



CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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Recommendation to Reopen Chicago Police Department Disciplinary Investigation

CPD Log #2025-0001729

OIG Case #C2025-0000000220

Published October 16, 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

BIA investigated allegations that CPD members Armando Zamudio, Jr., Star #5833, and Eссорomawe Karma, Star #18282, failed to ensure that their arrestee was properly handcuffed, in that the arrestee was able to remove one hand from the handcuffs when placed into custody; failed to properly secure their arrestee, in that the arrestee escaped from custody; failed to notify the Office of Emergency Management & Communications (OEMC) of their escaped arrestee and foot pursuit in a timely manner; and failed to notify their supervisor of their escaped arrestee, who was in crisis and climbed over the guardrail of a bridge, and their foot pursuit in a timely manner. BIA sustained all allegations and recommended a 20-day suspension plus placement into CPD's Personnel Concerns Program.

During its review, OIG observed that there was nothing in the investigative file that indicated whether Officers Zamudio, Jr. and Karma completed the required reports for the incident, including a Foot Pursuit Report, a Crisis Intervention Report, a Mental Health Incident Notice, and a Tactical Response Report (TRR).

OIG recommended that BIA reopen the investigation to determine whether Officers Zamudio, Jr. and Karma completed the required reports for the incident.

In response to OIG's recommendations, BIA agreed to reopen the investigation. BIA obtained and included in its investigative file the Foot Pursuit Report and Crisis Intervention Report that documented that the arrestee received a Mental Health Incident Notice. BIA determined that a TRR was not required for the incident, stating that the arrestee was not actively resisting and was not engaged in a physical act to obstruct Officers Zamudio, Jr. and Karma. BIA determined that neither its original Sustained findings nor disciplinary recommendation were altered by the additional reports completed for the incident.

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
231 S. LaSalle Street, 12th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: (773) 478-7799

Via Electronic Mail

June 9, 2025

TIMOTHY L. MOORE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
BUREAU OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
3510 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60653

Re: Log #2025-0001729

Dear Deputy Director Moore:

Pursuant to § 2-56-230(c)(ii) of the Municipal Code of Chicago (MCC), the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) Public Safety section conducted a preliminary review of the investigation conducted by the Chicago Police Department's (CPD) Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) in Log #2025-0001729. OIG recommends that BIA reopen the investigation to gather all evidence and investigate all potential rule violations. Log #2025-0001729 is currently in a Command Channel Review status.

Log #2025-0001729 concerns allegations that CPD Officers Armando Zamudio, Jr., Star #5833, and Essoromawe Karma, Star #18282, "failed to ensure that their arrestee was properly handcuffed, in that [the arrestee] was able to remove one hand from the handcuffs when [they were] placed into custody; failed to properly secure their arrestee, in that [the arrestee] escaped from custody; failed to notify the Office of Emergency Management & Communications (OEMC) of their escaped prisoner or foot pursuit in a timely manner; and failed to notify their supervisor of their escaped prisoner, their arrestee who was in crisis, or their foot pursuit in a timely manner."¹ BIA sustained all allegations for Officers Zamudio and Karma, and recommended 20 Day Suspension and placement into the Personnel Concerns Program.

Officer Karma's body worn camera (BWC) footage begins as Officer Karma is walking in a store and apprehends an individual walking past the anti-theft sensors toward the store entrance.² An unknown security officer removes the shopping bags from the individual's hands. Officer Karma tells the individual to place their hands behind their back and places handcuffs on the individual's wrists. Officer Karma asks an unknown store employee to "hold on to [the individual] for a second" and tells

¹ Attachment 26, p. 6.

