



CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

20
25

Recommendation to Reopen Chicago Police Department Disciplinary Investigation

CPD Log #2023-0002878

OIG Case #C20240000000347

Published October 17, 2025

October 17, 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

OIG reviewed a COPA investigation concerning allegations that three CPD members, Steven Sreniawski, Star #2878, Bret Hon, Star #6214, and Michael Tanon, Star #6300, improperly detained and handcuffed the complainant and failed to provide them with an Investigatory Stop Receipt; Officer Hon searched the complainant without justification; Officers Sreniawski and Hon inappropriately searched the complainant's groin area; and Officer Sreniawski pushed the complainant into a fence and stated, "I said fucking stop." COPA reached findings of Sustained on all the allegations brought against the accused members.

During its review, OIG identified a discrepancy between COPA's findings and the written analysis in COPA's Final Summary Report (FSR). In the Final Summary Report (FSR), COPA noted, "Officer Sreniawski admitted that a search of the crotch area was generally impermissible under CPD policy and, moreover, that the search in this case extended into [complainant's] crotch area. Officer Hon denied that he searched complainant's genital area but described a search of complainant's right leg below the waistline, indicating that firearms in these situations tend to slip down the leg." COPA also wrote, "While, BWC footage shows Officer Hon searching [complainant's] outer pants area, the footage does not clearly show that Officer Hon searched in [complainant's] groin area or searched inside of [complainant's] pants. BWC footage captures Officer Sreniawski searching [complainant] further after he had placed his hands in [complainant's] front pocket, but the angle of the BWC footage does not depict exactly where Sreniawski subsequently searched."

OIG recommended that COPA reopen the investigation to ensure that its analysis aligned with its findings, and that its findings are adequately supported by its analysis of the evidence.

In response to OIG's recommendations, COPA reopened its investigation and corrected its finding to Not Sustain for the allegations that Officers Sreniawski and Hon conducted an inappropriate pat down search and improperly searched the complainant's groin area without justification.

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
740 N. Sedgwick St., Ste 200
Chicago, IL 60654
Phone: (773) 478-7799

Via Electronic Mail

October 15, 2024

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

Re: Log #2023-0002878

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 #2023-0002878. OIG writes to notify COPA of a discrepancy between the documented findings and the analysis provided in COPA's Final Summary Report (FSR). Log #2023-0002878 is currently in a Command Channel Review status.

Log #2023-0002878 concerns allegations against CPD members Steven Sreniawski, Star #2878, Bret Hon, Star #6214, and Michael Tanon, Star #6300, in that they improperly detained, handcuffed and failed to provide the complainant with an Investigatory Stop Report (ISR); Officer Hon searched the complainant without justification; Officers Sreniawski and Hon inappropriately searched the complainant's groin area; and Officer Sreniawski pushed the complainant into a fence and stated, "I said fucking stop." COPA reached findings of Sustained on all the allegations brought against the accused members.

In Officer Sreniawski's interview with COPA, the investigator played the body-worn camera (BWC) footage of the incident and asked where Officer Hon has his hand. Officer Sreniawski stated, "I can't tell if it's touching, but approaching the right front waistband, right leg area of [the complainant.]" The investigator asked, "Is it below the waistband in the crotch area or is it in the waistband?" Officer Sreniawski stated, "I believe it's below the waistband, more in the leg area, close to the crotch." Officer Sreniawski did state that a search of the crotch area is not acceptable by CPD, but that a search of the crotch area can be acceptable if a firearm went from the waistband into the crotch area. Officer Sreniawski also stated, "In this particular instance, we believed he was armed, so there's potential that the firearm could've gone further down [the

complainant's] pants." Officer Sreniawski denied that he observed a "bulge" in the crotch area, and stated that they did not believe that the search conducted by Officer Hon was in the crotch area.¹

