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5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
6 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
7

8 BRIAN CAPUTO,

9 Plaintiff,

10 v.

11 GONZALEZ and BLACK,

12 Defendants.  
13

Case No. 1:15-cv-01008-EPG (PC)

ORDER DENYING DEFENDANT  
BLACK'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY  
JUDGMENT

(ECF NO. 180)

14 **I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

15 Brian Caputo ("Plaintiff") is a prisoner<sup>1</sup> proceeding *pro se* and *in forma pauperis* in this  
16 this civil rights action filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The parties have consented to  
17 magistrate judge jurisdiction and this action has been referred to the undersigned "for all  
18 purposes within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), to conduct any and all further proceedings  
19 in the case, including the trial and entry of final judgment." (ECF No. 195, p. 2).

20 This action now proceeds on Plaintiff's claim for violation of his Fourteenth  
21 Amendment due process rights against defendant Black, for retaliation in violation of the First  
22 Amendment against defendant Gonzalez, and for excessive force in violation of the Fourteenth  
23 Amendment against defendant Gonzalez. (ECF Nos. 93 & 195).

24 The deadline for filing dispositive motions passed without either party filing such a  
25 motion. On May 23, 2019, defendant Black filed a motion for leave to file a motion for  
26 summary judgment. (ECF No. 173). Based on the representations in the motion, on May 30,  
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28 <sup>1</sup> Plaintiff was detained at Kern County Jail at the time of the incidents alleged in the complaint. He is  
now incarcerated at USP Yazoo City.

1 2019, the Court found good cause to modify the schedule to a limited extent, and granted  
2 defendant Black leave to file a motion for summary judgment within two weeks. (ECF No.  
3 177).

4 On June 13, 2019, defendant Black filed a motion for summary judgment. (ECF No.  
5 180). Defendant Black moved for summary judgment on the following bases: 1) Plaintiff  
6 failed to exhaust his available administrative remedies; 2) Plaintiff failed to state a claim; 3)  
7 Defendant Black did not violate Plaintiff's Fourteenth Amendment due process rights; and 4)  
8 Defendant Black is entitled to qualified immunity. (Id. at 1-2).

9 On June 18, 2019, Chief District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill, who was the presiding  
10 judge on the case at the time, issued an order striking the first and second bases of the motion  
11 for summary judgement because they were "beyond the scope of what the Court allowed in the  
12 May 30, 2019 order." (ECF No. 182, p. 3) (citation omitted).

13 On July 8, 2019, Plaintiff filed his opposition to the motion for summary judgment.  
14 (ECF No. 194). On July 12, 2019, defendant Black filed her reply. (ECF No. 196).

15 Defendant Black's motion for summary judgment is now before the Court. For the  
16 reasons that follow, the Court will recommend that defendant Black's motion for summary  
17 judgment be denied.

## 18 **II. PLAINTIFF'S CLAIMS**

19 In his Fourth Amended Complaint (ECF No. 43), Plaintiff alleges that on May 4, 2016,<sup>2</sup>  
20 at around 9:30 p.m., he had taken his evening medication when defendant Gonzalez pulled him  
21 out of pill line. Plaintiff then choked on water, and was yelled at by defendant Gonzalez, who  
22 accused Plaintiff of putting his pills in his locker. Plaintiff invited defendant Gonzalez to  
23 search his locker. Defendant Gonzalez declined. Defendant Gonzalez then stated "I am not  
24 turning on the T.V. and phones because Plaintiff (self) for the night."

25 Plaintiff asked for a grievance form, and defendant Gonzalez said "you want a  
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28 <sup>2</sup> According to defendant Black, the incident actually occurred on May 5, 2016. (ECF No. 180-5, pgs. 3-4, ¶ 7). The exact date of the incident is not relevant to the resolution of this motion for summary judgment. However, the Court will refer to the incident as having occurred on May 5, 2016.

