



CITY OF CHICAGO  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

# Recommendation to Reopen Chicago Police Department Misconduct Investigation

Log #2022-0001652

Published September 30, 2024

DEBORAH WITZBURG | INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE CITY OF CHICAGO  
TOBARA RICHARDSON | DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

September 30, 2024

Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago (MCC) § 2-56-230(c)(ii), the Public Safety section of the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducts reviews of individual closed disciplinary investigations conducted by the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) and the Chicago Police Department's (CPD) Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA). Based on those reviews, OIG may make a recommendation to reopen the investigation to address a deficiency materially affecting its outcome.<sup>1</sup>

COPA investigated allegations that an off-duty CPD police officer used a racial slur, reported false information during a 911 call, failed to report misconduct, and failed to identify his brother, a CPD detective, as an involved party during the incident at issue. COPA also investigated allegations that the CPD detective pointed a firearm at an individual without justification, performed an unlawful seizure of that individual as well as several other CPD operational and/or conduct unbecoming violations.

COPA sustained all allegations against the officer and seven allegations against the detective, and recommended a suspension of 365 days up to separation for both CPD members.

During its review, OIG identified that COPA did not conduct an analysis regarding a potential Rule 14 violation of making a false report to address the accused officer calling 911 to report a "10- 1," where the accused admitted that they knew that if they told 911 "10-1" officers would respond immediately.

OIG recommended that COPA reopen the investigation to conduct a Rule 14 analysis to address the CPD member's false statement to 911 of a "10-1."

In response to OIG's recommendations, COPA reopened its investigation and documented its Rule 14 analysis based on the available evidence. From its analysis, COPA found that the CPD officer violated Rule 14 and recommended separation from the Department.

OIG's letter to COPA containing its recommendations is attached at Appendix A. COPA's response is attached at Appendix B.

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<sup>1</sup> Once BIA or COPA has responded to an OIG recommendation to reopen an investigation, and once the underlying investigation has reached a final disciplinary decision, OIG's recommendation letters and the agencies' responses will be published on OIG's website. In these procedural postures, OIG's recommendations to reopen and the agencies' responses have been available and, from time to time, released pursuant to MCC § 2-56-250 and the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. These recommendations to reopen, issued pursuant to MCC § 2-56-230(c), are separate from OIG's own confidential investigative work, which is governed by the confidentiality provisions set out in MCC § 2-56-110.

# Appendix A | OIG Letter



Deborah Witzburg | Inspector General  
City of Chicago  
Office of Inspector General  
740 N. Sedgwick St., Ste 200  
Chicago, IL 60654  
Phone: (773) 478-7799

## Via Electronic Mail

March 1, 2024

ANDREA KERSTEN  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR  
CIVILIAN OFFICE OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY  
1615 WEST CHICAGO AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60622

Re: Log #2022-0001652

Dear Chief Administrator Kersten:

Pursuant to § 2-56-230(c)(ii) of the Municipal Code of Chicago (MCC), the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) Public Safety section has conducted a preliminary review of the investigation conducted by the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) in Log #2022-0001652. OIG recommends that COPA reopen the investigation to conduct a Rule 14 analysis based on the available evidence. Log #2022-0001652 is currently in Command Channel Review.

Log #2022-0001652 concerns allegations that Chicago Police Department (CPD) Officer John Kaporis, Star #18741, used a racial slur by referring to two Black women as "shines," reported false, incomplete, inaccurate, and/or misleading information when he called 911 to report a "10-1," failed to report misconduct, and failed to identify his brother, Detective Christoph Kaporis (Detective Kaporis), Star #21235, as an involved CPD member during the incident.<sup>1</sup> COPA sustained all allegations against Officer Kaporis. Further, COPA sustained seven allegations against Detective Kaporis, including that he pointed a firearm at an individual without justification, performed an unlawful seizure of that individual, and several other CPD operational and/or conduct unbecoming violations. COPA recommended a suspension of 365 days up to separation for both Officer Kaporis and Detective Kaporis.

