## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

DANIEL J. CAPESIUS, I	RICHARD T.	)	
CLUCAS, JR., JOSEPH	DES JARDINS,	)	
LYNN M. FISHMAN, CARL HASTEN,			
LINDA THOMPSON, TORY WIDEMAN,			
and all others similarly si	tuated,	)	
		)	Case No.:
Pl	aintiffs,	)	
		)	
V.		)	Judge:
		)	Magistrate Judge:
CITY OF EVANSTON,		)	
		)	
De	fendant.	)	

### **COMPLAINT**

Plaintiffs, Daniel J. Capesius ("Capesius"), Richard T. Clucas, Jr. ("Clucas"), Joseph Des Jardins ("Des Jardins"), Lynn M. Fishman ("Fishman"), Carl Hasten ("Hasten"), Linda Thompson ("Thompson"), Tory Wideman ("Wideman"), and all others similarly situated, by and through their attorneys, Ryan A. Hagerty, Matthew Pierce, and Naomi Frisch of Asher, Gittler & D'Alba, Ltd., hereby complain of Defendant, the City of Evanston, for violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. ("FLSA"), and the Illinois Minimum Wage Law, 820 ILCS 105/1 et seq. ("IMWL"). In support of their Complaint, Plaintiffs state and allege as follows:

### **NATURE OF THIS ACTION**

1. This is an action to recover unpaid overtime compensation and other relief under the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 207, 216, and the IMWL, 820 ILCS 105/4(a). Since at least 2004 and continuing through December of 2021, Plaintiffs and all others similarly situated have been paid only straight-time pay for all hours worked over forty in a seven-day workweek. Plaintiffs seek relief in the form of compensation at one and one-half times their regular rate(s) of pay for all

hours worked in excess of forty in each seven-day workweek that falls within the applicable statute of limitations period, liquidated damages under the FLSA, treble damages plus interest due under the IMWL, and all attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing this action.

### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. Jurisdiction for this action is conferred upon this Court by 28 U.S.C. § 1331, arising under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state law claim pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 3. Venue in this district is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and (c) because the unlawful employment practices occurred in this judicial district, and Defendant has its principal place of business in this judicial district.

### **PARTIES**

- 4. At all relevant times, Plaintiffs and all others similarly situated are or were "employees," as that term is defined within the meaning of Section 203(e) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(e), of Defendant City of Evanston.
- 5. At all relevant times, Plaintiffs and all others similarly situated are or were "employees" of Defendant within the meaning of Section 3(d) of the IMWL, 820 ILCS 105/3(d).
- 6. Plaintiffs bring this action on their own behalf and on behalf of all other current and former employees similarly situated to them pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). A copy of each named Plaintiff's consent form is attached hereto and contemporaneously filed herewith.
- 7. Defendant City of Evanston is a municipality and public employer located in Cook County, Illinois, in this judicial district. Defendant City of Evanston is a "public agency" as that term is defined in Section 203(x) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(x).

2

- 8. At all relevant times, Defendant City of Evanston was considered an "enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce" for purposes of Section 203(s) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(s)(1)(C).
- 9. At all relevant times, Defendant City of Evanston was an "employer" of Plaintiffs and all others similarly situated as that term is defined in Section 203(d) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d), and, as such, was (and still is) subject to the provisions of Section 7 of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 207.
- 10. At all relevant times, Defendant City of Evanston was an "employer" of Plaintiffs and all others similarly situated within the meaning of Section 3(c) of the IMWL, 820 ILCS 105/3(c).

### FACTS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

- 11. Defendant City of Evanston's Police Department oversees and is responsible for the staffing of the 911-Emergency Telephone Systems Board, which is located in the City of Evanston.
- 12. At all relevant times, Plaintiffs have worked as 911 Dispatchers, or "telecommunicators," for Defendant City of Evanston, working within the City's Police Department.
- 13. Plaintiffs' positions as "telecommunicator" are non-exempt positions for purposes of the FLSA and the IMWL.
  - 14. Plaintiffs are or were non-sworn employees of the City's Police Department.
- 15. As civilian, non-sworn employees, Plaintiffs and all others similarly situated are not subject to any exemption under section 207(k) of the FLSA and are specifically excluded from such exemption pursuant to 29 C.F.R. § 553.211(g).