1 grievance? There it is' (or I got your grievance form right here).” Defendant Gonzalez then  
2 pulled Plaintiff by his arm and shirt collar into the wall four times, before throwing Plaintiff to  
3 the floor and driving his knee into Plaintiff’s lower back. Plaintiff was never given a grievance  
4 form. After that incident Plaintiff had trouble sleeping or being around any officers. As a  
5 result of the incident, Plaintiff was put in disciplinary isolation from May 4, 2016, through  
6 November 22, 2016.

7 The Court screened Plaintiff’s complaint, and all claims and defendants were dismissed,  
8 “except for Plaintiff’s claims for violation of his Fourteenth Amendment due process rights  
9 against defendant Black and Doe Defendant(s), for retaliation in violation of the First  
10 Amendment against defendant Gonzalez, and for excessive force in violation of the Fourteenth  
11 Amendment against defendant Gonzalez.”<sup>3</sup> (ECF No. 93, p. 2).

12 On July 10, 2019, the remaining Doe Defendants were dismissed pursuant to Federal  
13 Rule of Civil Procedure 4(m). (ECF No. 195).

14 This action now proceeds only on Plaintiff’s claim for violation of his Fourteenth  
15 Amendment due process rights against defendant Black, for retaliation in violation of the First  
16 Amendment against defendant Gonzalez, and for excessive force in violation of the Fourteenth  
17 Amendment against defendant Gonzalez. (ECF Nos. 93 & 195).

18 Plaintiff’s claim against defendant Black is proceeding based on the allegation that he  
19 was placed in disciplinary isolation without receiving a due process hearing. (ECF No. 81, p.  
20 7; ECF No. 93).

### 21 **III. DEFENDANT BLACK’S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

#### 22 a. Legal Standards for Summary Judgment

23 Summary judgment in favor of a party is appropriate when there “is no genuine dispute  
24 as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.” Fed. R. Civ.  
25 P. 56(a); Albino v. Baca (“Albino II”), 747 F.3d 1162, 1169 (9th Cir. 2014) (*en banc*) (“If there  
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27 <sup>3</sup> The Fourteenth Amendment claim was originally proceeding only against Doe Defendants, but Plaintiff  
28 identified defendant Black as one of the Doe Defendants and defendant Black was substituted into the case (ECF  
No. 75).

1 is a genuine dispute about material facts, summary judgment will not be granted.”). A party  
2 asserting that a fact cannot be disputed must support the assertion by “citing to particular parts  
3 of materials in the record, including depositions, documents, electronically stored information,  
4 affidavits or declarations, stipulations (including those made for purposes of the motion only),  
5 admissions, interrogatory answers, or other materials, or showing that the materials cited do not  
6 establish the absence or presence of a genuine dispute, or that an adverse party cannot produce  
7 admissible evidence to support the fact.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c)(1).

8 A party moving for summary judgment “bears the initial responsibility of informing the  
9 district court of the basis for its motion, and identifying those portions of ‘the pleadings,  
10 depositions, answers to interrogatories, and admissions on file, together with the affidavits, if  
11 any,’ which it believes demonstrate the absence of a genuine issue of material fact.” Celotex  
12 Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 323 (1986) (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c)). If the moving party  
13 moves for summary judgment on the basis that a material fact lacks any proof, the Court must  
14 determine whether a fair-minded jury could reasonably find for the non-moving party.  
15 Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 252 (1986) (“The mere existence of a scintilla  
16 of evidence in support of the plaintiff’s position will be insufficient; there must be evidence on  
17 which the jury could reasonably find for the plaintiff.”). “[A] complete failure of proof  
18 concerning an essential element of the nonmoving party’s case necessarily renders all other  
19 facts immaterial.” Celotex, 477 U.S. at 322. “[C]onclusory allegations unsupported by factual  
20 data” are not enough to rebut a summary judgment motion. Taylor v. List, 880 F.2d 1040,  
21 1045 (9th Cir. 1989), citing Angel v. Seattle-First Nat’l Bank, 653 F.2d 1293, 1299 (9th Cir.  
22 1981).