COPA's investigation revealed that, on April 21, 2022, Officer Kaporis, while off-duty, and his son called 911 several times to report suspicious activity at and/or near Officer Kaporis' mother's home. When CPD officers responded on scene, Officer Kaporis reported that someone was playing pranks on his family by requesting various home care services at his mother's home, which was vacant. Officer Kaporis told responding officers that there were two Black women, which he repeatedly referred to as "F1s," inside his mother's home cleaning without his permission. On the body-worn camera (BWC) footage of Officer Jesus Rivota, Star #8390, at the 9:03 mark, Officer Kaporis is

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<sup>1</sup> Attachment 70; "10-1" is the highest priority call that involves any life-threatening circumstances for an officer in need of immediate assistance.

seen referring to the Black women as “shines,” while speaking to Detective Kaporis, their sister, and an unknown individual on the phone.<sup>2</sup> At the 8:59 mark of Officer Rivota’s BWC, Officer Kaporis’ son notifies Officer Kaporis that Detective Kaporis is on the way to their mother’s home.<sup>3</sup> After the responding officers had left the scene, Officer Kaporis called 911 at 8:10 pm to report that he observed suspicious U-Haul trucks and a car drive past the home then up and down the alleyway.<sup>4</sup> Detective Kaporis and his wife arrived and Detective Kaporis went to the backyard while Officer Kaporis and his sister-in-law remained in the front of the home. At 8:11 pm, Officer Kaporis called 911 again, and reported a “10-1,” and identified his brother, Detective Kaporis, as attempting to stop two Black male offenders that had gotten out of a U-Haul truck and fled on foot.<sup>5</sup>

Subsequently, in his COPA interview, Officer Kaporis stated that no one chased the two Black male offenders, that he had previously identified, on foot.<sup>6</sup> Officer Kaporis stated that he attempted to wave them down as they drove by him. Officer Kaporis told COPA he did not see Detective Kaporis in the alley at the time of the incident but assumed something was “not normal in the alley, and someone may have needed help.”<sup>7</sup> However, in the 911 call, Officer Kaporis reported that Detective Kaporis was chasing the men and needed “10-1” assistance. Officer Kaporis admitted to COPA that he knew if he called a “10-1,” officers would respond immediately.<sup>8</sup> When asked why he did not call Detective Kaporis to ensure that he was okay, Officer Kaporis stated he was more concerned with the noises he heard. However, after consulting with his attorney, Officer Kaporis told COPA that he believed his brother was in danger because he could not see what was going on and had no contact with him.<sup>9</sup> When COPA asked if he made a false 911 call by reporting a “10-1,” Kaporis stated he did not recall.<sup>10</sup>

Although, in COPA’s Credibility Assessment in the Final Summary Report (FSR), COPA found “this investigation revealed that Officer Kaporis and Det. Kaporis were not credible in their statements,” and that “Officer Kaporis abused his authority by falsely calling in a “10-1” to get immediate police response at the location of the incident,” COPA did not conduct any analysis regarding potential violations of Rule 14, prohibiting false reports, written or oral.<sup>11</sup> Rather, COPA sustained the allegation that Officer Kaporis gave false, incomplete, inaccurate, and/or misleading information when he called 911 to report a “10-1,” noting that Officer Kaporis violated Rules 2, 6, and 10 of CPD’s Rules of Conduct. In addition, COPA apparently concluded that while Officer Kaporis did in fact make a false report to 911, he violated Rule 10, being inattentive to duty, rather than Rule 14.

OIG reviewed Officer Kaporis’ disciplinary history in the case management system (CMS), and he has been accused in 51 log investigations since his appointment on October 23, 1995. Of those 51 log investigations, Officer Kaporis was found to have violated Rule 14 in two separate investigations: first, in 2001, where he made false statements regarding his whereabouts while

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<sup>2</sup> Attachment 46.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Attachment 26.

<sup>5</sup> Attachment 28.

<sup>6</sup> In his COPA interview, Detective Kaporis also denied chasing anyone at the time of the incident.

