



The Judicial Watch Verdict™

Because no one is above the law!® A News Publication from Judicial Watch • November 2009 • Volume 15 • Issue 11

JW Files Lawsuit Against City of Houston and Houston Police Department Over Deadly, Unlawful Illegal Immigration Sanctuary Policy

Houston, Texas is the latest city to earn the attention of Judicial Watch's legal department for supporting illegal alien sanctuary policies. Following a comprehensive two-year-long investigation, Judicial Watch filed a lawsuit in September against the City of Houston, the Houston Police Department and Houston Police Chief Harold Hurtt on behalf of Houston Police Sergeant Joslyn M. Johnson. Sergeant Johnson is the widow of former Houston Police officer Rodney J. Johnson, killed in the line of duty by an illegal alien three years ago, on September 21, 2006.

Judicial Watch's lawsuit, filed in the Harris County, Texas District Court, takes issue with the Houston Police Department's General Order 500-05, issued in 1992 by then-Police Chief Sam Nuchia, which prevents Houston police officers from asking about an individual's citizenship status or

The Houston Police Department's General Order 500-5, issued in 1992 by then-Police Chief Sam Nuchia, prevents Houston police officers from asking about an individual's citizenship status or detaining illegal aliens.

detaining illegal aliens. According to Judicial Watch's complaint filed on September 18 in partnership with Houston attorney Ben Dominguez, II:

"Sergeant Johnson challenges current policies, practices, and procedures of the Houston Police Department that substantially restrict, if not prohibit, Plaintiff from communicating with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") about illegal aliens who are criminally present in the United States."

"Plaintiff does not seek to detain or arrest persons in order to inquire about their immigration status. Rather, Plaintiff seeks to use her professional judgment to determine when it is appropriate to contact ICE to inquire or provide information about a person's immigration status if, in the course of carrying out her duties and responsibilities as a law enforcement officer, she has reason to believe a crime may have been committed."

Judicial Watch's complaint maintains that Houston's illegal alien sanctuary policies harm Sergeant Johnson's ability "to fulfill her oath and otherwise carry out her duties and



Fallen Officer Sergeant Rodney J. Johnson was killed in the line of duty by an illegal alien.

responsibilities as a law enforcement officer," while also restricting Sergeant Johnson's freedom of expression.

Rodney Johnson is one of the many victims of illegal alien criminals let back on the streets by sanctuary policies.

On September 21, 2006, Officer Johnson was making a routine traffic stop when he was shot and killed by Juan Leonardo Quintero-Perez, a previously deported Mexican national who had re-entered and was living in the U.S. illegally. After re-entering the U.S. illegally, Quintero-Perez had multiple interactions with the Houston Police Department before shooting and killing Officer Johnson, including at least one arrest for driving under the influence and citations for failing to stop and give information following an accident and driving with a suspended license.

As Judicial Watch notes in its lawsuit, "But for the Houston Police

Department's policies, practices, and procedures that substantially restrict, if not prohibit its officers from sharing information with ICE, Officer Rodney Johnson may be alive today."

"Houston's illegal alien sanctuary policy is not only illegal, but it has also placed the public safety at risk. Sergeant Johnson simply wants the Houston Police Department to obey federal law and help avert more senseless killings and other crimes," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "The Houston Police Department needs to end policies that frustrate the communication between officers of the law and federal immigration officials." **JW**



Houston Police Sergeant Joslyn M. Johnson is the widow of former Houston Police Officer Rodney J. Johnson, killed in the line of duty by an illegal alien on September 21, 2006.



Judicial Watch Board of Directors

Chris Farrell
Tom Fitton
Paul Orfanedes

Editorial Consultant

Brandon Millett

Circulation Director

John Albertella

Design Consultant

Jeanne Minnix Graphic Design, Inc.

Public Relations Director

Jill Farrell

Production Manager

Federico Lines

Telephone

(202) 646-5172 or 1 (888) 593-8442

Fax

(202) 646-5199

Email

info@judicialwatch.org

Internet Site

www.JudicialWatch.org

Send your comments and questions to

Editor, *Verdict* c/o
Info@JudicialWatch.org.

Annual suggested donation is \$35.

Requests should be sent to:

Judicial Watch *Verdict*
Judicial Watch, Inc.
425 Third St., SW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20024

The Judicial Watch *Verdict*[™] is published monthly and distributed to its members, supporters and interested parties by Judicial Watch, Inc., a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization incorporated in 1994 in the District of Columbia.

© 2009 Judicial Watch, Inc. All rights reserved.

Editorial content may be duplicated with attribution and without permission.

November 2009 • Vol. 15 • Issue 11