23 In reviewing the evidence at the summary judgment stage, the Court “must draw all  
24 reasonable inferences in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party.” Comite de  
25 Jornaleros de Redondo Beach v. City of Redondo Beach, 657 F.3d 936, 942 (9th Cir. 2011). It  
26 need only draw inferences, however, where there is “evidence in the record... from which a  
27 reasonable inference... may be drawn...”; the court need not entertain inferences that are  
28 unsupported by fact. Celotex, 477 U.S. at 330 n. 2 (citation omitted). Additionally, “[t]he

1 evidence of the non-movant is to be believed....” Anderson, 477 U.S. at 255. Moreover, the  
2 Court must liberally construe Plaintiff’s filings because he is a prisoner proceeding *pro se* in  
3 this action. Thomas v. Ponder, 611 F.3d 1144, 1150 (9th Cir. 2010).

4 In reviewing a summary judgment motion, the Court may consider other materials in  
5 the record not cited to by the parties, but is not required to do so. Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c)(3);  
6 Carmen v. San Francisco Unified School Dist., 237 F.3d 1026, 1031 (9th Cir. 2001).

7 a. Defendant Black’s Position

8 Defendant Black argues that summary judgment should be granted because Plaintiff’s  
9 due process rights were not violated, and even if they were, it was not the result of any action  
10 or inaction by defendant Black. (ECF No. 180, p. 15). There was no discipline imposed on  
11 Plaintiff. (ECF No. 180, p. 17). Moreover, even if Plaintiff was placed in Administrative  
12 Segregation (“Ad Seg”) for disciplinary reasons, Plaintiff’s placement did not involve a  
13 protected liberty interest. (Id. at 16).

14 Additionally, “[s]upervisory personnel are generally not liable under section 1983 for  
15 the actions of their employees under a theory of respondeat superior and, therefore, when a  
16 named defendant holds a supervisory position, the causal link between him and the claimed  
17 constitutional violation must be specifically alleged.” (Id. at 17) (alteration in original)  
18 (citations and internal quotation marks omitted).

19 Defendant Black argues that the undisputed facts reveal that defendant Black is only a  
20 supervisor. (Id. at 18). Defendant Black “was not on duty at the time of the Incident and did  
21 not participate in the decision to move Caputo to Ad. Seg. Even if there was discipline  
22 imposed, which Black disputes, Black was not involved in any manner and was not aware of  
23 the discipline. Moreover, Black did not formulate any policy through which Caputo was  
24 disciplined.” “At no point on or after May 5, 2016 was Black involved in assigning or keeping  
25 Caputo in any housing assignment, including Ad. Seg. At no point on or after May 5, 2016 was  
26 Black involved in assigning or keeping Caputo in any housing assignment, including Ad. Seg.,  
27 as punishment and/or discipline for any act or failure to perform any act. Black did not  
28 personally provide any orders or directions related to discipline of Caputo to any KCSO

1 employee, any inmate or anyone else as a result of the May 5, 2019 Incident.” (Id. at 10)  
2 (citations omitted). Thus, summary judgment is proper.

3 Finally, Defendant Black argues that she is entitled to qualified immunity. “There is  
4 simply no way that Black could have believed that her conduct ... was unlawful. Even if  
5 Caputo was to contend that Black knew and participated in the discipline and she sent Caputo  
6 to Ad. Seg., the immunity would still apply since it accounts for the fact that officers may make  
7 reasonable mistakes, and be uncertain as to how the relevant legal doctrine will apply to the  
8 case.” (Id. at 19).

9 b. Plaintiff’s Position

10 Because defendant Black, by her own admission, “is responsible for the overall  
11 cleanliness of the facility, and for providing necessary equipment and supplies,” defendant  
12 Black “is responsible for the feces and urine Plaintiff was forced to live in, breathing it in on a  
13 24/7 basis, which constitutes cruel and unusual punishment.” (ECF No. 194, p. 3).

14 As to the Fourteenth Amendment due process claim, Plaintiff argues that “[p]retrial  
15 detainees may be subjected to disciplinary segregation only with a due process hearing to  
16 determine whether they have in fact violated any rule.” (Id. at 4) (citation and internal  
17 quotation marks omitted). “Pre-hearing detention may be justified as long as a hearing  
18 complying with the requirements of Wolff v. McDonnell is held within a reasonable time after  
19 the detention begins.” (ECF No. 194, p. 4). However, Plaintiff, a federal pretrial detainee,  
20 “was never afforded any due process hearing, and as ‘no charges were filed,’ should not have  
21 been kept in segregation.” (Id. at 5).