- 16. Plaintiff Daniel J. Capesius has been employed as a telecommunicator at the City of Evanston since 1991.
- 17. Plaintiff Richard T. Clucas, Jr. has been employed as a telecommunicator at the City of Evanston since 1999.
- 18. Plaintiff Joseph Des Jardins was employed as a telecommunicator at the City of Evanston beginning in 2001 and retired in June 2021.
- 19. Plaintiff Lynn M. Fishman was employed as a telecommunicator at the City of Evanston beginning in 1990 and retired in April 2021.
- 20. Plaintiff Carl Hasten has been employed as a telecommunicator at the City of Evanston since 2005.
- 21. Plaintiff Linda Thompson has been employed as a telecommunicator at the City of Evanston since 2004.
- 22. Plaintiff Tory Wideman has been employed as a telecommunicator at the City of Evanston since 2003.
  - 23. Plaintiffs and all others similarly situated are paid an hourly rate for their work.
- 24. Prior to 2004, Plaintiffs Capesius, Clucas, Jr., Des Jardins, Fishman, and Wideman and Defendant's other telecommunicators worked 8-hour days.
- 25. Beginning in 2004, Plaintiffs' schedules and the schedules of all other telecommunicators were changed from an 8-hour work day to a 12-hour work day. From 2004 through the present, telecommunicators have worked the following schedule in a rotating pattern:
  - a. 2 days on, 2 days off
  - b. 3 days on, 2 days off
  - c. 2 days on, 3 days off

- 26. Due to the schedule described above, in any given seven-day period, Plaintiffs would work either two 12-hour shifts or five 12-hour shifts, for a total of 24 hours (minus one half-hour unpaid lunch per shift) one week, 60 hours (minus one half-hour unpaid lunch per shift) the next week, and 84 hours (minus one half-hour unpaid lunch per shift) total in each fourteen-day period.
- 27. Since 2004 and continuing through December of 2021, Plaintiffs were paid their straight-time hourly rate of pay (i.e., their regular rate of pay) for all hours worked in accordance with the above schedule. Thus, in workweeks in which each Plaintiff worked five, 12-hour shifts, each Plaintiff would work a minimum of 17.5 hours (i.e., 20 hours less one, 30-minute, unpaid meal period per shift) in excess of forty (40), but would not receive compensation for such hours at one-and-one-half times their regular rate of pay (i.e., the overtime rate) as required by the FLSA and the IMWL. This typically happened every other workweek for each Plaintiff since 2004.
- 28. In or about 2021, the United States Department of Labor ("DOL") conducted an investigation into the City of Evanston's pay and overtime practices. As a result of that investigation, on or about December 10, 2021, the DOL issued findings that the City of Evanston's practice of paying only straight time for all regularly-scheduled hours worked by telecommunicators in excess of forty in a seven-day period violated the FLSA. The DOL directed the City of Evanston to demonstrate compliance with the FLSA moving forward.
- 29. On or about December 15, 2021, the City of Evanston notified all telecommunicators that it would be prospectively modifying its overtime policy and practices in an attempt to comply with the FLSA. As of the date of this filing, the City of Evanston has not made any payment to compensate Plaintiffs and other telecommunicators for the years that they were deprived of overtime pay in violation of the FLSA.

### **COUNT I**

(Failure to pay overtime in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 207(a))

- 30. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate all previous paragraphs of this Complaint as though set forth fully herein.
- 31. By failing and refusing to pay Plaintiffs, and all other similarly situated employees, one and one-half times their regular rates of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours during multiple workweeks occurring within the three years preceding the date on which this Complaint was filed, as alleged in detail above, Defendant has violated Sections 207 and 215(a)(2) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 207, 215(a)(2).
- 32. Defendant's violations of the FLSA were willful in that Defendant's failure to pay the proper overtime compensation was done knowingly and intentionally in violation of the FLSA or with reckless disregard for Defendant's obligations under the FLSA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Daniel J. Capesius, Richard T. Clucas, Jr., Joseph Des Jardins, Lynn M. Fishman, Carl Hasten, Linda Thompson, Tory Wideman, and all others similarly situated, pray that judgment be entered against Defendant as follows:

- A. A declaratory judgment finding that Defendant willfully violated Sections 207 and 215(a)(2) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 207 and 215(a)(2).
- B. A money judgment against Defendant for all sums which may be found to be due to Plaintiffs, and all other similarly situated employees, as compensatory damages, interest, liquidated damages, attorneys' fees and costs.
- C. An order directing all other and additional relief deemed just and proper by the Court.

