



CITY OF CHICAGO  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

# Recommendation to Reopen Chicago Police Department Disciplinary Investigation

CPD Log #2018-10888016

OIG Case #C2023-0000000022

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.<sup>1</sup>

COPA investigated allegations that Officer Demond Sykes, Star #13871, did not have probable cause to arrest the complainant; that Officer Christina Pena, Star #10868, maltreated the complainant; and that Sergeant Jacalyn Doyle, Star #1018, witnessed the maltreatment but failed to intervene. On September 17, 2017, Officer Sykes arrested the complainant, who was riding a bicycle, for failure to stop at two stop signs and resisting/obstructing a peace officer. The complainant and their bicycle were transported to CPD's 15<sup>th</sup> District station. Shortly thereafter, CPD members transported the complainant to the 25<sup>th</sup> District station for processing. Officer Pena prepared bail bond paperwork and asked the complainant to review and sign it. The complainant reviewed the paperwork and informed Officer Pena that the address listed was incorrect. Officer Pena told the transporting officers that they could leave the station—the complainant could get themselves home. CPD officers left the complainant to find alternative transportation from the 25<sup>th</sup> District station to the 15<sup>th</sup> District station where their bicycle was inventoried.

As a result of its investigation, COPA concluded that the allegations made against Officer Pena and Sergeant Doyle were unfounded, and COPA determined that additional allegations were warranted against Officer Sykes. However, COPA failed to serve the additional allegations due to Officer Sykes placement in a no-pay status for a separate misconduct incident. COPA placed the allegations against Officer Sykes in a Close Hold status.

On January 20, 2023, OIG recommended that COPA reopen the investigation to serve Officer Sykes with the additional allegations that COPA identified and take any additional steps necessary to reach a finding. OIG also recommended that COPA identify the mechanism or procedure it has in place to ensure COPA is notified when and if Officer Sykes returns to work so that it may conclude its investigation.

On May 8, 2023, COPA reopened the investigation in response to OIG's recommendation. OIG reviewed the electronic case file and according to a note dated June 30, 2025, COPA later decided to re-close the case without serving Officer Sykes with the additional allegations due to the age of the case, but did not notify OIG.

OIG's letter to COPA containing its recommendations is attached in Appendix A. COPA's response is attached as 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  
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Chicago, IL 60654  
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## Via Electronic Mail

January 20, 2023

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

Re: Log #1088016

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 #1088016. OIG recommends that COPA reopen this matter to complete its investigation of all potential violations. Log #1088016 is currently in a Pending Review Incident (I.A.D./District Use) status.

Log #1088016 concerns allegations that Chicago Police Department (CPD) Officer Demond Sykes, Star #13871, did not have probable cause to arrest the complainant; that Officer Christina Pena, Star #10868, maltreated the complainant; and that Sergeant Jacalyn Doyle, Star #1018, witnessed the maltreatment but failed to intervene.

On September 17, 2017, Officer Sykes conducted a traffic stop of the complainant, who was riding a bicycle and failed to stop at two stop signs. During the stop, the complainant refused Officer Sykes' instructions to step off the bicycle and walk to the front of Sykes' CPD vehicle. As a result, the complainant was placed under arrest for resisting/obstructing a peace officer and failing to stop at a stop sign. The complainant and the bicycle were transported to the 15<sup>th</sup> District; shortly thereafter, Officer Scott drove the complainant to the 25<sup>th</sup> District for fingerprinting and processing. Officer Scott told the complainant that, once released, Officer Scott would transport the complainant back to the 15<sup>th</sup> District. Officer Pena prepared bail bond paperwork and asked the complainant to review and sign it. The complainant reviewed the paperwork and informed Officer Pena that the address listed was incorrect. Officer Pena told Officer Scott and another unidentified officer that they did not have to wait for the complainant after all, and that "...[the complainant] could get [themselves] home." Officer Scott left the station, necessitating the complainant's finding alternative transportation back to the 15<sup>th</sup> District where their property was inventoried.

COPA concluded that the allegations made against Officer Pena and Sergeant Doyle were unfounded and entered a recommendation/finding of Closed Hold for the allegation that Officer

Sykes arrested the complainant without probable cause to believe that the complainant had committed a criminal offense. In its Summary Report, COPA writes in a footnote, "Upon review of Officer Sykes statements, COPA has determined that additional allegations are warranted. However, on April 29, 2022, Officer Sykes was arrested for an unrelated incident that resulted in Officer Sykes being placed in a no-pay status with CPD."<sup>1</sup> COPA did not offer an explanation as to why Officer Sykes' placement in a no-pay status was a barrier to serving him with additional allegations. OIG's review of City records suggests that Officer Sykes was granted a Leave of Absence effective July 7, 2022.

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 this matter to serve Officer Sykes with the additional allegations that were identified following the review of his statements and take any additional steps necessary to reach a finding. Should COPA decline OIG's recommendation, OIG requests that COPA identify the authority preventing COPA from serving Officer Sykes with additional allegations while in a no-pay status. Additionally, OIG recommends that COPA identify the mechanism or procedure it has in place to ensure it is notified when and if Officer Sykes returns to work so that it may conclude its investigation.

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. 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  
Megan Carlson, 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>1</sup> Attachment 60.

## Appendix B | Department Response

**From:** [Angela Snell](#)  
**To:** [LaDonna Candia-Flanagan](#); [Andrea Kersten](#)  
**Cc:** [Robin Murphy](#); [Deborah Witzburg](#); [Tobara Richardson](#); [Megan Carlson](#); [Yolanda Talley](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Recommendation to Reopen Log #1088016  
**Date:** Monday, May 8, 2023 10:47:28 AM

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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 will 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:** LaDonna Candia-Flanagan <[lcandia-flanagan@igchicago.org](mailto:lcandia-flanagan@igchicago.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 4:09 PM  
**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)>; Deborah Witzburg <[dwitzburg@igchicago.org](mailto:dwitzburg@igchicago.org)>; Tobara Richardson <[trichardson@igchicago.org](mailto:trichardson@igchicago.org)>; Megan Carlson <[mcarlson@igchicago.org](mailto:mcarlson@igchicago.org)>; Yolanda Talley <[yolanda.talley@chicagopolice.org](mailto:yolanda.talley@chicagopolice.org)>  
**Subject:** Recommendation to Reopen Log #1088016

[Warning: External email]

Greetings Chief Administrator Kersten,

On behalf of OIG's Deputy Inspector General of Public Safety, Tobara Richardson, please find a recommendation to reopen Log #1088016 attached to this correspondence. Log #1088016 is currently in Pending Review Incident status.

Please acknowledge your receipt of this correspondence, and let us know if you have any questions.

LaDonna Candia-Flanagan (she/her)  
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**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, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60604, or visit our website at [igchicago.org](https://igchicago.org).

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