

## Appeals court: Cops held suspect too long

In a decision that could bode poorly for the city, a federal appeals court ruled Friday that police violated the rights of a Chicago man in 2000 when they held him in an interrogation room for at least four days without bringing him before a judge.

Joseph Lopez alleged that police arrested him in the July 2000 shooting of a 12-year-old boy and then kept him shackled to an interrogation room wall without proper food or sleep.

Police later cleared Lopez, then 18, and charged another man with the killing.

In the ruling on Friday, the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said that a federal judge was

wrong to throw out Lopez's civil suit after a March 2005 trial.

"There was no dispute that they detained him for five days" when the usual limit is 48 hours, Judge Diane Sykes wrote for a unanimous three-judge panel.

The appeals court granted judgment for Lopez on his claim that he was confined too long without being charged. He will get a new trial on his damages.

The city faces a class action suit in which the plaintiffs say they were held longer than 48 hours in interrogation rooms.

City officials could ask the appeals court to rehear the case or try to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.