² Attachment 7. The beginning of Officer Karma's BWC footage captures Officer Karma in an office with store personnel while still in the buffering period and without audio.

the individual to go with the store employees.³ Officer Karma calls over the police radio that they “on-viewed” a retail theft and provides the store’s address. Officer Karma knocks on a “Team Member’s Only” door and store employees open the door to allow Officer Karma inside the office with the apprehended individual and other store personnel. The individual repeats, “Please, please” and states they will pay for everything. Officer Karma tells the individual they are going to jail as this is the second instance of them stealing from the same store. Officer Karma points out an electronic monitoring device on the individual’s ankle, and states “And you got that monitor and you’re still stealing.”⁴

Officer Zamudio’s BWC footage captures Officer Zamudio sitting in a CPD squad car, removing the keys from the ignition, and walking into the store. Officer Karma holds the “Team Members Only” office door open and Officer Zamudio enters behind Officer Karma. Officers explain to the individual that they are under arrest for retail theft and are going to jail because “...you walked past the last point of sale; you can’t pay for it now.” Officers speak with unknown store employees regarding the value of the stolen items and the prior theft incident involving the individual. The individual requests to use the restroom, and Officer Karma responds, “No, once we get to the [district] station, you can use it.”⁵ The individual refuses to provide their name and identifying information. Officer Karma completes a Victim Information Notice and hands it to an unknown store employee. Officer Zamudio states to the store employee that they will return for surveillance footage, if needed.⁶

As seen on the BWC footage of Officer Karma, Officer Zamudio takes the individual’s arm and escorts them toward the entrance of the store as Officer Karma walks behind them. While walking out of the store, the individual uses their hand to grab the handcuff on their left wrist and pull the handcuff down to the middle of their palm, just below their fingers.⁷ Officer Zamudio escorts the individual to the back of the CPD squad car while Officer Karma enters the driver’s side door. The individual sits in the back seat of the CPD squad car and repeats, “Please” several times while refusing to place their feet inside the back seat. Officer Zamudio tells the individual, “Sit in there, don’t make me drag you into the back of the squad car – you’re under arrest already. Don’t make me drag you into the squad car.”⁸ Officer Zamudio takes ahold of the individual’s legs to place them in the backseat and attempts to close the squad car door when the individual holds out their left hand to stop the door from closing. Officer Zamudio orders the individual to step out, and the individual begins running down the sidewalk. Officer Zamudio pursues the individual down the sidewalk, telling them to stop before the individual runs across a multi-lane street. Officer Zamudio discontinues the foot pursuit and walks back to the squad car, telling Officer Karma the individual “got off that cuff” and that the individual still has the handcuffs on one wrist.

The BWC footage shows Officers Karma and Zamudio return to the CPD squad car and drive down the street in the direction the individual ran. Officer Zamudio points the individual out to Officer Karma, stating “that’s [the individual] right there” and stated, “[the individual] can’t go nowhere.” Officer Zamudio exits the CPD squad car and yells, “Don’t you try to jump over!” as the individual climbs over the guardrail of a bridge. While Officers Karma and Zamudio approach the individual, Officer Karma yells, “Don’t jump! Don’t jump! Don’t jump! We’re gonna let you go. We’re gonna let you go.

³ Attachment 7, at 2:00 – 2:48.

⁴ Ibid., at 3:07 – 4:36.

⁵ Attachment 6, at 2:00 – 7:03.

⁶ Ibid., 11:25 – 11:26.

⁷ Attachment 7, at 13:21 – 14:08.

⁸ Attachment 6, at 12:14 – 12:50.

Don't jump!" The individual responds, "No you're not; I'm jumping!" The individual says, "I can't go back to jail, please." Officer Karma tells the individual that they are not going to go back to jail, but Officers just want their information to give them a report. The individual states, "No, I'm jumping!" as they are over the ledge of the bridge, holding onto the guardrail. Officer Zamudio tells the individual to get off the ledge or they will go to the hospital as Officer Karma approaches the individual at the ledge, asking why they would kill themselves for a misdemeanor. Officer Zamudio orders the individual to come off the ledge and tells them they will be going to the hospital and not going to jail.⁹ Officer Karma states, "It looks like you are mental, you want to go to the hospital?" Officer Karma repeats to the individual several times that this is a mental issue. The individual responds, "Then leave – let me go." Officer Karma responds, "Okay" and backs away from the individual on the ledge of the bridge. The individual again asks Officers to leave and says that they will not go back to jail before stating, "Please leave me alone. Just leave." Officer Karma responds, "Okay, we're leaving" as the individual states, "I'm jumping. You don't believe I'm finna jump. I'm finna jump" while crouching down on the bridge's ledge. Officer Karma states, "We're leaving. Let's go." Both Officers Karma and Zamudio return to their squad car while the individual remains on the ledge of the bridge.¹⁰