COPA interviewed Officer Hon. During the interview, Officer Hon stated, "The initial bulge was in the front area. It was later revealed that the cell phone was in [the complainant's] left pocket, but at that time I'm behind the individual, so I just conducted a pat-down of [the complainant's] leg because sometimes handguns will slide down people's pants."²

In the Final Summary Report (FSR), COPA noted, "Officer Sreniawski admitted that a search of the crotch area was generally impermissible under CPD policy and, moreover, that the search in this case extended into [complainant's] crotch area. COPA also noted, "Officer Hon denied that he searched complainant's genital area, but described a search of complainant's right leg below the waistline, indicating that firearms in these situations tend to slip down the leg."³

In its analysis of the allegation that Officers Hon and Sreniawski inappropriately searched Collins in the groin area, COPA wrote, "While, BWC footage shows Officer Hon searching [complainant's] outer pants area, the footage does not clearly show that Officer Hon searched in [complainant's] groin area or searched inside of [complainant's] pants. BWC footage captures Officer Sreniawski searching [complainant] further after he had placed his hands in [complainant's] front pocket, but the angle of the BWC footage does not depict exactly where Sreniawski subsequently searched."⁴

Based on the statements made by Officers Hon and Sreniawski, and COPA's analysis of the BWC footage quoted above, it is unclear how COPA reached a finding of Sustained on the allegation that Officers Sreniawski and Hon conducted an inappropriate pat down search of the complainant's groin area without justification.

Based on OIG's preliminary review, and without taking any position on any other aspect of the investigation, OIG recommends COPA reopen the investigation to ensure that its analysis aligns with its findings, and that its findings are adequately supported by its analysis of the evidence, specifically with respect to its finding of Sustained on the allegation that Officers Sreniawski and Hon inappropriately searched the complainant's groin area.

¹ Attachment 45, pg. 30.

² Attachment 46, pg. 15.

³ Attachment 55, pg. 7.

⁴ Attachment 55, pg. 7.

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, Chief Investigative Law Officer, COPA
Yolanda Talley, Chief, Bureau of Internal Affairs, CPD

Appendix B | Department Response



RE: Recommendation to Reopen Log #2023-0002878 (CCR)

From Angela Snell <Angela.Snell@chicagocopa.org>

Date Mon 10/21/2024 10:39 AM

To LaDonna Candia Flanagan <lcandia_flanagan@igchicago.org>; Andrea Kersten <Andrea.Kersten@chicagocopa.org>

Cc Robin Murphy <Robin.Murphy@chicagocopa.org>; Yolanda Talley <yolanda.talley@chicagopolice.org>; Deborah Witzburg <dwitzburg@igchicago.org>; Tobar Richardson <trichardson@igchicago.org>; Samuel Chae <schae@igchicago.org>

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 re-open this log. 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

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

Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 11:33 AM

To: Andrea Kersten <Andrea.Kersten@chicagocopa.org>

Cc: Robin Murphy <Robin.Murphy@chicagocopa.org>; Angela Snell <Angela.Snell@chicagocopa.org>; Yolanda Talley <yolanda.talley@chicagopolice.org>; Deborah Witzburg <dwitzburg@igchicago.org>; Tobar Richardson <trichardson@igchicago.org>; Samuel Chae <schae@igchicago.org>

Subject: Recommendation to Reopen Log #2023-0002878 (CCR)

[Warning: External email]

Dear Chief Administrator Kersten:

On behalf of Deputy Inspector General Tobar Richardson, please find attached to this email a recommendation to reopen Log #2023-0002878 currently in Command Channel Review. Please acknowledge your receipt of this correspondence and let me know if you have any questions.

LaDonna Candia-Flanagan

Chief Investigative Analyst-Public Safety
City of Chicago | Office of Inspector General
740 N. Sedgwick, Suite 200 | Chicago, IL 60654

lcandia-flanagan@igchicago.org

(773) 478-5614

(833) Talk-2-IG | (833) 825-5244

talk2ig@igchicago.org | igchicago.org



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, Illinois 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.