22 As to defendant Black’s argument that she is entitled to qualified immunity, Plaintiff  
23 argues that the detention facilities were not in compliance with their agreement with the United  
24 States Marshals Service because they violated the civil rights of a contract inmate. (Id. at 7).  
25 Defendant Black has been employed by the Kern County Sherriff’s Office for twenty-two  
26 years. (Id.). “If after 22 years one doesn’t know their respective duties along with the terms  
27 and conditions of an agreement with the U.S. Marshal’s Service and the Bureau of Prisons to  
28 house federal inmates at their Detention Facilities the individual would seem incompetent

1 [sic].” (Id.). Therefore, “Defendant Black is not entitled to qualified immunity.” (Id.).

2 c. Legal Standards

3 a. *Supervisory Liability*

4 Supervisory personnel are not liable under section 1983 for the actions of their  
5 employees under a theory of *respondeat superior* and, therefore, when a named defendant  
6 holds a supervisory position, the causal link between him and the claimed constitutional  
7 violation must be specifically alleged. Iqbal, 556 U.S. at 676-77; Fayle v. Stapley, 607 F.2d  
8 858, 862 (9th Cir. 1979); Mosher v. Saalfeld, 589 F.2d 438, 441 (9th Cir. 1978). To state a  
9 claim for relief under section 1983 based on a theory of supervisory liability, Plaintiff must  
10 allege some facts that would support a claim that the supervisory defendants either: personally  
11 participated in the alleged deprivation of constitutional rights; knew of the violations and failed  
12 to act to prevent them; or promulgated or “implement[ed] a policy so deficient that the policy  
13 itself is a repudiation of constitutional rights and is the moving force of the constitutional  
14 violation.” Hansen v. Black, 885 F.2d 642, 646 (9th Cir. 1989) (citations and internal quotation  
15 marks omitted); Taylor v. List, 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th Cir. 1989).

16 For instance, a supervisor may be liable for his “own culpable action or inaction in the  
17 training, supervision, or control of his subordinates,” “his acquiescence in the constitutional  
18 deprivations of which the complaint is made,” or “conduct that showed a reckless or callous  
19 indifference to the rights of others.” Larez v. City of Los Angeles, 946 F.2d 630, 646 (9th Cir.  
20 1991) (citations, internal quotation marks, and alterations omitted).

21 b. *Fourteenth Amendment Due Process*

22 A pretrial detainee “may not be punished without a due process hearing.” Mitchell v.  
23 Dupnik, 75 F.3d 517, 524 (9th Cir. 1996). “[P]retrial detainees may be subjected to  
24 disciplinary segregation only with a due process hearing to determine whether they have in fact  
25 violated any rule.” Id. (footnote omitted).

26 c. *Qualified Immunity*

27 “The doctrine of qualified immunity protects government officials ‘from liability for  
28 civil damages insofar as their conduct does not violate clearly established statutory or

1 constitutional rights of which a reasonable person would have known.” Pearson v. Callahan,  
2 555 U.S. 223, 231 (2009) (quoting Harlow v. Fitzgerald, 457 U.S. 800, 818 (1982)).

3 In determining whether a defendant is entitled to qualified immunity, the Court must  
4 decide (1) whether the facts shown by plaintiff make out a violation of a constitutional right;  
5 and (2) whether that right was clearly established at the time of the officer's alleged  
6 misconduct. Pearson, 555 U.S. at 232.

7 To be clearly established, a right must be sufficiently clear “that every ‘reasonable  
8 official would [have understood] that what he is doing violates that right.’” Reichle v.  
9 Howards, 132 S. Ct. 2088, 2090 (2012) (quoting Al-Kidd, 563 U.S. at 741) (alteration in  
10 original). This immunity protects “all but the plainly incompetent or those who knowingly  
11 violate the law.” Malley v. Briggs, 475 U.S. 335, 341 (1986).