Officers Karma and Zamudio then enter the CPD squad car and comment that that the individual is still on the ledge and had not jumped. As Officer Karma drives down the street, Officer Karma asks Officer Zamudio if they could see the individual. Officer Zamudio responds, "I don't see [the individual]. Let me check that [they] didn't jump because [they are] unstable." Officer Zamudio exits the squad car and looks over the bridge before calling Officer Karma on a cellphone.¹¹ Officer Karma drives the squad car to the other side of the street and calls Officer Zamudio on a cellphone regarding the individual's location.

Officer Karma walks across the street towards the individual who is no longer on the ledge of the bridge and is now on the sidewalk, telling the individual, "I'm just going to talk to you." Then, the individual runs across the multi-lane street and hops over a bridge guardrail when Officer Karma grabs their arm to prevent them from falling. Officer Karma holds onto the individual's wrist with one hand and the loose handcuff with their other hand as the individual hangs over the bridge guardrail. The individual tells Officer Karma, "Please, you're going to drop me! You're gonna drop me!" Officer Karma responds, "No, I'm not. Don't do it. I just want to take you to the hospital you see because you're mental. You're hurting yourself. It seems like you're mental." Officer Karma directs an unknown bystander to help them pull the individual over the guardrail. The unknown bystander grabs the individual's leg as Officer Karma pulls the individual over the guardrail and sits the individual on the sidewalk. Officer Zamudio assists in re-handcuffing the individual and they place the individual in the back of the CPD squad car.¹²

As Officers transport the individual to CPD's 1st District station, the individual can be heard on BWC footage yelling and crying while they bang on an unknown object in the back of the CPD squad car. Officer Zamudio comments, "Do a mental health transport at this point." While en route, a dispatcher announces a "10-1" (Officer Emergency) call over the radio, verbally noting that the caller stated, "officers were wrestling [an individual]" and were "now holding the [individual]" that is hanging off the

⁹ Attachment 6, at 14:25 – 15:17; Attachment 7, at 14:34 – 16:52.

¹⁰ Attachment 7, 16:54-17:40.

¹¹ Ibid., at 16:20 – 18:24.

¹² Attachment 7, at 18:51 – 24:21.

bridge.”¹³ Officer Karma states over the police radio that Officers had the individual in custody and were on their way to the station. Per the Original Case Incident Report (OCIR) recorded under #JJ213212 for the incident, the individual was later transported to the hospital to seek mental health treatment.¹⁴

Lieutenant Michael Petraski, Star #245, completed an initiation report related to the prisoner escape. In the report, Lieutenant Petraski writes, “R/Lt. was reviewing BWC footage to complete related Foot Pursuit Reports on 12 April 2025. R/Lt. observed what appears to be a prisoner escape.”¹⁵ Although Lieutenant Petraski noted they were attempting to complete Foot Pursuit Reports, there is nothing in the electronic case file that indicates Officers Zamudio and Karma completed Foot Pursuit Reports as required per CPD’s General Order on Foot Pursuits, G03-07(XIV)(A)(1)(a)(b).

Sections (VI)(H)(3) and (4) of CPD’s Special Order S04-20, Recognizing and Responding to Individuals In Crisis detail the reporting requirements when CPD members respond to a call for service that has a mental health component. These sections require that “A Crisis Intervention (CIT) Report will be completed on CLEARNET when a member responds to a call for service that has a mental health component,” and “A Mental Health Incident Notice (CPD-15.521) will be given when a member responds to a call for service that has a mental health component.” It is not indicated on the Original Case Incident Report, nor is it observed on BWC footage or anywhere else in the investigative file that Officers Karma and Zamudio completed a CIT Report or a Mental Health Incident Notice for this incident.

