



CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

20
26

Recommendation to Reopen Chicago Police Department Disciplinary Investigation

CPD Log #2023-0005080

OIG Case #C2025-0000000377

September 30, 2026

DAVID GLOCKNER | INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE CITY OF CHICAGO
TOBARA RICHARDSON | DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

September 30, 2026

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 recommend reopening an investigation to address a deficiency materially affecting its outcome.

COPA investigated allegations that CPD Sergeant Amelia Kessem, Star #2190, made several social media posts that violated CPD General Orders on Protection of Human Rights. COPA administratively closed the investigation stating that COPA was unable to verify "the authenticity of the post" and the social media account where the posts appeared did not contain a clear indicator that Sergeant Kessem was a CPD member. During its review, OIG identified publicly available information that identified Sergeant Kessem as a CPD member and associated Sergeant Kessem with the account where the alleged social media posts appeared.

OIG recommended that COPA reopen the investigation to consider all publicly available evidence and complete the investigation.

In response to OIG's recommendations, COPA declined to reopen the investigation, citing the requirement to complete investigations within an 18-month timeframe per Sergeant Kessem's collective bargaining agreement.

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

Appendix A | OIG Letter



Tobara Richardson | Interim 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

May 18, 2026

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

Re: Log #2023-0005080

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 #2023-0005080. OIG recommends that COPA reopen the investigation to consider all available evidence. Log #2023-0005080 is currently in a Closed/No Finding status.

Log #2023-0005080 concerns allegations against Chicago Police Department (CPD) Sergeant Amelia Kessem, Star #2190. The complainant alleged Sergeant Kessem made several posts on social media in violation of CPD policies. COPA administratively closed Log #2023-0005080, stating "COPA is unable, despite multiple attempts, to verify the authenticity of these posts" and "the private account alleged to be Sgt. Kessem contains no clear (public) indicator that [they are] a member of CPD."¹

On October 27, 2023, the complainant submitted an email to COPA, stating they found a post from a Twitter account named "@peoplesfabric" and included four screenshots from the post. The complainant also included the hyperlink, twitter.com/peoplesfabric/status/1717734465290600808 for the "@peoplesfabric" Twitter account where the screenshots were posted.² Three of the screenshots submitted by the complainant were posts made from the account with username "Ammie Terrell-Kessem" and one screenshot consisted of a post made from an account with username "Ammie Kessem: 41st Ward Republican Committeeman."³ The screenshot made from the account with username "Ammie Kessem: 41st Ward Republican Committeeman" showed a picture of Mayor Brandon Johnson with the caption of "Worst Mayor Ever! #GhettoNewsNetwork."⁴ The

¹ Attachment 6, p. 2.

² Ibid.

³ Attachment 1.

⁴ Attachment 4.

complainant stated, “I find the second image where Kessem seems to repost an image with ‘Worst Mayor Ever - #Ghetto News Network’ particularly distasteful, dripping of racial animus.”⁵



In its Non-Final Summary Report Closure Memorandum, COPA stated they contacted the complainant and asked whether they had access to the profile that made the posts, but the complainant advised COPA that they found the screenshots on another Twitter user's post.⁶ The complainant called COPA on January 24, 2024, and advised they do not have access to Sergeant Kessem's social media profile.⁷

Although the complainant identified the Twitter account named “@peoplesfabric” and provided a hyperlink to the original post, there is no indication in the electronic case file that COPA attempted to contact People's Fabric to verify the authenticity of the posts. The Twitter account for the account named “@peoplesfabric” includes a website www.peoplesfabric.com that states People's Fabric can be contacted through a direct message on either Twitter or Facebook.⁸

OIG conducted a public search via the internet using the keywords “Ammie Kessem Chicago Police,” which resulted in a December 19, 2021, Fox News segment where Sergeant Kessem was identified as a Chicago Police Department member and interviewed regarding one of their social media posts.⁹ The interview included a screenshot of a post with the username “Ammie Kessem: 41st Ward Republican Committeeman.”