### **COUNT II**

(Failure to Pay Overtime in Violation of the Illinois Minimum Wage Law, 820 ILCS 105/4)

- 33. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate all previous paragraphs of this Complaint as though set forth fully herein.
- 34. By failing and refusing to pay Plaintiffs, and all other similarly situated employees, one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours during multiple workweeks occurring within the three years preceding the date on which the Complaint was filed, as alleged in detail above, Defendant has violated Section 4a of the Illinois Minimum Wage Law, 820 ILCS 105/4a.
- 34. Defendant's violations of the IMWL were willful in that Defendant's failure to pay the proper overtime compensation was done knowingly and intentionally in violation of the IMWL or with reckless disregard for Defendant's obligations under the IMWL.

**WHEREFORE,** Plaintiffs Daniel J. Capesius, Richard T. Clucas, Jr., Joseph Des Jardins, Lynn M. Fishman, Carl Hasten, Linda Thompson, Tory Wideman, and all others similarly situated, pray that judgment be entered against Defendant as follows:

- A. A declaratory judgment finding that Defendant willfully violated Section 4a of the IMWL, 820 ILCS 105/4a.
- B. A money judgment against Defendant for all sums which may be found to be due to Plaintiffs, and all other similarly situated employees, as compensatory damages, treble damages, damages in the amount of 5% of the amount of any underpayments for each month following the date of payment during which such underpayments remain underpaid, attorneys' fees and costs.

C. An order directing all other and additional relief deemed just and proper by the Court.

## **JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Plaintiffs request a jury trial on all questions of fact raised by the Complaint.

Respectfully submitted,		
/s/ Ryan A. Hagerty		
/s/ Matt Pierce		
/s/ Naomi Frisch		

Ryan A. Hagerty
Matt Pierce
Naomi Frisch
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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

ILND 44 (Rev. 09/20) Case: 1:22-cv-01754 Decembert #.QYFResH04/05/22 Page 1 of 1 PageID #:9