Per Sections (III)(A)(1)(b) and (c) of CPD’s General Order G03-02-02, Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report (TRR), a TRR is required for a reportable use of force incident for all use of force incidents involving “the active resistance of a person” and “an act of obstructing a police officer when the obstructing is a physical act directed at the Department member and requires a reportable use of force response.” In OIG’s review of the documents in the investigative file, it is not clear whether Officers completed TRRs for the incident, including the holds used by Officer Karma to prevent the individual from falling from the bridge.

Based on OIG’s preliminary review, and without taking any position on any other aspect of the investigation or its findings, OIG recommends that BIA reopen Log #2025-0001729 to determine whether Officers Karma and Zamudio completed:

- a Foot Pursuit Report, as required per CPD’s General Order G03-07;
- a Crisis Intervention Report; as required per CPD’s Special Order S04-20;
- a Mental Health Incident Notice; as required per CPD’s Special Order S04-20;
- a Tactical Response Report as required by CPD’s General Order G03-02-02; and
- any other applicable Department 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

¹³ Attachment 7, at 25:03 – 26:18; CPD Event Query Report recorded under #2510009057, accessed in Internal attachment folder in case management system (CMS).

¹⁴ OCIR recorded under #JJ213212, accessed in Internal attachment folder in (CMS).

¹⁵ Attachment 4, p. 2.

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 Connie Flores, BIA, CPD
Officer Jessica R. Medina, Legal Affairs, CPD

Appendix B | Department Response



Re: Recommendation to Reopen Log #2025-0001729 (In CCR)

From Flores, Connie D. <Connie.Flores@chicagopolice.org>

Date Wed 6/11/2025 12:29 PM

To LaDonna Candia-Flanagan <lcandia-flanagan@igchicago.org>

Cc Medina, Jessica <Jessica.Medina@chicagopolice.org>; Spears, Scott <Scott.Spears@chicagopolice.org>; Tobara Richardson <trichardson@igchicago.org>; Samuel Chae <schae@igchicago.org>; Deborah Witzburg <dwitzburg@igchicago.org>; Moore, Timothy L. <Timothy.Moore@chicagopolice.org>; Walker, Traci L. <Traci.Walker@chicagopolice.org>; Flores, Gabriel <Gabriel.Flores2@chicagopolice.org>; Flores, Robert A. <Robert.Flores@chicagopolice.org>; Frierson, Keshia <Keshia.Frierson@chicagopolice.org>; Rivera, Vanessa <Vanessa.Rivera@chicagopolice.org>

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Good Afternoon,

On behalf of Deputy Director Moore, the Bureau of Internal Affairs will reopen Log Number 2025-0001729 for further investigation.

Thank you,

Sgt. Connie Flores
Chicago Police Department
Bureau of Internal Affairs
Administrative Section
3510 S. Michigan Ave., 5th Floor
Office 312-745-6215 Ext: 85015, Pax: 0216



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From: LaDonna Candia-Flanagan <lcandia-flanagan@igchicago.org>

Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 3:50 PM

To: Moore, Timothy L. <Timothy.Moore@chicagopolice.org>

Cc: Medina, Jessica <Jessica.Medina@chicagopolice.org>; Flores, Connie D. <Connie.Flores@chicagopolice.org>; Spears, Scott <Scott.Spears@chicagopolice.org>; Tobar Richardson <trichardson@igchicago.org>; Samuel Chae <schae@igchicago.org>; Deborah Witzburg <dwitzburg@igchicago.org>

Subject: Recommendation to Reopen Log #2025-0001729 (In CCR)

Dear Deputy Director Moore:

On behalf of Deputy Inspector General Tobar Richardson, please find attached to this email a recommendation to reopen Log #2025-0001729. Log #2025-0001729 is currently in command channel review. Please acknowledge your receipt of this correspondence and let me know if you have any questions.

LaDonna Candia-Flanagan

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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, 231 S. LaSalle Street, 12th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604, or visit our website at igchicago.org.

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