



CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

20
25

Recommendation to Reopen Chicago Police Department Disciplinary Investigation

CPD Log #2023-0004524

OIG Case #C2025-000000157

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 that CPD member Brandon Twyman, Star #15662, used excessive force against an arrestee by pushing them into a wall and a bench and failed to use de-escalation techniques to prevent or reduce the need for force. COPA further alleged that CPD member Darell Willis, Star #19819, directed profanity toward the arrestee. COPA sustained the allegations that Officer Twyman used excessive force by pushing the arrestee into the concrete bench and failed to use de-escalation techniques, but did not sustain the allegation on the push of the arrestee into the wall. COPA also sustained the allegation that Officer Willis used profanity towards the arrestee. COPA recommended discipline of Violation Noted for both CPD members.

During its review of BWC video, OIG observed that the arrestee sustained visible injuries seconds after Officer Twyman pushes the arrestee into a bench. OIG's review of the investigative file found that COPA did not address the injuries sustained by the arrestee, nor did it address whether Officer Twyman should have completed a Tactical Response Report (TRR).

OIG recommended that COPA reopen the investigation to consider all available evidence and determine whether Officer Twyman should have completed a TRR for the use of force incident.

In response to OIG's recommendations, COPA declined to reopen its investigation due to timeliness concerns. In its response to OIG, COPA states, "re-opening this case at this time to analyze that issue would jeopardize COPA's other important findings in this case, including findings of excessive force, failure to de-escalate, and verbal abuse."

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.



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

April 21, 2025

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

Re: Log #2023-0004524

Dear Chief Administrator White:

Pursuant to § 2-56-230(c)(ii) of the Municipal Code of Chicago (MCC), the City of Chicago 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 #2023-0004524. OIG recommends that COPA reopen the investigation to fully account for all available evidence and conduct an analysis of whether the conduct at issue required the completion of a Tactical Response Report (TRR). Log #2023-0004524 is currently in command channel review.

Log #2023-0004524 concerns allegations that Chicago Police Department (CPD) Officer Brandon Twyman, Star #15662, used excessive force against an arrestee by pushing them into a wall and a bench, and failed to use de-escalation techniques to prevent or reduce the need for force. COPA further alleged that CPD Officer Darell Willis, Star #19819, directed profanity toward the arrestee by stating, "You stupid mother fucker." COPA reached sustained findings on the allegations that Officer Twyman used excessive force by pushing the arrestee into the concrete bench and failed to use de-escalation techniques, but reached a finding of Not Sustained on the push of the arrestee into the wall. COPA reached a finding of Sustained on the allegation that Officer Willis used profanity towards the arrestee. COPA recommended a Violation Noted for Officers Twyman and Willis.¹

According to the Arrest Report and Original Case Incident Report in COPA's investigative file, on September 26, 2023, Officers Twyman and Willis responded to a domestic battery in progress. Following their investigation, the officers placed the arrestee in custody on signed complaints and transported them to CPD's 10th District station.²

¹ Attachment 58.

² Attachment 2; 22.

Upon their arrival at CPD's 10th District station, the arrestee was placed in a holding cell and given multiple verbal directions to remove articles of clothing and remain seated on a concrete bench inside the cell. The arrestee was uncooperative and yelled profanities and threats at Officers Twyman and Willis. Footage from Officer Rene Garcia's, Star #14229, body-worn camera (BWC), at the 2:21 mark, shows Officers Twyman and Willis engaging in a verbal altercation with the arrestee when the arrestee states, "Take my cuffs off, I'll beat the fuck out of you," to Officer Twyman. Officer Twyman responds, "C'mon," as Officer Twyman retrieves their handcuff key from their ballistic vest and removes the arrestee's handcuffs. The arrestee continues to verbally threaten the officers and repeatedly points their fingers near the officers' faces. At the 3:08 mark of Officer Garcia's BWC footage, the unrestrained arrestee is standing up near Officer Twyman and states, "Swing, swing, it's on you," and Officer Twyman responds, "No, you swing... You swing, you swing." The incident continues to escalate and Officer Twyman handcuffs the arrestee to the wall by one hand. At the 4:27 mark of Officer Garcia's BWC footage, the arrestee accuses Officer Willis of stealing their shoe and Officer Willis calls the arrestee a "stupid mother fucker," then calls the arrestee a "woman-beater," several times.³ On Officer Kourtney Rodez's, Star #15833, BWC footage, at the 4:32 mark, the arrestee's hand appears to make contact with Officer Twyman's shoulder area as they stand up from the bench. Officer Twyman pushes the arrestee away from them into the wall and then pushes the arrestee down onto the concrete bench, causing the arrestee's head to hit the bench. At the 4:58 mark of Officer Rodez's BWC footage, seconds after Officer Twyman pushes the arrestee onto the concrete bench, the arrestee's mouth is full of blood, which it was not previously.⁴ The Initiation Report in COPA's investigative file also states that later the same day, the arrestee told the reporting sergeant that Officer Twyman "ran [their] head into the wall," and as a result they have head and neck pain.⁵