<sup>7</sup> Attachment 51.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Chicago Police Department, “Rules and Regulations of the Chicago Police Department,” April 16, 2015, accessed February 13, 2024, <https://directives.chicagopolice.org/#directive/public/6412>.



interacting with a complainant,<sup>12</sup> and second, in 2004, where he knowingly filed a false criminal report of forgery.<sup>13</sup>

Based on OIG's preliminary review, and without taking any position on any other aspect of the investigation or its findings, OIG recommends that COPA reopen Log #2022-0001652 to conduct and document an analysis of whether Officer Kaporis violated Rule 14 when he called for "10-1" assistance.

Please contact Chief Investigative Analyst LaDonna Candia-Flanagan at [lcandia-flanagan@igchicago.org](mailto:lcandia-flanagan@igchicago.org) or (773) 478-5614 with any questions. Please send your response to this recommendation before a final disciplinary decision is made with respect to this investigation and in no case later than the time allowed by MCC § 2-56-245. OIG will consider a failure to respond in the time permitted by ordinance to be a declination of our recommendation. OIG looks forward to COPA's response and recommends that COPA incorporate this letter and its response into the electronic case file to provide for a complete record.

Respectfully,



Tobara Richardson  
Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety  
Office of Inspector General

cc: Deborah Witzburg, Inspector General, OIG  
Samuel Chae, Associate General Counsel for Public Safety, OIG  
LaDonna Candia-Flanagan, Chief Investigative Analyst for Public Safety, OIG  
Robin Murphy, General Counsel, COPA  
Angela Snell, Chief Investigative Law Officer, COPA  
Yolanda Talley, Chief, Bureau of Internal Affairs, CPD

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<sup>12</sup> See CR #256742.

<sup>13</sup> See CR #275005.

# Appendix B | Department Response

**From:** [Angela Snell](#)  
**To:** [Tobara Richardson](#); [Andrea Kersten](#)  
**Cc:** [Robin Murphy](#); [Yolanda Talley](#); [Deborah Witzburg](#); [Samuel Chae](#); [LaDonna Candia-Flanagan](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Recommendation to Reopen Log #2022-0001652  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024 9:40:53 AM

WARNING - This message is from outside the Office of Inspector General email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. Please report suspicious messages using the "Report Phish" button on the Outlook ribbon.

Good morning, COPA agrees to reopen this log number. Please let me know of any questions.

Best,

Angie Snell (she/they)  
Assistant General Counsel  
Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA)  
1615 W. Chicago Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60622  
Office: 312-746-0186  
Cell: 312-965-2025

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**From:** Tobara Richardson <[trichardson@igchicago.org](mailto:trichardson@igchicago.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2024 10:16 AM  
**To:** Andrea Kersten <[Andrea.Kersten@chicagocopa.org](mailto:Andrea.Kersten@chicagocopa.org)>  
**Cc:** Robin Murphy <[Robin.Murphy@chicagocopa.org](mailto:Robin.Murphy@chicagocopa.org)>; Angela Snell <[Angela.Snell@chicagocopa.org](mailto:Angela.Snell@chicagocopa.org)>; Yolanda Talley <[yolanda.talley@chicagopolice.org](mailto:yolanda.talley@chicagopolice.org)>; Deborah Witzburg <[dWitzburg@igchicago.org](mailto:dWitzburg@igchicago.org)>; Samuel Chae <[schae@igchicago.org](mailto:schae@igchicago.org)>; LaDonna Flanagan-Candia <[LFlanagan-Candia@igchicago.org](mailto:LFlanagan-Candia@igchicago.org)>  
**Subject:** Recommendation to Reopen Log #2022-0001652

[Warning: External email]

Dear Chief Administrator Kersten:

Attached please find a recommendation to reopen Log #2022-0001652. Please acknowledge your receipt of this correspondence, and let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Tobara Richardson

**Tobara Richardson**

Pronouns: she/her/hers  
Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety  
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LaDonna Candia-Flanagan  
Chief Investigative Analyst for Public Safety

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For further information about this report, please contact the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General, 740 N. Sedgwick St., Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60654, or visit our website at [igchicago.org](https://igchicago.org).

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