



CITY OF CHICAGO  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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# Recommendation to Reopen Chicago Police Department Disciplinary Investigation

CPD Log #2021-0004611

OIG Case #C2025-000000353

Published February 27, 2026

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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 against CPD Officer Chavez Siler, Sr. regarding an incident that occurred while Officer Siler worked as a high school security guard.<sup>2</sup> At dismissal time on November 16, 2021, Officer Siler instructed a student to exit the building through an authorized exit door. The two exchanged words then engaged in a physical altercation, during which Officer Siler's firearm fell to the floor. The student alleged that Officer Siler pointed the firearm at them. The altercation ended when Chicago Public Schools (CPS) staff separated Officer Siler and the student.

COPA concluded the investigation with ten sustained allegations and recommended CPD impose discipline on Officer Siler in the range of a 365-day suspension up to separation. COPA, however, did not sustain the allegation that Officer Siler pointed their firearm at the student during the altercation, stating in its summary report that the "video evidence suggests that the pointing was likely incidental to Officer Siler's action of picking up the gun."

During its review, OIG identified a case supplementary report completed during CPD's separate criminal investigation into the incident, in which a CPD Sergeant describes a witness video as capturing Officer Siler picking up the firearm and then pointing the firearm at the student in two separate, distinct actions.<sup>3</sup> OIG reviewed the same video and identified still images therein which are consistent with the description recorded by the CPD Sergeant in the case supplementary report. OIG recommended that COPA reopen the investigation to consider all available evidence related to the allegation that Officer Siler pointed their firearm at the student.

In response to OIG's recommendation, COPA declined to reopen the investigation, stating that it had "already recommended significant discipline for Officer Siler based on the nine [sic] sustained allegations in this case" and therefore reconsidering the firearm pointing allegation "would not materially affect COPA's recommendation."<sup>4</sup> Additionally, COPA stated that reopening the investigation would risk the "viability of COPA's sustained findings and penalty recommendation" because the incident occurred more than four years prior to COPA's completion of the

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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.

<sup>2</sup> Officer Siler was relieved of police powers on July 6, 2021, due to a separate investigation, and does not have an active CPD star number.

<sup>3</sup> Officer Siler was arrested on December 8, 2022, and charged with three felonies including aggravated battery. All three charges were dismissed, nolle prosequi, on June 14, 2024.

<sup>4</sup> In its letter responding to OIG's recommendation, COPA stated it sustained nine allegations. COPA's summary report of its investigation and the allegations listed in its electronic case file report a total of ten sustained allegations.

investigation.<sup>5</sup> After COPA declined OIG's recommendation, CPD Superintendent Larry Snelling issued a letter concurring with COPA's findings and stated that CPD will seek separation for Officer Siler.

OIG's letter to COPA containing its recommendations is attached at Appendix A.<sup>6</sup> COPA's response is attached at Appendix B.

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<sup>5</sup> OIG understands this statement as a reference to 65 ILCS 5/10-1-18, which establishes a limit of five years to investigate allegations of excessive force, and/or a reference to Section 6.1 D of the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Chicago and the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 7, which states that no incident which occurred more than five years prior may be investigated without written authorization from the CPD superintendent.

<sup>6</sup> OIG has redacted exempt information from the attached records in accordance with the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). 5 ILCS 140. Pursuant to FOIA, "private information" is exempt pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(b). Specifically, OIG has redacted an employee identification number pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/2(c-5). Additionally, personal information which would constitute a "clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy" is exempt pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c). Specifically, OIG has redacted photographs that depict a minor and the inside of a school.

# Appendix A | OIG Letter



Deborah Witzburg | Inspector General  
City of Chicago  
Office of Inspector General  
231 South LaSalle Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Phone: (773) 478-7799

## Via Electronic Mail

October 22, 2025

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

Re: Log #2021-0004611

Dear Chief Administrator White:

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 #2021-0004611. OIG recommends that the investigation be reopened to fully account for all available evidence. Log #2021-0004611 is currently in a Command Channel Review status.

