



CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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Recommendation to Reopen Chicago Police Department Disciplinary Investigation

CPD Log #2023-0005654

OIG Case #C2025-0000000289

Published October 17, 2025

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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 investigated allegations against Chicago Police Department (CPD) members Amra Bukalo-Mehmedovic, Star #7811, Jesus Miranda, Star #15029, and Jacob Pagan, Star #16589 related to a traffic stop on November 28, 2023. COPA sustained an allegation that Officers Bukalo-Mehmedovic, Miranda, and Pagan failed to complete an Investigatory Stop Report (ISR) documenting their interaction with the complainant. COPA also sustained an allegation that Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic failed to accurately document the search of the complainant and the complainant's vehicle in a Traffic Stop Statistical Study (TSSS) Report. COPA recommended a Reprimand and retraining on CPD's ISR policy for all three CPD members, in addition to retraining on CPD's TSSS policy for Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic.

During its review, OIG identified that COPA did not address the complainant's allegation that a male CPD member removed \$1,200 from their pants and did not return it to them.

OIG recommended that COPA reopen the investigation to consider all available evidence and investigate all potential allegations, including the complainant's allegation that a male CPD member stole \$1,200 from them.

In response to OIG's recommendations, COPA declined to reopen the investigation, stating the entirety of the interaction was captured on body worn camera (BWC) footage and there is no objective verifiable evidence that a CPD member took \$1,200 in cash from the complainant.

OIG's letter to COPA containing its recommendations is attached in Appendix A. COPA'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
231 South LaSalle Street, 12th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: (773) 478-7799

Via Electronic Mail

July 23, 2025

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

Re: Log #2023-0005654

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 #2023-0005654. OIG recommends that COPA reopen the investigation to consider all available evidence and investigate all potential allegations. Log #2023-0005654 is currently in a Command Channel Review status.

Log #2023-0005654 concerns allegations against Chicago Police Department (CPD) members Amra Bukalo-Mehmedovic, Star #7811, Jesus Miranda, Star #15029, and Jacob Pagan, Star #16589 related to a traffic stop on November 28, 2023. COPA sustained allegations against all three CPD members for failing to complete an Investigatory Stop Report (ISR) documenting their interaction with the complainant. COPA also sustained allegations against Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic for failing to accurately document the search of the complainant and/or the complainant's vehicle in a Traffic Stop Statistical Study (TSSS) Report. COPA reached Not Sustained findings against Officers Bukalo-Mehmedovic and Miranda for searching the complainant and the complainant's vehicle without justification. COPA reached an Unfounded finding that Officer Pagan searched the complainant's vehicle without justification. Lastly, COPA reached a Not Sustained finding against Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic for conducting a protective pat down of a male subject as a female officer, when male officers were available to perform the pat down, in violation of Special Order S04-13-09. COPA recommended a Reprimand and retraining on CPD's ISR policy for all three CPD members, in addition to retraining on CPD's TSSS policy for Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic.

Per the TSSS Report, on November 28, 2023, CPD Officers conducted a traffic stop of the complainant for a broken headlight.¹ Officer Pagan's body worn camera (BWC) footage shows Officer Pagan approach the driver's side of the complainant's vehicle and request that the complainant lower the windows as the complainant opens the driver's side door and begins to exit their vehicle. Officer

¹ Attachment 1.

Pagan tells the complainant to hold on and asks why they were stepping out of their vehicle.² The complainant states they opened the door because the vehicle's windows do not roll down and exits their vehicle. Officer Pagan tells the complainant they were pulled over because one of their vehicle's headlights was broken and asks the complainant if they have their driver's license. The complainant responds that they lost their identification. Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic asks the complainant, "What's that guy reaching for? The guy in the back."³ The complainant responds, "Who? He ain't reaching for nothing." Officer Miranda pats down the complainant's coat pockets and pants and tells the complainant they are going to put them in handcuffs.⁴

As Officer Pagan grabs the complainant's left wrist and Officer Miranda grabs the complainant's right wrist, the complainant tells Officers, "Don't put me in no handcuffs." Officer Miranda tells the complainant that they will be handcuffed since they do not have their identification with them. While Officer Bukalo-Medmedovic assists Officers Miranda and Pagan with handcuffing the complainant by pushing them up against their vehicle, the complainant states, "Who is her? You don't got the right to touch me. She don't got the right to touch me. She a female."⁵ After Officer Pagan places handcuffs on the complainant, Officer Pagan opens the driver's side door and asks, "Who's this in the back?" Officer Pagan directs the rear-seat passenger to exit the back door of the vehicle.⁶

Following handcuffing the complainant, Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic's BWC footage shows Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic approach the passenger side and ask the front-seat female passenger why they were exiting the vehicle. The front-seat passenger tells Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic that they were trying to calm the complainant down. Officer Bukalo-Medmedovic tells Officer Pagan, "There's a dude in the back [of the complainant's vehicle]" and asks the front-seat passenger about the identity of the rear passenger. The front-seat passenger responds, "That's our homie. That's our friend too."⁷ Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic opens the rear passenger door and directs the male rear-seat passenger to step out of the vehicle.⁸ Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic tells the male rear-seat passenger to put their hands up and states, "Nothing on you?" while patting down the front right pocket of the male rear-seat passenger. Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic tells the male rear-seat passenger to take off their backpack and throws the backpack in the rear of the vehicle.⁹ Officer Pagan's BWC footage shows Officer Pagan approach Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic and the male rear-seat passenger as Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic is removing their backpack. Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic pats down both of the male rear-seat passenger's jacket pockets and asks the male rear-seat passenger, "What is this here? Keep your hands up. Is this your wallet?" The male rear-seat passenger states, "Yes." And Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic places the male rear-seat passenger in handcuffs.¹⁰ Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic pats down the female front-seat passenger and requests they stand next to the CPD squad car.¹¹

² Attachment 5, at 2:17 – 2:39.