12 d. Analysis

13 At the outset, the Court notes two issues. First, Plaintiff argues that “Defendant Black  
14 is responsible for the feces and urine Plaintiff was forced to live in, breathing it in on a 24/7  
15 basis, which constitutes cruel and unusual punishment.” (ECF No. 194, p. 3). However, this  
16 case is not proceeding on an Eighth Amendment or Fourteenth Amendment conditions of  
17 confinement claim against defendant Black. Even if the Court construed Plaintiff’s opposition  
18 as including a request for leave to amend to add that claim now, it would be denied. Plaintiff’s  
19 complaint has already been amended numerous times (the case is proceeding on Plaintiff’s  
20 Fourth Amended Complaint). While the Court “should freely give leave [to amend] when  
21 justice so requires,” Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(2), Plaintiff has not provided an explanation as to  
22 why he waited until approximately three weeks before the telephonic pretrial confirmation  
23 hearing to attempt to add a claim.<sup>4</sup> Given the late stage of the case, any amendment of claims  
24 would be highly prejudicial to all parties.

25 Second, in defendant Black’s reply, she continues to argue that she is entitled to  
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28 <sup>4</sup> Plaintiff also alleges “malicious defense,” and complains about a couple of discovery issues. (ECF No. 194, pgs. 7-8). However, the discovery deadline has long since passed. Moreover, the issues Plaintiff complains of are not relevant to the resolution of the pending motion for summary judgment.



1 summary judgment because Plaintiff failed to exhaust his administrative remedies and because  
2 Plaintiff's complaint fails to state a valid claim against her. (See, e.g., ECF No. 196, p. 1). As  
3 these grounds have been stricken from the motion for summary judgment "as beyond the scope  
4 of what the Court allowed in the May 30, 2019 order," (ECF No. 182, p. 3), the Court will not  
5 address these arguments.

6 As to Plaintiff's Fourteenth Amendment claim against defendant Black, summary  
7 judgment is not appropriate.

8 Defendant Black argues that she is entitled to summary judgment because Plaintiff was  
9 not disciplined for the incident. In support of her position, defendant Black submits her  
10 declaration, in which she states: "Based upon my review of CJIS and KCSO disciplinary  
11 records, I am informed and believe that Caputo was not disciplined for the Incident." (ECF No.  
12 180-5, p. 8, ¶ 19). While Plaintiff was placed in Ad Seg, "it was not for discipline." (Id. at ¶  
13 20).

14 Based on the evidence presented, it appears to be undisputed that Plaintiff was placed  
15 into Ad Seg almost immediately after the May 5 incident, in which Plaintiff was accused of  
16 resisting an officer. (See, e.g., ECF No. 180-6, pgs. 2-4; ECF No. 180-12, p. 6). Additionally,  
17 Plaintiff has stated, under penalty of perjury, that he was retained in "disciplinary isolation"  
18 until November 22, 2016. (ECF No. 43, p. 5).<sup>5</sup> While in "segregated confinement" Plaintiff  
19 "had no access to [his] dayroom, telephone, programs and services," and was "unable to attend  
20 any kind of educational class...." Transcript of Plaintiff's Deposition, April 11, 2019, at 13:25-  
21 14:5. Based on this evidence a jury could reasonably find that Plaintiff was placed and retained  
22 in Ad Seg as a form of punishment.

23 Moreover, while it is not her burden to show why Plaintiff was placed in Ad Seg,  
24 defendant Black does not present evidence showing that Plaintiff was placed in Ad Seg after  
25 the incident for non-disciplinary reasons. Instead, she states:

26 Based upon my review of CJIS and the Inmate Movement Logs, I

27  
28 <sup>5</sup> Plaintiff's Fourth Amended Complaint is verified, and his allegations constitute evidence where they are  
based on his personal knowledge of facts admissible in evidence. Jones v. Blanas, 393 F.3d 918, 922-23 (9th Cir.  
2004).