In its Final Summary Report (FSR), COPA does not address the visible sustained injuries to the arrestee's mouth, which were captured on BWC video, nor does it mention the injuries alleged by the arrestee in the Initiation Report. However, COPA does determine that Officer Twyman's second push of the arrestee was "an unnecessary additional use of force that did not serve a justifiable purpose."⁶ Additionally, in the Notes section of CMS, COPA wrote, "Search for any TRRs filed in CLEARNET under 10th District and officer names, from September 26, 2023 through September 27, 2023, and no TRRs found."⁷ In its FSR, COPA does not address whether Officer Twyman should have completed a TRR for this use of force incident, nor does it bring an allegation against Officer Twyman for failing to complete a TRR.⁸

General Order G03-02-02 "Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report," requires CPD members to complete a TRR when the use of force incident involves an individual who is injured or alleges injury "resulting from the member's use of force." Further, a TRR must be completed when an individual's "actions are aggressively offensive, with or without weapons, or who is using or threatening the imminent use of force against the member that will likely cause

³ Attachment 5.

⁴ Attachment 6.

⁵ Attachment 20.

⁶ Attachment 58.

⁷ Note: CO-1355441.

⁸ Attachment 58.

physical injury, including an assault, aggravated assault, or threat of physical attack.”⁹ In Log #2023-0004524, COPA characterizes the arrestee as an assailant due to the threats and physical contact made to Officer Twyman; also, the arrestee sustained a physical injury, and later complained of head and neck pain.¹⁰

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 Log #2023-0004524 to consider all available evidence and determine whether Officer Twyman should have completed a TRR for the use of force incident.

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 L. Moore, Deputy Director, BIA, CPD

⁹ Chicago Police Department, “General Order G03-02-02 Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report,” June 28, 2023, accessed April 14, 2025.
<https://directives.chicagopolice.org/#directive/public/6610>.

¹⁰ Attachment 58.

Appendix B | Department Response



June 16, 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. 2023-0004524

Dear Deputy Inspector General Richardson:

I am in receipt of your April 21, 2025 letter recommending that COPA re-open and conduct additional investigation in Log No. 2023-0004524. We understand the Office of the Inspector General - Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety (PSIG) recommends re-opening this case to analyze whether Police Officer Brandon Twyman¹ was required to complete a Tactical Response Report for a use of force incident.

Unfortunately, re-opening this case at this time to analyze that issue would jeopardize COPA's other important findings in this case, including findings of excessive force, failure to de-escalate, and verbal abuse.

The officer's collective bargaining agreement requires that COPA's investigation be completed within 18 months after a case is opened.² In the event COPA does not conclude an investigation involving a sergeant 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 late September/early October 2023. COPA closed its investigation shortly before the 18-month deadline in late March 2025. Reopening the case at this time would be futile because COPA believes an arbitrator would likely reverse or reduce any proposed penalty under the circumstances of this case.³

Under COPA's ordinance, the Chief Administrator may, in her discretion, re-open any closed investigation upon PSIG's recommendation.⁴ While we respectfully decline to re-open the

¹ Star # 15622.

² *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).

³ Officers cannot grieve a Violation Noted, but COPA would seek suspension of the officers if the case were reopened. See Term Sheet at Sec. 8.4.

⁴ MCC § 2-78-120(x)(iii).

investigation for the reason stated above, we appreciate your continued diligent and careful review of closed COPA investigations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LaKenya White".

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 Snel (COPA)



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, 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

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