



CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Recommendation to Reopen Chicago Police Department Disciplinary Investigation

Log #2021-0004861

Published September 30, 2025

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

September 30, 2025

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.¹

COPA conducted a preliminary investigation concerning allegations that CPD members Divale Roberson, Star #16993, and Alain Dillon, Star #16145, wrongfully stopped and detained the complainant and passenger for not using a turn signal and unlawfully searched the complainant's car during a traffic stop. COPA determined its "preliminary investigation did not reveal verifiable evidence of misconduct under its jurisdiction" and referred the investigation to BIA to determine if the Investigative Stop Report (ISR) accurately reported the reason that Officers Roberson and Dillon did not issue an Investigatory Stop Receipt.

BIA conducted its preliminary investigation and issued a Summary Punishment Action Request (SPAR) to both Officers Roberson and Dillon, recommending a reprimand for failure to provide an Investigatory Stop Receipt, and administratively closed the investigation.

During its review, OIG identified that Officers Roberson and Dillon completed an ISR for both subjects with the statement "ISR RECEIPT REFUSED" when body worn camera (BWC) footage showed they did not offer either subject an ISR receipt. OIG recommended that BIA reopen the investigation to conduct an analysis under CPD's Rule 14, which prohibits false reports, as to whether Officers Robinson and Dillon's statement as it appears on their ISRs constitutes a false report.

In response to OIG's recommendations, BIA agreed to reopen the investigation and served both Officers Roberson and Dillon with an additional allegation that they inaccurately documented in the ISR narrative that the subjects refused the receipt during the traffic stop. BIA interviewed Officers Roberson and Dillon and determined that they did not add the statement "ISR Receipt Refused" with intention to provide a false statement finding, therefore, that they did not violate Rule 14.

BIA sustained the allegation that Officers Roberson and Dillon inaccurately documented that the subject refused the ISR receipt in violation of Rule 2-Any action or conduct which impedes the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department; and recommended a one-day suspension for both officers.

OIG's letter to BIA containing its recommendations is attached in Appendix A. BIA's response is attached as Appendix B.

¹ 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

December 24, 2024

CHIEF YOLANDA TALLEY
BUREAU OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
3510 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60653

Re: Log #2021-0004861

Dear Chief Talley:

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 Chicago Police Department's (CPD) Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) in Log #2021-0004861. OIG recommends that the investigation be reopened to conduct an analysis of potential violations of CPD's Rule 14. Log #2021-0004861 is currently in an Administratively Closed status.

Log # 2021-0004861 concerns allegations that CPD members Divale Roberson, Star #16993, and Alain Dillon, Star #16145, wrongfully stopped and detained the complainant and passenger for not using a turn signal, and unlawfully searching the complainant's car. BIA issued a Summary Punishment Action Request (SPAR) to both Officers Roberson and Dillon for failure to provide an Investigatory Stop Report (ISR) receipt.

An Event Query Report for the incident showed that Officers Roberson and Dillon conducted a traffic stop on the complainant and their passenger on December 4, 2021, at 10:52 p.m.¹ Officer Roberson's body worn camera (BWC) footage begins as Officers Roberson and Dillon approach the complainant's vehicle, and Officer Roberson asks the passenger, "Man, what you put in the arm rest, bro?"² The passenger stated they did not put anything in the armrest and motioned to the vehicle's door panel. Officer Roberson reached into the vehicle, rolled the passenger window down, and opened the passenger side door. The passenger told Officer Roberson there was a cup on the floor, and Officer Roberson ordered the passenger to exit and place their hands on top of the vehicle.³ Officer Dillon told the complainant, who was the driver, that Officers stopped their vehicle because the complainant failed to use a turn signal.⁴ Officer Roberson conducted a protective pat down of the

¹ Attachment 10.

² Attachment 7, at 2:04 – 2:08.

³ Ibid., at 2:12 – 3:12.

⁴ Attachment 6, at 2:51 – 3:04.

passenger and handcuffed them at the rear of the vehicle. When the passenger asked why they were handcuffed, Officer Roberson responded, “you looked like you was concealing something in the armrest.” Officer Dillon told the passenger, “Bro, there’s not supposed to be no open alcohol in the car, alright?”⁵ Officer Dillon ordered the complainant to step out of the vehicle and told them they would be placed in handcuffs as well. The complainant and passenger were detained at the rear of the vehicle while Officer Roberson searched the vehicle.⁶

Officer Roberson pulled the complainant’s purse from the backseat to retrieve their identification, and the complainant requested a supervisor.⁷ Officer Dillon unhandcuffed the complainant and passenger and told them to wait while Officer Roberson finished writing traffic citations. Officer Roberson handed the complainant a citation—for failure to use a turn signal and one for possession of an open alcohol container in a vehicle. The complainant signed the citations and requested Officer Roberson’s badge number and last name, which Officer Roberson provided. Officer Roberson terminated his BWC footage after he returned the complainant’s identification to them, stated, “Have a good day,” and walked to the squad car.⁸ Officer Dillon’s BWC footage ends with him telling the passenger to have a good night as he walks back to the squad car.⁹ Neither Officer Roberson nor Dillon’s BWC footage shows an ISR receipt offered, or refused by either the driver or passenger.

