



CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

20
25

Recommendation to Reopen Chicago Police Department Disciplinary Investigation

CPD Log #2019-0000262

OIG Case #C2024-000000232

Published December 23, 2025

December 23, 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.

BIA received allegations made by a reporting CPD member that Sergeant Peter Edwards, Star #1145, violated CPD's Directive on Prohibitions on Gifts and Gratuities and that Sergeant Oommen Sleeba, Star #1625, owns a security firm and recruits CPD members while on duty. During the investigation, BIA served the reporting CPD member with an allegation for failing to notify a supervisor within one hour of their scheduled start time that the reporting CPD member would be using medical time. BIA exonerated the allegation against the reporting CPD member after learning that incident had already been addressed through a Summary Punishment Action Request (SPAR) by Sergeant Richard Steinbrenner, Star #1864.

During its review, OIG identified that BIA named the reporting CPD member as an accused and failed to address the initial allegations against Sergeants Edwards and Sleeba.

OIG recommended BIA reopen the investigation to address the initial allegations made against Sergeants Edwards and Sleeba and to investigate the additional allegation of retaliation made by the reporting CPD member.

BIA accepted OIG's recommendation and reopened the investigation. BIA determined that the allegations made by the reporting CPD member against Sergeants Sleeba and Edwards did not violate any CPD Directives and unfounded the allegations. BIA also investigated the allegation that Sergeant Steinbrenner allegedly retaliated against the reporting CPD member when issuing a SPAR. BIA unfounded the allegation against Sergeant Steinbrenner.

OIG's letter to BIA containing its recommendations is attached at Appendix A. BIA's response is attached at Appendix B.

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

January 23, 2025

CHIEF YOLANDA TALLEY
BUREAU OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
3510 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60653

Re: Log #2019-0000262

Dear Chief Tally:

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 Chicago Police Department's (CPD) Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) in Log #2019-0000262. OIG recommends that the investigation be reopened to fully investigate all allegations. Log #2019-0000262 is currently in a Closed/Final status.

Log #2019-0000262 concerns allegations made by CPD member [REDACTED], that CPD Sergeant Peter Edwards, Star #1145, violated Department directive GO08-04 - Prohibitions on Gifts and Gratuities, and the City of Chicago Board of Ethics policy, and that Sergeant Oommen Sleeba, Star #1625, is the "owner of a security firm and recruits CPD officers while on duty." During this investigation, BIA served CPD member [REDACTED] with an allegation of failing to notify a supervisor within one hour of her scheduled start time that she would be using medical time on April 1, 2021. BIA exonerated the allegation against CPD member [REDACTED] and failed to address the initial misconduct allegations that were made against Sergeants Edwards and Sleeba.

On June 13, 2019, CPD member [REDACTED] provided a witness statement to BIA as the Reporting Party for Log #2019-0000262. During the interview, BIA tendered an email sent on February 27, 2019, by CPD member [REDACTED], [REDACTED].¹

In the email, CPD member [REDACTED] alleged to [REDACTED] that her supervisors, Sergeants Edwards and Sleeba, were violating the City of Chicago's Ethics Policy. CPD member [REDACTED] stated that Sergeant Edwards was "privately incentivizing" a subordinate by providing them with gift cards and that Sergeant Sleeba was "actively recruiting officers" to work at a security firm owned by Sergeant Sleeba.² CPD member [REDACTED] stated to BIA she did not personally witness Sergeant Edwards

¹ Attachment 24, at p. 8.

² Attachment 8, p. 1.

providing the coworker with gift cards, but overheard discussions by other coworkers that Sergeant Edwards provided the gift cards as incentives.³ CPD member [REDACTED] also stated that she witnessed Sergeant Sleeba having a conversation with an unknown CPD member about working for Sergeant Sleeba's security firm, but was not aware of the name of the security firm or whether any CPD members work for the firm.⁴

On February 25, 2020, CPD member [REDACTED] submitted a To-From Report to BIA Sergeant Marco A. Tirado, Star #784, alleging harassment and retaliation by Sergeants Edwards and Sleeba, and "by proxy" General Counsel Dana O'Malley for providing her witness statement to BIA.⁵ In the To-From report, CPD member [REDACTED] detailed an incident that occurred on February 12, 2020, where she used her lunch hour to attend a medical appointment and was out of the office for an extra two hours past the hour allotted for lunch. Upon returning from the appointment, Sergeant Edwards told CPD member [REDACTED] "this can't happen again" and CPD member [REDACTED] informed Sergeant Edwards that she did not trust him. In her To-From report, CPD member [REDACTED] stated that the following day she was asked by Sergeant Edwards to go to General Counsel O'Malley's office, where she was questioned on her statement to Sergeant Edwards that she did not trust him. CPD member [REDACTED] informed General Counsel O'Malley that Sergeant Edwards allowed subordinates to leave for three to four hours a day and highlighted to General Counsel O'Malley that CPD member [REDACTED] was the only employee of 20 to whom General Counsel O'Malley had spoken about non-performance and non-work related issues. CPD member [REDACTED] stated, "I left [General Counsel O'Malley's] office knowing that [General Counsel O'Malley] is a willing participant and proxy."⁶