Log #2021-0004611 concerns allegations that Chicago Police Department (CPD) Officer Chavez Siler, Sr., [REDACTED], choked and pointed their gun at a juvenile while working as a school security guard at a high school. According to the CPD Original Case Incident Report, Records Division # JE447973, on November 16, 2021, a student attempted to exit the building through a door they were not authorized to use at dismissal time.<sup>1</sup> Officer Siler instructed the student to exit through an authorized door, the student walked away from the unauthorized exit, and Officer Siler followed the student while the two exchanged words. The student and Officer Siler then engaged in a physical altercation, during which Officer Siler's firearm fell from the holster onto the floor. Officer Siler retrieved the firearm and handed it to another school security officer. According to the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) incident report, the physical altercation ended when school staff separated Officer Siler and the student.<sup>2</sup>

The CPD case incident report and CPS incident report document the student's allegation that Officer Siler pointed their firearm at the student after picking it up from the floor.<sup>3</sup> Another student recorded a video of the physical confrontation, which was shared on social media.<sup>4</sup> CPD conducted a criminal investigation of the incident in Log #2021-0004627, which resulted in Officer Siler's

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<sup>1</sup> Attachment 2.

<sup>2</sup> Attachment 11.

<sup>3</sup> Attachments 2 and 11.

<sup>4</sup> Attachment 6.

arrest for charges of Aggravated Battery, Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon, and Official Misconduct.<sup>5</sup>

COPA investigated 21 allegations against Officer Siler related to the incident, and reached the following findings:

1. Grabbing the student without justification.  
Sustained, in violation of Rules 2, 8, and 9.
2. Pushing the student without justification.  
Sustained, in violation of Rules 2, 8, and 9.
3. Choking the student without justification.  
Not Sustained
4. Pointing a firearm in the direction of the student without justification.  
Not Sustained
5. Stating words to the effect of, "Stop playing with me or I'll change your life."  
Not Sustained.
6. Violating the student's 4th Amendment rights.  
Not Sustained
7. Being inattentive to duty in that [Officer Siler] was in possession of a firearm.  
Sustained, in violation of Rules 2, 5, 6, 10, 21, and 22.
8. Failing to notify CPD that [Officer Siler] had been involved in a physical altercation while off duty.  
Sustained, in violation of Rules 2, 5, 6, 10, 21, 22, and 23.
9. Being involved in a physical altercation with the student without justification.  
Sustained, in violation of Rules 2, 8, and 9.
10. Being involved in a verbal altercation with the student without justification.  
Not Sustained
11. Being involved in a verbal altercation with several unidentified individuals without justification.  
Not Sustained
12. Giving [their] firearm to a CPS security officer who is not a CPD member.  
Not Sustained
13. Being aggressive after being separated from the student.  
Sustained, Violation of Rules 2, 8, and 9.
14. Failing to make notification that [Officer Siler] was under investigation by a lawful investigatory entity.  
Sustained, in violation of Rules 2, 5, 6, and 10.
15. Failing to utilize a CPD-prescribed holster.  
Sustained, in violation of Rules 2, 5, 6, and 10.
16. Failing to utilize de-escalation techniques during [their] interaction with the student.  
Not Sustained
17. Failing to utilize de-escalation techniques during his interaction with several unidentified individuals without justification.  
Not Sustained

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<sup>5</sup> Attachment 27.

18. Making a false, incomplete, inaccurate, and/or misleading statement recorded in CPD case report JE448219, by failing to report that [Officer Siler] had possession of a firearm during the incident.<sup>6</sup>

Sustained, Violation of Rule 2, 5, and 10.

19. Failing to complete a Tactical Response Report (TRR) regarding physical contact with the student during the incident.

Not Sustained

20. Making a false, incomplete, inaccurate, and/or misleading statement to COPA that [Officer Siler] reported the incident to CPD on the day of the incident.

Sustained, in violation of Rules 2, 5, and 10.

21. Making a false, incomplete, inaccurate, and/or misleading statement to COPA that [Officer Siler] had "Never been in trouble with the Department."

Not Sustained

In its final summary report, COPA stated that it reached a Not Sustained finding regarding the allegation that Officer Siler pointed their firearm at the student because it found insufficient evidence to corroborate or refute the allegation. COPA stated that it determined, "it is likely that [the student] perceived Officer Siler pointing [their] weapon at [them]," but the "video evidence suggests that the pointing was likely incidental to Officer Siler's action of picking up the gun."