1 am informed and believe that Caputo was housed in a number of  
2 different cells and housing areas, often based upon Requests  
3 submitted by Caputo. An example is Caputo's Request July 8,  
4 2016, in which he inquired about recorded video of his  
5 movements. Caputo's Request received by Sergeant J. Luevanos,  
6 Luevnaos determined Caputo should be housed in an area that  
7 had 24 hour recorded video surveillance. Luevanos completed a  
8 detailed report, Inc- 16-09549 of Caputo's movement to Pretrial.  
At that time, the Max-Med Facility video surveillance was  
capable of live monitoring, not recording. (A true and correct  
copy of the Request and attached Response, along with the  
subsequent Incident Report are collectively attached hereto and  
incorporated by reference as Exhibit C6.)

9 (ECF No. 180-5, p. 8, ¶ 21). The example provided by defendant Black occurred over two  
10 months after the alleged disciplinary segregation began. She does not mention why Plaintiff  
11 was placed in Ad Seg on May 5, 2016, or why he was retained there until he submitted his  
12 request.

13 Given the closeness in time between the incident and Plaintiff's placement into Ad Seg,  
14 the duration of the segregation, and the lack of evidence showing that the placement was for  
15 non-disciplinary reasons, and viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to Plaintiff, the  
16 Court finds there is a genuine dispute of material fact regarding whether Plaintiff was punished.

17 Turning to defendant Black's argument that she should be granted summary judgment  
18 because Plaintiff's placement in Ad Seg did not involve a protected liberty interest, this  
19 argument fails because defendant Black relies on law that applies to convicted prisoners, (ECF  
20 No. 180, pgs. 16-17), but Plaintiff appears to have been a pretrial detainee.

21 "The Eighth Amendment's prohibition of cruel and unusual punishments applies only  
22 after conviction and sentence. Pretrial detainees are not convicted prisoners. Therefore, pretrial  
23 detainees are accorded no rights under the Eighth Amendment. Instead, their rights arise under  
24 the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment." Lee v. City of Los Angeles, 250 F.3d  
25 668, 686 (9th Cir. 2001) (citations and internal quotation marks omitted). Here, Plaintiff was  
26 not sentenced until November 7, 2016. E.D. CA, Case No. 1:14-cr-00041, ECF No. 93. Thus,  
27 it appears that Plaintiff was a pretrial detainee until November 7, 2016. As pretrial detainees  
28 "may not be punished without a due process hearing," Mitchell, 75 F.3d at 524, and as there is

1 a genuine dispute of material fact regarding whether Plaintiff was punished while he was a  
2 pretrial detainee, defendant Black’s argument that she should be granted summary judgment  
3 because Plaintiff’s placement in Ad Seg did not involve a protected liberty interest fails.<sup>6</sup>

4 The Court next turns to defendant Black’s argument that, even if Plaintiff was punished,  
5 she was not involved in placing or retaining Plaintiff in Ad Seg.

6 It is undisputed that defendant Black was not responsible for placing Plaintiff into Ad  
7 Seg after the May 5 incident. However, it is also undisputed that, at the relevant times,  
8 defendant Black “receive[d] and review[ed] grievances and request slips generated by inmates  
9 and incident reports including disciplinary hearings and sanctions,” that she was “designated as  
10 the approver of disciplinary sanctions for inmates housed in the facility [she is] assigned to,”  
11 and that she reviewed disciplinary sanction appeals. (ECF No. 180-5, pgs. 2-3, ¶ 3).

12 While defendant Black cannot be held liable merely because she was a supervisor, she  
13 can be held liable for her “acquiescence in the constitutional deprivations of which the  
14 complaint is made,” Larez, 946 F.2d at 646 (citation, internal quotation marks, and alterations  
15 omitted), and there is evidence that this occurred here. It is undisputed that Plaintiff wrote a  
16 grievance to defendant Black, which was received on June 18, 2016. (ECF No. 180-8, p. 3). In  
17 the grievance, among other things, Plaintiff stated:

18 Also, since I was/am being punished by getting put in “the hole”  
19 for over 30 days and continue to be punished for his assault, I  
20 would like to be moved back into Dorm 3. Otherwise other  
21 actions will be taken/followed up on the insodent [sic]. Thank  
22 you. What I am grieving is the fact I am being punished for  
23 nothing, I haven't broken any “title” rules; if so, what title is it  
24 where an inmate isn[']t allowed to choke on water being pushed  
25 out/rushed out of the pill line? Also, there was no reason to have  
26 been moved and would like to go back to dorm 3. Including  
27 [sic], how is it legal for a sheriff Deputy to be able to getaway  
28 [sic] with breaking the law and his punishment is “Paid Leave?”

