

BOARD EXONERATES HURLEY

Says Charges Made At Ward Trial Are Without Foundation.

Following a thorough investigation, the Police Board at a special meeting yesterday afternoon exonerated Sergt. Charles E. Hurley, of the Northwestern district, from the charges made during the trial of Capt. Bernard J. Ward, who was dismissed on New Year's Day, to the effect that he had accepted presents from Robert E. Miller, who formerly conducted a saloon at 6 South Eden street, when the Sergeant was in the Eastern district.

Mr. Miller appeared at the trial of Captain Ward as a witness for the defense and made a statement reflecting upon Sergeant Hurley as an officer in the Eastern district. The Police Board investigated the statement, and after examining a number of persons who were supposed to have some knowledge of Sergeant Hurley accepting money and presents came to the conclusion yesterday that there was no foundation for the charges.

The charges made during Captain Ward's trial that Sergt. Frank Plum, of the Northwestern district, had accepted money from Marie Colder, 818 McCulloh street, and from proprietors of disorderly houses while the Sergeant was under Captain Ward in the Northwestern district, are now being investigated by the Police Board. The woman was before the board yesterday and testified along the same lines she did at the trial, that Plum had demanded money from her for police protection and that he tried to close her place up.

It is believed that the insinuations made at the trial of Captain Ward against Sergeant Plum and others will all be thrown out following a thorough sifting which the board is making. Patrolman Stapf will also be brought before the board this week on the charge of being intoxicated while on duty. He is said to have reported for duty one day in November while under the influence of liquor. This will be investigated by the board.

Lieut. James T. Casey, of the Northern district, asked the Police Board yesterday to permit him to take legal action against Mr. Harry B. Wolf, one of the attorneys who defended Captain Ward, who is alleged to have made scurrilous statements against the Lieutenant when he was giving his closing argument on January 1 at the trial of Captain Ward. The board notified Lieutenant Casey that he had its consent to act. The reply made by the board also stated that it had the fullest confidence in the testimony made by Lieutenant Casey at the trial, when he stated that Captain Ward had instructed him to change a charge on the police blotter while he was at the Northwestern district under Captain Ward.