The ILND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing 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 use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (See instructions on next page of this form.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDA	NTS				
Daniel J. Capesius, Richard T. Clucas, Jr., Joseph Des Jardins, Lynn M. Fishman, Carl Hasten, Linda Thompson, Tory Wideman, et al.			1. City of Evans	City of Evanston				
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Cook County, Illinois (Except in U.S. plaintiff cases)			(In U.S. plaintiff	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (In U.S. plaintiff cases only)  Note: In land condemnation cases, use the location of the tract of land involved.				
(c) Attorneys (firm name, address, and telephone number)			Attorneys (If I	Attorneys (If Known)				
. ,	a, Ltd., 200 W. Jackson Blvd	., Suite 720, Chicago	, IL					
60606. (312) 263-150		, , ,						
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Check one box, only.)	II			RINCIPAL PARTIES	For Diversity Cases Only.)		
1 U.S. Government ■3 Federal Question		(Check <u>one</u> box, only for p	laintiff and PTF	d <u>one</u> box for defendant.) DEF	PTF DEF			
Plaintiff (U.S. Government not a party.)		party.)	Citizen of This State	□ 1	Incorporated or Princ Business in This State			
U.S. Government Defendant			Citizen of Another Stat	te 🔲 2	2 Incorporated and Prir of Business in Another			
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	□ 3	☐ 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6		
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Check <u>one</u> box, only.)	TC .	PRISONER PETI	ITIONS	LABOR	OTHER STATUTES		
110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJUI	510 Motions to Vac		710 Fair Labor Standards	375 False Claims Act		
☐ 120 Marine	☐ 310 Airplane	☐ 530 General	Sentence    530 General		Act  720 Labor/Management	376 Qui Tam (31 USC		
120 Marine	315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander	☐ 367 Health Care/	☐ 535 Death Penalty		Relations	☐ 3729 (a)) ☐ 400 State Reapportionment		
☐ 130 Miller Act	☐ 330 Federal Employers'	Pharmaceutical Personal Injury	Habeas Corpus:		☐ 740 Railway Labor Act	410 Antitrust		
☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability 340 Marine	Product Liability  ☐ 368 Asbestos Person	' <u> _</u>	Other	740 Kanway Labor Act 751 Family and Medical	430 Banks and Banking		
150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle	Injury Product Liability	☐550 Civil Rights ☐555 Prison Conditio		Leave Act 790 Other Labor Litigation	450 Commerce 460 Deportation		
☐ 151 Medicare Act	355 Motor Vehicle Product	•	560 Civil Detainee -		791 Employee Retirement	470 Racketeer Influenced		
152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan	Liability 360 Other Personal Injury	PERSONAL PROPER	Conditions of Confinemen	t	Income Security Act	and Corrupt Organizations		
(Excludes Veterans)	362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	☐ 370 Other Fraud			PROPERTY RIGHTS	480 Consumer Credit		
☐ 153 Recovery of Veteran's Benefits	Mapraetice	☐ 371 Truth in Lending	5		820 Copyright	485 Telephone Consumer		
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits		380 Other Personal			830 Patent	Protection Act (TCPA)		
☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability		Property Dama			835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application	☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV ☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/		
☐ 196 Franchise		Product Liabilit	у		840 Trademark 880 Defend Trade Secrets	Exchange  ☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions		
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	BANKRUPTCY	FORFEITURE/PI	CNIAT TW	Act of 2016 (DTSA)	☐ 891 Agricultural Arts		
210 Land Condemnation	440 Other Civil Rights	422 Appeal 28 USC	158 G 625 Drug Related S		SOCIAL SECURITY  861 HIA (1395ff)	893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information		
220 Foreclosure	441 Voting	423 Withdrawal	of Property 21 USC 881		862 Black Lung (923)	Act		
☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment☐ 240 Torts to Land☐	☐ 442 Employment ☐ 443 Housing/Accommodations	28 USC 157	690 Other		863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	896 Arbitration 899 Administrative		
☐ 245 Tort Product Liability	445 Amer. w/ Disabilities-	IMMIGRATION			864 SSID Title XVI	Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of		
☐ 290 All Other Real Property	Employment  446 Amer. w/Disabilities -	462 Naturalization Application			865 RSI (405(g))	Agency Decision ☐ 950 Constitutionality of		
	Other  448 Education	☐ 463 Habeas Corpus – Alien Detainee	-		FEDERAL TAXES  870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	State Statutes		
	☐ 448 Education	(Prisoner Petitic			or Defendant			
		465 Other Immigration Actions	on		☐ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609			
V. ORIGIN (Check one box,				. T		0.36.128.22		
■ 1 Original □ 2 Removed from □ 3 Remanded from □ 4 Reinstated □ 5 Transferred □ 6 Multidistrict □ 8 Multidistrict □ 8 Multidistrict □ 6 Multidistrict □ 8 Multidistrict □ 7 Transfer □ 1 District □ 8 Multidistrict □ 8 Multidistr								
			VII DDEVIOU	(spec	• /	28 (For motives ofit 400 1		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Enter U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of cause.)  29 U.S.C. §§ 207 and 216 - Unpaid overtime under FLSA  VII. PREVIOUS BANKRUPTCY MATTERS (For nature of suit 422 and 423, enter the case number and judge for any associated bankruptcy matter previously adjudicated by a judge of this Court. Use a separate attachment if necessary.)								
VIII. REQUESTED IN	*	s action under Rule 23	, Demand \$		CHECK Yes only if d	emanded in complaint:		
<b>COMPLAINT:</b>	☐ F.R.CV.P.				Jury Demand: 🔳 🗅	Yes No		
IX. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions): Judge Case Number								
X. Is this a previously dismissed or remanded case?								
Date: 4/5/2022 Signature of Attorney of Record /s/ Ryan A. Hagerty								

I, Daniel J. Capesius	, hereby consent to sue my employer, the City of
Evanston, as well as any necessary agent	or representative of that entity, pursuant to Section
216(b) of the Fair Labor Standards Act ("	FLSA"), for the purpose of asserting any and all claims
for overtime compensation and any relate	d claims for benefits, interest payments/penalties, and
damages - including, but not limited to, a	ny liquidated and/or treble damages – under the FLSA
and any similar federal or state wage and	hour law. I agree to allow this consent to apply to all
of the overtime and benefits claims referre	ed to in this consent form, whether such claims are
asserted in an initial or any amended com-	plaint. I authorize the law firm of Asher, Gittler &
D'Alba, Ltd. to represent me in said laws	uit. I understand the nature of the suit and execute this
consent voluntarily and freely.	

