



CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

20
25

Recommendation to Reopen Chicago Police Department Disciplinary Investigation

CPD Log #2024-0006026

OIG Case #C2024-000000500

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 conducted a preliminary investigation concerning allegations that unknown CPD members used excessive force by improperly pulling the complainant's hair and carrying them by their arms and legs. COPA determined that due to a lack of cooperation from the complainant and a lack of sufficient evidence of misconduct, no CPD member would be served allegations, and the investigation was administratively closed.

In the notes section of CPD's case management system (CMS), COPA wrote, "Obtained and uploaded BWC from both witness officers. BWC did not capture incident." However, OIG's review of the same video footage found that a CPD member's body worn camera (BWC) did capture the incident. OIG recommended that COPA reopen the investigation to identify the unknown CPD member and address the excessive force allegations to include the pulling of the complainant's hair.

In response to OIG's recommendations, COPA reopened the investigation, interviewed the witness CPD members, who "could not identify [the] unknown accused officer," and closed the investigation, citing insufficient evidence to serve allegations.

OIG's letter to COPA containing its recommendations is attached in Appendix A. COPA 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

December 27, 2024

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

Re: Log #2024-0006026

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 #2024-0006026. OIG recommends that COPA reopen the investigation to account for available evidence and fully address all appropriate allegations. Log #2024-0006026 is currently in a Closed/No Finding status.

Log #2024-0006026 concerns allegations that unknown Chicago Police Department (CPD) members used excessive force by improperly pulling the complainant's dreadlocks and carrying them by their arms and legs.¹

According to the Investigatory Stop Report (ISR) in COPA's investigative file, on July 1, 2024, several CPD members were assigned to work at the Chicago Pride Parade. Officers Aaron Boyd, Star #12607, and Sarah Abuosba, Star #3003, reported that as other officers were attempting to stop a battery in progress, the complainant obstructed the officers from carrying out their duties and the complainant was subsequently detained. Officer Boyd wrote, "[complainant] related to officers [they were] attempting to aid in breaking up the fight, but upon Director of News Affairs, Ahern's further investigation via 19's District available POD footage, it revealed above listed was obstruction."² The complainant was released shortly after being detained and was given an ISR receipt.

Officer Boyd's body-worn camera (BWC) footage, at the 0:04 mark, shows Officer Boyd approaching a metal barricade where several other CPD members are standing. Once Officer Boyd is standing at the barricade, a heavy set, bald male officer grabs the complainant by their dreadlocks with his left hand and pushes the complainant's head downward toward the barricade

¹ Attachment 9.

² Attachment 3.

as another officer has a grip on the complainant's right hand. Several CPD members grab the complainant by their clothing, arms and legs and carry them away from the crowd.³

In its Non-Final Summary Report, COPA concluded that due to a lack of cooperation from the complainant during its preliminary investigation, and the lack of sufficient evidence of misconduct based on COPA's review of the ISR and BWC footage, no CPD member would be served allegations.⁴ In the Notes section of CMS, COPA wrote, "Obtained and uploaded BWC from both witness officers. BWC did not capture incident."⁵ However, Officer Boyd's BWC does capture the incident starting at the 0:04 mark.⁶

Based on OIG's preliminary review, OIG recommends that COPA reopen Log #2024-0006026 to identify the unknown CPD member and address the excessive force allegations to include the pulling of the complainant's hair.

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

³ Attachment 1; The BWC footage captures the unknown officer grabbing and pulling the subject downward by their dreadlocks. This action is clearer when the video playback speed is at 0.25 or 0.5.

⁴ Attachment 9.

⁵ Note: CO-1399856.

⁶ Attachment 1.

Appendix B | Department Response



RE: Recommendation to Reopen Log #2024-0006026

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

Date Mon 2/24/2025 10:35 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>

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Good morning, COPA will reopen 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: Friday, December 27, 2024 12:23 PM

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

Cc: Angela Snell <Angela.Snell@chicagocopa.org>; 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>

Subject: Recommendation to Reopen Log #2024-0006026

[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 #2024-0006026. Please acknowledge your receipt of this correspondence and let me know if you have any questions.

LaDonna Candia-Flanagan

Chief Investigative Analyst-Public Safety

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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.

Talk to Us

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