all dates for Oath Keepers meetings you may or may not have attended, all material gathered at Oath Keeper meetings, brochures, pamphlets, news articles, any payment information regarding Oath Keepers events and membership, any material you received from attending Oath Keepers events, pamphlets, brochures, news, and any emails, mail,

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or text messages received from the Oath Keepers. This order is hereby acknowledged at 1240 hours on 1 February 2024 by PO Alberto Retamozo.

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yeah.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And I'm going to give you this. This is the written order by -- you're going to acknowledge it and sign it regarding the order that I just gave you, the verbal order. And I think your counsel is going to want to say something about this.

TIM GRACE: Yeah, we'll acknowledge that the order, we believe this is an illegal order. Chicago Police Officers are not supposed to follow illegal orders. We don't think this illegal order is coming from Sergeant Bartuch or Sergeant Santiago. We understand it's coming from other people above us.

But we -- saying that we'll comply with this order in the sense that Officer Retamozo has no such information.

Is that accurate?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: Yes.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Hereby

24 acknowledged. Okay. Officer Retamozo, at this

point, is there anything you'd like to -- you

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wish to add to this statement? Is there anything relative to this incident that you wish to add to this statement?

OFFICER ALBERTO RETAMOZO: No.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: This now concludes the audio-recorded statement of Police Officer Alberto Retamozo, Star Number 12815, conducted by the Bureau of Internal Affairs, Investigator Sergeant John Bartuch, Star Number 1598, on 1 February 2024 regarding Log Number 2023-4935. Statement concluded at 1241 hours.

CERTIFICATION

I, Sonya Ledanski Hyde, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

11 Veritext Legal Solutions

12 330 Old Country Road

13 | Suite 300

14 Mineola, NY 11501

16 Date: February 23, 2024