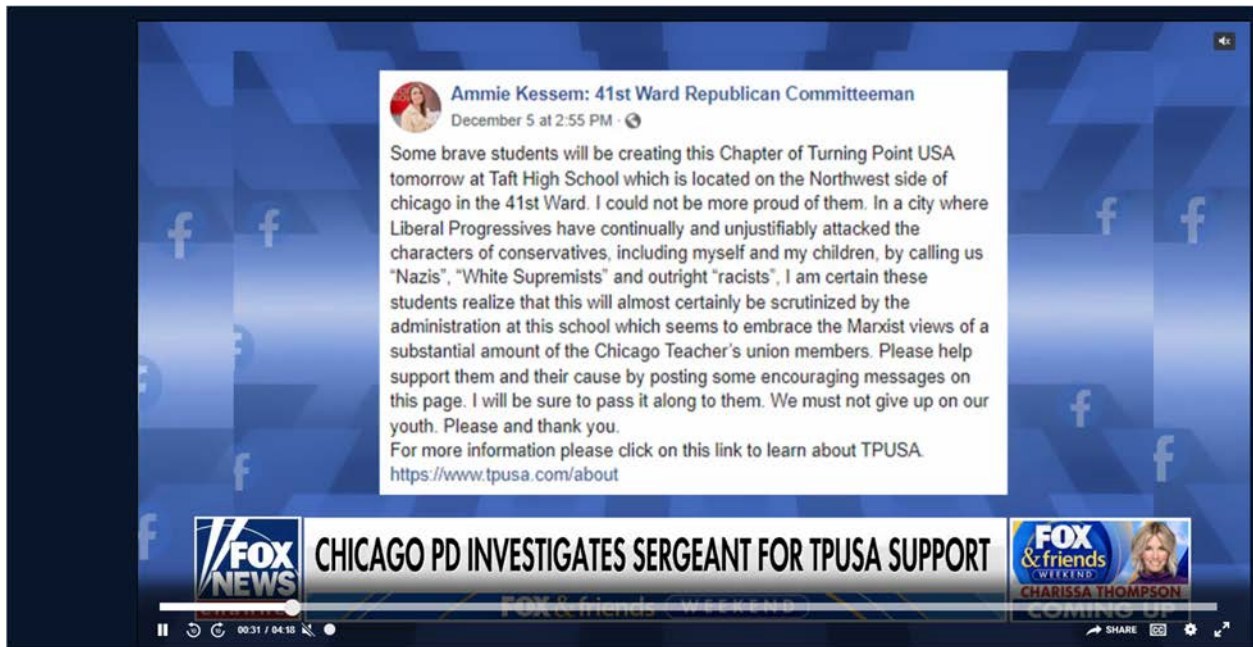
⁵ Attachment 1, p. 1.

⁶ Attachment 6, p. 2.

⁷ Note: CO-1375992.

⁸ “Who is People's Fabric?”, accessed May 18, 2026, <https://www.peoplesfabric.com/about>.

⁹ Fox News, “Police sergeant investigated for supporting TPUSA,” December 19, 2021, accessed May 18, 2026, <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6287639889001>.



The screenshot of the post featured on the Fox News segment appears to be the same profile picture as one of the screenshots submitted by the complainant in Log #2023-0005080. However, there is no evidence in the electronic case file that COPA considered any publicly available information in its investigation.

Based on OIG's preliminary review, and without taking any position on any other aspect of the investigation, OIG recommends that COPA reopen the investigation in Log #2023-0005080 to conduct additional interviews, and to consider all possible evidence.

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
Interim Inspector General
City of Chicago

cc: Samuel Chae, Associate General Counsel for Public Safety, OIG
LaDonna Candia-Flanagan, Chief Investigative Analyst for Public Safety, OIG
Angela Snell, Acting General Counsel, COPA
Timothy Moore, Chief, Bureau of Internal Affairs, CPD

Appendix B | Department Response



August 10, 2026

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. 2023-0005080

Dear Deputy Inspector General Richardson:

I am in receipt of your May 18, 2026 letter recommending that COPA re-open and conduct additional investigation in Log No. 2023-0005080. We understand the Office of the Inspector General - Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety (PSIG) recommends re-opening this case to consider available evidence. For the reasons stated below, COPA does not concur with PSIG's recommendation to re-open.

Reopening the log at this time would not result in any viable sustained findings or discipline. The sergeant's collective bargaining agreement requires that investigations be completed within 18 months of opening.¹ That date to complete the investigation into this log passed in April of 2025.

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

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¹ Agreement between the City of Chicago and Policemen's Benevolent & Protective Association of Illinois, Unit 156 – Sergeants, § 9.4(C), effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2022.

² MCC § 2-78-120(x)(iii).

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August 10, 2026
Ms. Tobara Richardson

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LaKenya White". The signature is stylized with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

LaKenya White
Chief Administrator
Civilian Office of Police Accountability

cc: David Glockner (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, 231 S. LaSalle Street, 12th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604, or visit our website at igchicago.org.

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Alternate formats available upon request.

