



CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Recommendation to Reopen Chicago Police Department Disciplinary Investigation

Log #2023-0004338

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 involving an allegation that CPD members damaged the front door to the complainant's in-law's residence and made entry without a warrant. A CPD member working in a covert capacity reported that several subjects were outside of a residence, holding and pointing firearms at oncoming vehicles. When additional CPD members arrived on scene, they observed one subject enter the residence. The CPD members exited their vehicles and observed two additional subjects holding firearms run inside the residence. The CPD members followed the subjects to the front door and the subjects slammed the door on them. Officer Timothy Lammert, Star #17995, attempted to open the locked door before kicking and breaking the door down and gaining entry. Several CPD members entered the residence, detained the subjects and recovered multiple firearms.

COPA investigated allegations that CPD members forced entry into a residence without a warrant and caused damage to the residence's front door. COPA administratively closed the investigation due to insufficient evidence of misconduct, stating that the forced entry was justified given the totality of the circumstances.

During its review of body worn camera footage contained in the investigative file, OIG observed that CPD members Ryan Parrish, Star #18373, Luciano Yi, Star #19441, and Lammert searched throughout the residence by opening and emptying bags, opening storage containers and appliances, and lifting mattresses. While COPA addressed the lawfulness of the CPD members' initial entry into the residence, it did not comment on the officers' actions once inside.

OIG recommended that COPA reopen the investigation to consider all available evidence, conduct an analysis of whether the search conducted by Officers Parrish, Yi, and Lammert was permissible under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and determine whether their actions violate any CPD rules and directives.

In response to OIG's recommendations, COPA declined to reopen the investigation. In COPA's response, it stated that reopening the case would be an "inefficient use of COPA's time and resources given the improbability that any potential recommended discipline would survive the grievance process." COPA cited the officers' collective bargaining agreement that requires an investigation be completed within 18-months after a case is opened. If COPA does not meet this

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.

deadline, and if an arbitrator does not find reasonable cause for delay, an arbitrator has the authority to reduce or reverse any penalty COPA recommends. COPA stated that reopening this investigation, which was opened in September 2023, would be “futile because an arbitrator would likely reduce or reverse any proposed penalties related to the case.”

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

Appendix A | OIG Letter



Deborah Witzburg | Inspector General
City of Chicago
Office of Inspector General
231 S. LaSalle Street, 12th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: (773) 478-7799

Via Electronic Mail

May 21, 2025

LAKENYA WHITE
INTERIM CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR
CIVILIAN OFFICE OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY
1615 WEST CHICAGO AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60622

Re: Log #2023-0004338

Dear Chief Administrator White:

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 #2023-0004338. OIG recommends that the investigation be reopened to investigate all potential misconduct. Log #2023-0004338 is currently in a Closed/No Finding status.

Log #2023-0004338 concerns allegations made against Chicago Police Department (CPD) members related to their forced entry to a residence. The complainant alleged that on September 13, 2023, CPD members damaged the front door to the complainant's in-law's residence and made entry without a warrant. COPA identified Sergeant Michael Gaines, Star #2386, and Officers Timothy Lammert, Star #17995, and Jonathan Cruz Acevedo, Star #20794, as witnesses.¹ In its preliminary investigation, COPA obtained Body Worn Camera (BWC) footage from multiple members on scene, including Officers Luciano Yi, Star #19441, Ryan Parrish, Star #18373, Jesus Sandoval, Star #18139, Christian Adame, Star #2857, Kempes Chambers, Star #19424, Diniene Cheatom, Star #11126, James Rapacz, Star #13187, and David Martinez, Star #14094.