³ Ibid., at 2:40 – 3:14.

⁴ Ibid., at 3:16 – 3:56.

⁵ Ibid., at 4:01 – 4:27.

⁶ Ibid., at 5:00 – 5:42.

⁷ Attachment 3, at 5:01 – 5:33.

⁸ Ibid., at 5:34 – 5:44.

⁹ Ibid., at 6:09 – 6:22.

¹⁰ Attachment 5, at 6:22 – 6:36.

¹¹ Attachment 3, at 6:55 – 7:02.

After Officer Pagan conducts name checks on the vehicle's occupants, Officer Miranda searches the front seat of the vehicle. Officer Bukalo-Mehmedovic opens the rear door and searches the male rear-seat passenger's backpack. While searching the rear of the vehicle, Officer Miranda states, "Hey, let's cut these guys."¹² Officer Pagan asks the complainant, "You guys want any tickets or anything like that for this stop? You guys good?" and the complainant responds, "Nah, nah. I'm good. Thank you."¹³ CPD Officers release the complainant and both occupants without issuing any citations and do not complete an ISR for the traffic stop.

In the complainant's statement to COPA, the complainant alleged that they had \$1,200 in their thermal pants and that a male officer went into their pockets where their money was located.¹⁴ The complainant told COPA a male officer went into their pockets, asked them how much money they had on them, and then took their money "little by little."¹⁵ The complainant stated \$1,200 was taken from their pants by a male officer following the traffic stop and not returned to them.¹⁶ In its Final Summary Report (FSR), COPA did not address this allegation nor include an analysis on its finding for this allegation. Further, COPA did not question the involved CPD members regarding this allegation.

Based on its preliminary review, and without taking any position on any other aspect of the investigation, OIG recommends COPA reopen the investigation to consider all available evidence, and investigate all potential allegations, including the complainant's allegation that a male CPD member stole \$1,200 from them, as well as 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 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
Angela Snell, Assistant General Counsel, COPA
Timothy L. Moore, Deputy Director, Bureau of Internal Affairs, CPD

¹² Attachment 4, at 13:54 – 18:35; Attachment 5, at 15:30 – 16:10.

¹³ Attachment 5, at 19:01 – 19:07.

¹⁴ Attachment 2, at 7:32 - 8:32.

¹⁵ Ibid., at 19:37 - 19:51.

¹⁶ Ibid., at 28:12 – 29:40.

Appendix B | Department Response



September 18, 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 for Log No. 2023-0005654

Dear Deputy Inspector Richardson:

I am in receipt of your letter recommending that COPA re-open Log No. 2023-0005654. The Office of the Inspector General – Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety (PSIG) recommends re-opening the case on the basis of investigating all potential allegations, specifically the complainant’s allegation that a male CPD member stole \$1,200 from them. After a thorough review, COPA declines to re-open the investigation for the following reasons:

Respectfully, COPA disagrees that this log needs to be reopened to include an allegation that an officer on scene stole \$1,200 from the complainant. While the complainant alleged in his interview with COPA¹ that he recalled the male officer that patted him down reached into his jogger pants and started taking the cash he had balled up there “pinch by pinch,”² and failing to return it to him, COPA’s review of the evidence – including the body-worn camera (BWC) footage of the officers on scene – demonstrates that this did not occur. On the date of this incident, the complainant was pulled over for a routine traffic stop by Officer Amra Bukalo-Mehmodovic, Star #7811; Officer Jesus Miranda, Star #15029; and Officer Jacob Pagan, Star #16589. The complainant, who was the driver, then exited his vehicle, along with two other passengers. The complainant’s vehicle was searched, and he was later searched down by Officer Miranda.³ The entirety of this interaction was captured on the officers’ BWCs. The footage from all the officers confirms that at no point did Officer Miranda put his hand down the complainant’s joggers and retrieve money from inside.⁴ Based on its review, COPA was unable to corroborate the complainant’s accusation related to Officer Miranda taking \$1,200 in cash from the complainant and not returning it to him. There is therefore no objective verifiable evidence of this misconduct occurring, nor is there enough evidence to support serving an allegation.

¹ Att. 2.

² Att. 2. At 07:30; see also 29:07.

³ Att. 4 at 3:44. See also Att. 5 at 3:43.

⁴ Att. 4 at 3:44-7:20.



Under COPA's ordinance, subject to applicable law, the Chief Administrator may, in their discretion, re-open any closed investigation upon PSIG's recommendation.⁵ Having reviewed PSIG's request and COPA's investigation, I find that there is no sufficient basis to re-open this investigation. Accordingly, COPA respectfully declines to re-open this investigation.

As always, I appreciate your continued diligent and careful review of closed COPA investigations.

Respectfully,

LaKenya White
Interim Chief Administrator
Civilian Office of Police Accountability

cc: Deborah Witzburg (OIG)
Samuel Chae (OIG)
LaDonna Candia-Flanagan (OIG)
Angie Snell (COPA)
Timothy L. Moore (BIA)

⁵ MCC § 2-78-120(x)(iii).



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.

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