COPA's case file includes a CPD Case Supplementary Report for RD #JE447973 that was completed by the assigned CPD investigator on November 18, 2021.<sup>7</sup> However, COPA's case file does not include the final case supplementary report in the status of Cleared Closed (Arrest and Prosecution) that was completed by the CPD investigator on May 11, 2023. OIG located and reviewed this case supplementary report, which includes the CPD investigator's description of the video evidence that identifies Officer Siler picking up the firearm and pointing the firearm at the student as separate, distinct actions:

"The undersigned after a more careful review is able to see when [Officer Siler's] gun falls to the ground and is able to pick it up. The video also shows [Officer Siler] shoving [the student] by [their] neck area against the wall. It is difficult to clearly hear but it does appear that [Officer Siler] briefly points [their] gun at [the student] and says 'I'll shoot' to which [the student] appears to reply 'I wish you would.'"<sup>8</sup>

Additionally, OIG reviewed the video evidence included in COPA's case file and identified frames from the video at timestamps 0:04, 0:06, and 0:07 that are consistent with the description detailed in the cleared closed version of the case supplementary report for RD #JE447973, as shown in Still Images #1-4.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> CPD completed a second case report related to the incident under RD #JE448219 which listed Officer Siler as the victim of assault and battery by the student involved in the physical altercation and three other students, included in the case file as Attachment 37

<sup>7</sup> Attachment 3.

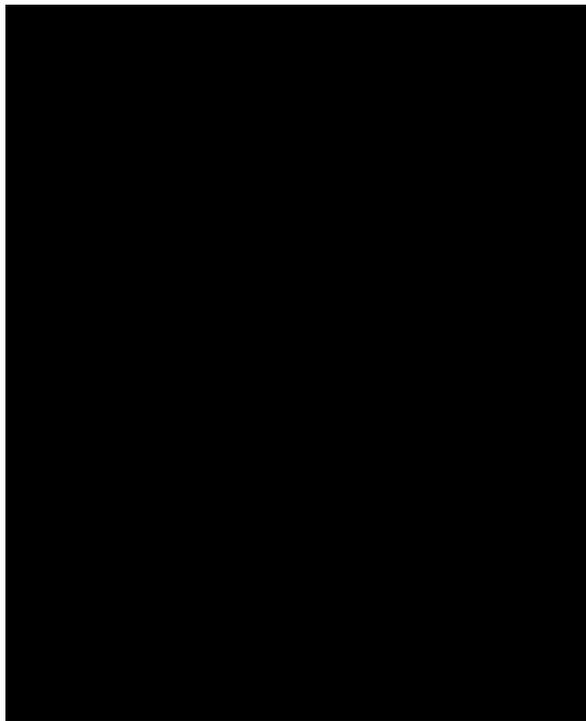
<sup>8</sup> Page 12 of RD #JE447973 Case Supplementary Report Cleared Closed (Arrest and Prosecution), submitted by CPD Sergeant Sergio Velazquez, Star #1653.

<sup>9</sup> OIG added circles and arrows to highlight portions of the images and covered the student's face with an opaque rectangle to obscure their identity.

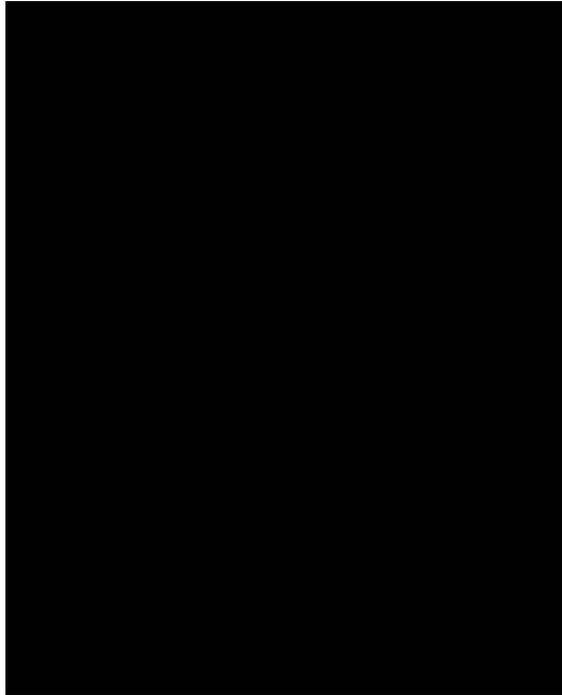
Still Image #1 – Officer Siler picking up the firearm with his right hand (0:04)