According to the Original Case Incident Report (OCIR), a CPD member working in a covert capacity reported, "... that [they] saw several [physical descriptors] offenders with rifles, an ak-47 and pistols at [the residence] and was pointing firearms at oncoming vehicles."² When CPD members arrived on scene, they observed one subject enter the residence. The CPD members exited their vehicles and observed two additional subjects holding firearms run inside the residence. The CPD members followed the subjects to the front door and the subjects slammed the door on them.³ BWC footage shows Officer Lammert attempting to open the locked door. Officer Lammert

¹ COPA writes in its Non-Final Summary Closure Memorandum that the involved CPD members are not named as accused because the evidence acquired by COPA did not support serving allegations.

² Attachment 20, p. 4.

³ Ibid.

kicks the security door, shattering the metal and plastic behind it. One subject approaches the front door and unlocks it. Officer Lammert immediately detains the subject at the entryway of the residence and Sgt. Gaines, Officers Yi, Parrish, Chambers, Cheatom, Martinez, and Acevedo, enter the residence.⁴ Officer Acevedo detains an additional subject in the dining room and Officers Lammert, Yi, and Parrish detain a third subject in an upstairs bedroom.⁵ There are two unknown individuals inside the residence at the time the CPD members entered the premises.⁶

COPA Administratively Closed the investigation due to insufficient evidence of misconduct.⁷ In its Non-Final Summary Report, COPA wrote that the reporting party's complaints "were for the damage sustained to the front door and an unjustified/warrantless entrance to the home."⁸ COPA wrote, that "CPD officers acted on information from [the covert CPD member] and were directed by Sgt. Gaines to deploy at the residence. When officers arrived at the residence, they observed two subjects outside the residence armed with firearms, corroborating the information relayed by [the covert CPD member]... officers had sufficient cause to pursue the subjects and ensure no other occupants of the residence were in danger."⁹ In Sgt. Gaines statement to COPA, Sgt. Gaines stated that the search was to locate individuals in the house.¹⁰ Specifically, Sgt. Gaines stated "I instructed [the Officers] not to [search] because we didn't have a warrant or anything."¹¹

OIG's review of Officers Parrish, Yi, and Lammert's BWC footage shows the Officers conducting searches throughout the residence. Officer Parrish's BWC footage shows them opening a China cabinet, a plastic tote, and a set of dresser drawers in the dining room while removing items from inside.¹² Officer Parrish then moves to the kitchen and opens drawers and cabinets.¹³ Officer Yi's BWC footage shows him approach a storage space along a staircase. Officer Yi leans inside and observes two firearms and a magazine on top of a ceiling panel.¹⁴ After Officer Yi recovers the firearms and magazine, Officer Parrish's BWC footage shows them enter the storage space, rummage through clothing, and open a duffel bag.¹⁵

Officer Lammert is captured on their BWC footage unzipping a backpack in the living room, searching inside for nearly one minute, and tossing the backpack onto the ground on top of its contents.¹⁶ Officer Lammert removes clothing from the top of a chest freezer in the basement and opens the freezer.¹⁷ Officer Lammert moves to the second floor, lifts a mattress in an alcove, and drops it back on the boxspring.¹⁸ Officer Lammert enters a bathroom, finds a drawstring bag underneath the sink, and empties the contents onto the ground.¹⁹ Officer Lammert enters a

⁴ Attachment 11, 4:20-4:57.

⁵ Attachment 11, 6:00.

⁶ Ibid., 4:49, 6:25.

⁷ Attachment 41, p. 1.

⁸ Ibid., p. 2.

⁹ Ibid., p. 4.

¹⁰ Attachment 40, p. 19, lines 13-15.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Attachment 13, 6:18-6:31.

¹³ Ibid., 8:20.

¹⁴ Attachment 16, 8:24-9:45.

¹⁵ Ibid., 11:18.

¹⁶ Attachment 11, 13:08.

¹⁷ Ibid., 17:10.

¹⁸ Ibid., 17:51-18:04.