On April 7, 2021, CPD member [REDACTED] submitted an additional To-From Report to BIA Sergeant Tirado alleging "continued retaliation and harassment" from Sergeants Edwards and Sleeba, and General Counsel O'Malley.⁷ In the To-From Report, [REDACTED] stated she received a Summary Punishment Action Request (SPAR), Log #561986, on April 7, 2021, for failure to notify her supervisor within one hour of her scheduled start time regarding her use of medical time on April 1, 2021. CPD member [REDACTED] provided an email from Sergeant Richard Steinbrenner, Star #1864, that notified her of the SPAR.⁸ CPD member [REDACTED] requested a hearing for the SPAR and remarked "this is continued retaliation which is on brand and has been consistent with actions that started in 2019, after I filed a complaint with the Bureau of Internal Affairs reporting actions and behaviors which seemed unethical."⁹

On April 8, 2021, BIA Lieutenant Sean Rice, Star #614, requested that SPAR #561986 be re-investigated under Log #2019-0000262 in a To-From Report to BIA Chief Karen Konow.¹⁰ BIA served CPD Member [REDACTED] with Notification of Charges/Allegations for Log #2019-0000262 on April 26, 2021.¹¹ On May 4, 2021, BIA interviewed CPD member [REDACTED] as an accused in Log #2019-0000262 regarding the allegation that she failed to notify a supervisor that she was using medical

³ Attachment 6, at 11:45 – 18:42.

⁴ Ibid., at 19:46 – 24:36.

⁵ Attachment 10.

⁶ Ibid., p. 2.

⁷ Attachment 14.

⁸ Ibid., p. 4.

⁹ Attachment 17, p. 2.

¹⁰ Attachment 18.

¹¹ Attachment 19.

time one hour prior to her scheduled start time.¹² After opening a log investigation and conducting a subject interview, BIA reached a finding of Exonerated “because this allegation has been resolved through SPAR 561986.”¹³

It is unclear from the investigative file why BIA decided to name [REDACTED] as an accused in Log #2019-0000262, for CPD Member [REDACTED] failure to notify their supervisor of their intention to use medical time, which was an issue previously addressed in a SPAR that resulted in discipline. Furthermore, CPD member [REDACTED] conduct was addressed in Log #2019-0000262, despite CPD Member [REDACTED] having initiated the complaint underlying that investigation as an ethics complainant against two supervisory CPD members. Neither the investigative file nor the Closing Packet for Log #2019-0000262 evidences any steps taken by BIA to investigate or address the initial allegations brought by CPD member [REDACTED] against Sergeants Edwards and Sleeba. In fact, Sergeants Edwards and Sleeba are listed as “Involved Member (No Allegation)” in the Case Management System (CMS).

Based on OIG’s preliminary review, and without taking any position on any other aspect of the investigation, OIG recommends that BIA take any necessary and available steps to address the initial allegations that Sergeants Edwards and Sleeba participated in prohibited activity, and the additional allegation of retaliation.

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 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,



Tobra 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 Cynthia Curry, BIA, CPD

¹² Attachment 21.

Appendix B | Department Response



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

Department of Police • City of Chicago
3510 S. Michigan Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60653

Larry Snelling
Superintendent of Police

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 26, 2025

Tobara Richardson
Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety
City of Chicago Inspector General
740 N. Sedgwick, Suite 200
Chicago, Illinois 60654

RE: Log Number 2019-0000262

Dear Deputy Inspector General Richardson:

This correspondence addresses your letter of January 23, 2025, requesting the reopening of a Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) investigation recorded under Log Number 2019-0000262. The BIA concurs with the Office of the Inspector General and has re-opened the investigation.

The Bureau of Internal Affairs appreciates being contacted in respect to this investigation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Moore".

Timothy Moore
Deputy Director

Bureau of Internal Affairs

TM/cf

Attachment

cc: Traci L. Walker, Deputy Chief, BIA, CPD
Scott Spears, General Counsel, CPD
Deborah Witzburg, Inspector General, OIG
Samuel Chae, Associate General Counsel for Public Safety, OIG
LaDonna Candia-Flanagan, Chief Investigative Analyst for Public Safety, OIG



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, IL 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.

