

# Police Officer's Family Frustrated by Lack of Progress on His Killing

## Probe of '07 slaying of officer criticized

By Angela Rozas

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**(January 22, 2009)** There are moments when his family thinks of the good times, of the officer's quiet fortitude and resilience, of his laughter and his love of sports. And there are times when all they can think of is the day that he was killed.

Two years ago next month, José Vazquez, an eight-year Chicago police veteran, was returning home from a second job when he was shot to death in an alley near his West Side home.

Family members say they are frustrated that their brother's killer has still not been found.

"It's just embarrassing that one of their own has died, and they haven't done anything about it," said his brother, Jack Vazquez, a Chicago firefighter.

Initially, the family said, it received information about progress on the case. But detectives have not updated them in the last year or so, other than to say they are still working on it, the family said.

Vazquez's brother and sister, Nancy, have hired attorney **Tamara Holder** to try to push the investigation forward. In a meeting last summer with Police Supt. Jody Weis, Holder said, Weis promised better communication from detectives, but she said little more has been done.

"If they are on top of it, at least give the family some information," **Holder** said recently. "Tell them they're pursuing it. Give them some idea that they are pushing to solve this."

But Weis insisted that police have kept the family involved.

"There has been ongoing communication between the department and the family of Vazquez to ensure they are kept apprised of pertinent developments," he said in a written statement in response to questions. "Without compromising the investigation, we cannot comment on the status."

Police sources in the past have said that the slaying was believed to be part of a botched robbery and that the killer or killers fled with Vazquez's wallet and cell phone. But Vazquez's brother said he has been told conflicting stories about whether it was actually a robbery.

He and his sister questioned whether Vazquez's assignment to the scandal-plagued Special Operations Section at the time of his death put his life in danger.

In a statement, Weis denied Vazquez's assignment had anything to do with his death.

Both family members said they believed that because he was a police officer, Vazquez's case should be a priority, even two years after his slaying.

Weis insisted that the case remains important.

"The Vazquez investigation remains a top priority for the Chicago Police Department," he said.