¹⁹ Ibid., 18:48.

bedroom, lifts another mattress and the boxspring, and drops them back onto the metal frame. Officer Lammert then enters a third bedroom where the third subject was found, and searches a small green backpack.²⁰ Finally, BWC video shows Officer Lammert lift the mattress off of a third bed, move pieces of drywall and wood paneling that were supporting the mattress, and drop the mattress back on the drywall and milk crates underneath.²¹

COPA's investigation addressed the lawfulness of the CPD members entry into the residence. However, COPA's report is silent on the video footage showing Officers Parrish and Lammert searching various rooms and closed containers despite Sgt. Gaines' instruction not to search the residence in the absence of a search warrant.

Based on OIG's preliminary review, and without taking any position on any other aspect of the investigation, OIG recommends that COPA reopen this investigation to consider all available evidence, conduct a Fourth Amendment analysis of the search conducted by Officers Parrish, Yi, and Lammert of the residence, and determine whether their actions violate any CPD 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 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, Assistant General Counsel, COPA
Timothy Moore, Deputy Director, Bureau of Internal Affairs, CPD

²⁰ Ibid., 20:42-21:05.

²¹ Ibid., 22:02-22:17.

Appendix B | Department Response



July 15, 2025

Tobara Richardson
Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety
Office of Inspector General
740 North Sedgwick Street, Suite 200
Chicago, Illinois 60654

Via Electronic Mail

Re: Re-Open Recommendation Log No. 2023-0004338

Dear Deputy Inspector General Richardson:

I am in receipt of your May 21, 2025 letter recommending that COPA re-open and conduct additional investigation in Log No. 2023-0004338. We understand the Office of the Inspector General - Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety (PSIG) recommends re-opening this case to analyze whether Police Officers Ryan Parrish,¹ Luciano Yi,² and Timothy Lammert³ conducted improper warrantless searches inside a private residence.

Unfortunately, re-opening this case at this time to analyze that issue would be an inefficient use of COPA's time and resources given the improbability that any potential recommended discipline would survive the grievance process. The officers' collective bargaining agreement requires that COPA's investigation be completed within 18 months after a case is opened.⁴ In the event COPA does not conclude an investigation involving an officer within 18 months, an arbitrator must find that there was a reasonable cause for any delay. Absent such a finding, an arbitrator has the authority to reverse or reduce any penalty COPA recommends. This log number was opened and assigned to an investigator in September 2023. Reopening the case at this time would be futile because an arbitrator would likely reverse or reduce any proposed penalty under the circumstances of this case.

Under COPA's ordinance, the Interim Chief Administrator may, in her discretion, re-open any closed investigation upon PSIG's recommendation.⁵ While we respectfully decline to re-open the investigation for the reason stated above, we appreciate your continued diligent and careful review of closed COPA investigations.

¹ Star # 18373.

² Star # 19441.

³ Star # 17995.

⁴ *Term Sheet for the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Chicago John Dineen Lodge No. 7 (formerly known as the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #7 or FOP) and the City of Chicago*, Sec. 8.10 (Dec. 7, 2023) (hereinafter "Term Sheet"), available at <https://chicago.councilmatic.org/legislation/o2023-0006332/> (last visited June 13, 2025).

⁵ MCC § 2-78-120(x)(iii).

Respectfully,



LaKenya White
Interim Chief Administrator
Civilian Office of Police Accountability

cc: Deborah Witzburg (OIG)
 Samuel Chae (OIG)
 LaDonna Candia-Flanagan (OIG)
 Yolanda Talley (CPD)
 Timothy Moore (CPD)
 Angie Snell (COPA)



LaDonna Candia-Flanagan
Chief Investigative Analyst for Public Safety

The City of Chicago Office of Inspector General is an independent, nonpartisan oversight agency whose mission is to promote economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity in the administration of programs and operations of City government.

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.

Talk to Us
(833) TALK-2-IG/(833) 825-5244
talk2ig@igchicago.org
igchicago.org/talk2ig

OIG Business Office
(773) 478-7799

Cover photo courtesy of the Department of Assets, Information and Services.
Alternate formats available upon request.