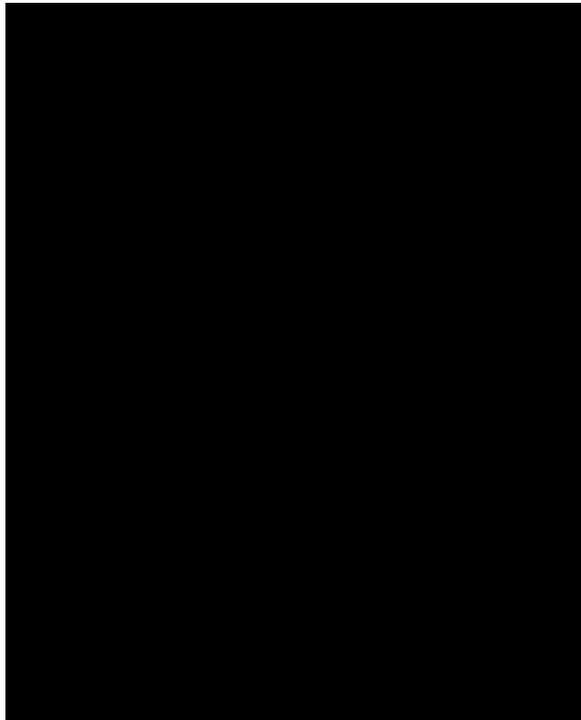
Still Image #2 – Officer Siler standing after picking up the firearm (0:06)



Still Image #3 – Officer Siler’s right arm positioned with his elbow bent (0:07)



Still Image #4 – Officer Siler extending his right elbow and a firearm visible in his right hand (0:07)



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 the investigation to consider the available evidence related to the allegation that Officer Siler pointed their firearm at the student.

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 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  
Angela Snell, Assistant General Counsel, COPA  
Timothy L. Moore, Deputy Director, Bureau of Internal Affairs, CPD

# Appendix B | Department Response



December 2, 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. 2021-0004611

Dear Deputy Inspector General Richardson:

I am in receipt of your October 22, 2025 letter recommending that COPA re-open and conduct additional investigation in Log No. 2021-0004611. We understand the Office of the Inspector General - Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety (PSIG) recommends re-opening this case to consider evidence that Police Officer Chavez Siler, Sr.<sup>1</sup> pointed a firearm at a student. For the reasons stated below, COPA does not concur with PSIG's recommendation to re-open.

First, COPA has already recommended significant discipline for Officer Siler based on the nine sustained allegations in this case. Reopening this case to re-consider the firearm pointing allegation would not materially affect COPA's recommendation. COPA therefore does not believe its investigation was materially deficient. Second, the incident in this case occurred over four years ago. Re-opening the log at this time further risks the viability of COPA's sustained findings and penalty recommendation. For these reasons, COPA does not believe re-opening this log at this time would be prudent.

Under COPA's ordinance, the Chief Administrator may, in their discretion, re-open any closed investigation upon PSIG's recommendation.<sup>2</sup> Here, I cannot find an appropriate basis to re-open this investigation. I appreciate your continued diligent and careful review of closed COPA investigations.

*[Remainder of page left intentionally blank]*

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<sup>1</sup> Star # 105226.

<sup>2</sup> MCC § 2-78-120(x)(iii).

Page 2 of 2  
December 2, 2025  
Ms. Tobar Richardson

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LaKenya White". The signature is stylized and cursive.

LaKenya White  
Interim Chief Administrator  
Civilian Office of Police Accountability

cc: Deborah Witzburg (OIG)  
Samuel Chae (OIG)  
LaDonna Candia-Flanagan (OIG)  
Timothy Moore (CPD)  
Angie Snell (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, 740 N. Sedgwick St., Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60654, or visit our website at [igchicago.org](http://igchicago.org).

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