(Id.).

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27 <sup>6</sup> The Court notes that defendant Black does not present evidence, or even argue, that Plaintiff received a  
28 due process hearing prior to being punished. Additionally, Plaintiff stated in his deposition that he was “placed  
and kept in isolation cells without any due process rights, any hearing, any kind of formal charges being made.”  
Transcript of Plaintiff’s Deposition at 15:1-3.

1 In response, defendant Black wrote:

2 I have received and reviewed your grievance (#4015) dated  
3 6/11/16 regarding allegations of an assault by staff and your  
4 classification/housing.

5 Your allegation of an assault by staff is being handled as a  
6 personnel matter. You will be contacted by the assigned  
7 investigator.

8 Your classification and housing is reviewed every ten days by the  
9 classification unit. You may submit a request for reclassification  
10 to the classification unit.

11 (Id. at 2).

12 While defendant Black responded to Plaintiff's request to be moved, she appears to  
13 have ignored his allegations that he was being punished even though he did not violate any  
14 rules. Additionally, it is undisputed that defendant Black was aware of the May 5 incident  
15 because she "was assigned to complete the pre-investigation of the Incident." (ECF No. 180-5,  
16 p. 4, ¶ 10).

17 Given that defendant Black was aware of the incident, that defendant Black was the  
18 approver of disciplinary sanctions, that Plaintiff told defendant Black he was being punished as  
19 a result of the incident even though he did not do anything wrong, that defendant Black did not  
20 respond to Plaintiff's allegation that he was being punished even though he did not do anything  
21 wrong, and that, as discussed above, there is evidence that Plaintiff was punished in violation of  
22 his constitutional rights, a jury could reasonably find that defendant Black acquiesced to the  
23 alleged constitutional deprivation.

24 Finally, the Court turns to defendant Black's argument that she is entitled to qualified  
25 immunity. In determining whether a defendant is entitled to qualified immunity, the Court  
26 must decide (1) whether the facts shown by plaintiff make out a violation of a constitutional  
27 right; and (2) whether that right was clearly established at the time of the officer's alleged  
28 misconduct. Pearson, 555 U.S. at 232.

As discussed above, there is evidence in the record that Plaintiff was subjected to  
punishment (placement and retention in segregated confinement, where he lost access to certain

1 privileges) without receiving a due process hearing, which is a violation of the Fourteenth  
2 Amendment. There is also evidence in the record that defendant Black was one of the  
3 individuals responsible for the violation. Thus, the first prong is satisfied.

4 As to the second prong, in 1996, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals addressed a case  
5 where a pretrial detainee was allegedly subjected to disciplinary segregation. The Ninth Circuit  
6 held that a pretrial detainee “may not be punished without a due process hearing.” Mitchell v.  
7 Dupnik, 75 F.3d 517, 524 (9th Cir. 1996). “[P]retrial detainees may be subjected to  
8 disciplinary segregation only with a due process hearing to determine whether they have in fact  
9 violated any rule.” Id. (footnote omitted). Thus, it was clearly established at the time  
10 defendant Black reviewed Plaintiff’s grievance that Plaintiff, a pretrial detainee, could not be  
11 punished unless he was first provided with a due process hearing to determine whether he  
12 violated a rule.

13 Therefore, defendant Black is not entitled to summary judgment on the issue of  
14 qualified immunity.

15 **IV. CONCLUSION AND ORDER**

16 For the foregoing reasons, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that defendant Black’s motion  
17 for summary judgment (ECF No. 180) is DENIED.

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19 IT IS SO ORDERED.

20 Dated: July 25, 2019

21 /s/ Eric P. Grogan  
22 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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