(Plaintiff's Signature)

Date: 04/04/2022

I, Tickard T.Cluces, Sr., hereby consent to sue my employer, the City of Evanston, as well as any necessary agent or representative of that entity, pursuant to Section 216(b) of the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), for the purpose of asserting any and all claims for overtime compensation and any related claims for benefits, interest payments/penalties, and damages – including, but not limited to, any liquidated and/or treble damages – under the FLSA and any similar federal or state wage and hour law. I agree to allow this consent to apply to all of the overtime and benefits claims referred to in this consent form, whether such claims are asserted in an initial or any amended complaint. I authorize the law firm of Asher, Gittler & D'Alba, Ltd. to represent me in said lawsuit. I understand the nature of the suit and execute this consent voluntarily and freely.

(Plaintiff's Signature)

Date: 4/4/22

I, <u>Joseph Des Jardins</u> , hereby consent to sue my employer, the City of
Evanston, as well as any necessary agent or representative of that entity, pursuant to Section
216(b) of the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), for the purpose of asserting any and all claims
for overtime compensation and any related claims for benefits, interest payments/penalties, and
damages - including, but not limited to, any liquidated and/or treble damages - under the FLSA
and any similar federal or state wage and hour law. I agree to allow this consent to apply to all
of the overtime and benefits claims referred to in this consent form, whether such claims are
asserted in an initial or any amended complaint. I authorize the law firm of Asher, Gittler &
D'Alba, Ltd. to represent me in said lawsuit. I understand the nature of the suit and execute this
consent voluntarily and freely.
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(Plaintiff's Signature)

04/01/2022 Date:

(Plaintiff's Signature)

Date: 04/02/2022

I, CARL W HASTEW, hereby consent to sue my employer, the City of Evanston, as well as any necessary agent or representative of that entity, pursuant to Section 216(b) of the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), for the purpose of asserting any and all claims for overtime compensation and any related claims for benefits, interest payments/penalties, and damages – including, but not limited to, any liquidated and/or treble damages – under the FLSA and any similar federal or state wage and hour law. I agree to allow this consent to apply to all of the overtime and benefits claims referred to in this consent form, whether such claims are asserted in an initial or any amended complaint. I authorize the law firm of Asher, Gittler & D'Alba, Ltd. to represent me in said lawsuit. I understand the nature of the suit and execute this consent voluntarily and freely.

(Plaintiff's Signature)

Date: 4/1/2022

Case: 1:22-cv-01754 Document #: 1-2 Filed: 04/05/22 Page 6 of 7 PageID #:15

## **PLAINTIFF'S CONSENT FORM**

I, Linda S. Tompson, hereby consent to sue my employer, the City of Evanston, as well as any necessary agent or representative of that entity, pursuant to Section 216(b) of the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), for the purpose of asserting any and all claims for overtime compensation and any related claims for benefits, interest payments/penalties, and damages – including, but not limited to, any liquidated and/or treble damages – under the FLSA and any similar federal or state wage and hour law. I agree to allow this consent to apply to all of the overtime and benefits claims referred to in this consent form, whether such claims are asserted in an initial or any amended complaint. I authorize the law firm of Asher, Gittler & D'Alba, Ltd. to represent me in said lawsuit. I understand the nature of the suit and execute this consent voluntarily and freely.

Raintiff's Signature)

Date: 4/1/22

I, Tory William, hereby consent to sue my employer, the City of Evanston, as well as any necessary agent or representative of that entity, pursuant to Section 216(b) of the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), for the purpose of asserting any and all claims for overtime compensation and any related claims for benefits, interest payments/penalties, and damages – including, but not limited to, any liquidated and/or treble damages – under the FLSA and any similar federal or state wage and hour law. I agree to allow this consent to apply to all of the overtime and benefits claims referred to in this consent form, whether such claims are asserted in an initial or any amended complaint. I authorize the law firm of Asher, Gittler & D'Alba, Ltd. to represent me in said lawsuit. I understand the nature of the suit and execute this consent voluntarily and freely.

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(Plaintiff' Signature)