The complainant initiated Log #2021-0004861 with the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) on December 7, 2021.¹⁰ In the electronic notes section of the investigative file, COPA notated its attempts to interview the complainant and passenger about the incident, but the complainant and passenger did not attend their scheduled interviews.¹¹

On June 1, 2022, COPA determined its “preliminary investigation did not reveal verifiable evidence of misconduct under its jurisdiction” and referred Log #2021-0004861 to BIA “for investigation into any matter it deems appropriate, including whether the Investigative Stop Report accurately reported the reason that an Investigatory Stop Receipt was not provided.”¹² The ISRs completed by Officers Roberson and Dillon for the complainant, who was the driver, and the passenger state, “ISR RECEIPT REFUSED.”¹³

BIA reviewed the investigation and noted in its closing report that the “Reporting Sergeant did not observe [the] accused officers issue an investigatory stop receipt,” and issued Officers Roberson and Dillon SPARs for failure to provide an ISR receipt. However, BIA does not address whether Officers Robinson and Dillon’s statement “ISR RECEIPT REFUSED” as it appears on the ISRs constitutes a false report.¹⁴

Based on OIG’s preliminary review, and without taking any position on any other aspect of the investigation, OIG recommends BIA reopen the investigation to conduct an analysis of whether the

⁵ Attachment, at 3:12 – 3:44.

⁶ Attachment 6, at 3:49 – 8:00.

⁷ Ibid., at 8:00 - 9:20.

⁸ Attachment 7, at 23:12 – 24:50.

⁹ Attachment 6, at 24:48 – 24:56.

¹⁰ Note CO-0123427.

¹¹ Note CO-0123428; Note CO-0123436; Note CO-0123437; Note CO-0123440.

¹² Note CO-0136642.

¹³ Attachment 14, p. 2; Attachment 15, p. 2.

¹⁴ Attachment 23, p. 2.

accused members' conduct constitutes a violation of CPD's Rule 14 prohibiting false reports, and to determine whether Officers Roberson and Dillon's conduct violates any additional applicable rules and directives.

Please contact Chief Investigative Analyst LaDonna Candia-Flanagan at lcandia-flanagan@igchicago.org or (773) 478-5614 with any questions. Please send your response to this recommendation within 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 BIA's response, and recommends that BIA 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
Deputy Chief Traci Walker, BIA, CPD
Scott Spears, General Counsel, CPD
Sergeant Cynthia Curry, BIA, CPD

Appendix B | Department Response

Brandon Johnson
Mayor

Department of Police • City of Chicago
3510 S. Michigan Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60653

Larry Snelling
Superintendent of Police

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 26, 2025

Tobara Richardson
Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety
City of Chicago Inspector General
740 N. Sedgwick, Suite 200
Chicago, Illinois 60654

RE: Log Number 2021-0004861

Dear Deputy Inspector General Richardson:

This correspondence addresses your letter of December 24, 2024, requesting the reopening of a Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) investigation recorded under Log Number 2021-0004861. The BIA concurs with the Office of the Inspector General and has re-opened the investigation.

The Bureau of Internal Affairs appreciates being contacted in respect to this investigation.

Respectfully,



Timothy Moore
Deputy Director
Bureau of Internal Affairs

TM/cf
Attachment

cc: Traci L. Walker, Deputy Chief, BIA, CPD
Scott Spears, General Counsel, CPD
Deborah Witzburg, Inspector General, OIG
Samuel Chae, Associate General Counsel for Public Safety, OIG
LaDonna Candia-Flanagan, Chief Investigative Analyst for Public Safety, OIG



LaDonna Candia-Flanagan
Chief Investigative Analyst for Public Safety

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OIG's authority to produce reports of its findings and recommendations is established in the City of Chicago Municipal Code §§ 2-56-030(d), -035(c), -110, -230, and -240.

For further information about this report, please contact the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General, 231 S. LaSalle Street, 12th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604, or visit our website at igchicago.org.

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