



CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

20
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Recommendation to Reopen Chicago Police Department Disciplinary Investigation

CPD Log #2024-0002043

OIG Case #C2026-0000000118

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 conducted a preliminary investigation against Sergeant Jorge Martinez, Jr., Star #2575, related to a Taser discharged at an arrestee at CPD's 3rd District station. COPA determined there was insufficient evidence to warrant the service of allegations against Sergeant Martinez, Jr. and administratively closed the investigation.

During its review, OIG identified that COPA did not address whether Sergeant Martinez, Jr. violated CPD policy by failing to de-escalate, using force as retaliation, grabbing the arrestee by the hair, carrying the arrestee by the neck into the holding cell, failing to provide a mental health transport, and failing to complete a crisis intervention report after the arrestee expressed wanting to die. OIG also identified that COPA did not address the use of a racial slur directed at an arrestee during this incident by another CPD Officer, Arturo Gonzalez, Star #9161.

OIG recommended that COPA reopen the investigation to fully account for all available evidence and consider all potential rule violations against Sergeant Martinez, Jr. and Officer Gonzalez.

In response to OIG's recommendations, COPA declined to reopen the log to bring allegations against either CPD member, stating it "would not result in any viable sustained findings or discipline." COPA also cited that Sergeant Martinez's collective bargaining agreement requires investigations be completed within 18 months.

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 19, 2026

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

Re: Log #2024-0002043

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 conducted a preliminary review of the investigation conducted by the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) in Log #2024-0002043. OIG recommends that COPA reopen the investigation to fully account for all available evidence and consider all potential rule violations. Log #2024-0002043 is currently in a Closed/No Finding status.

Log #2024-0002043 was initiated by a Taser discharge notification after Chicago Police Department (CPD) Sergeant Jorge Martinez, Jr., Star #2575, discharged their Taser at an arrestee inside CPD's 3rd District station on January 23, 2024, at approximately 1:39 a.m.¹ COPA administratively closed Log #2024-0002043, stating "COPA has determined there is insufficient objective verifiable evidence of misconduct to warrant serving allegations against Sgt. Martinez. Therefore, this matter is being closed without further investigation."²

According to CPD's Event Query Report recorded under #2402300478, on January 23, 2024, at 12:59 a.m., a caller stated they were hit with a stick by their ex-girlfriend's mother and requested assistance retrieving their money.³ CPD members responded to the call for service and detained the caller after they "pushed past A/Os [Arresting Officers] and entered the front door of the residence without permission."⁴ As Officers Phillip Brown, Star #10092, and Raven Gougis, Star #18550, attempted to place the caller in handcuffs, they resisted and Officers Brown and Gougis performed an emergency takedown.⁵

¹ Attachment 10.

² Attachment 69, p. 4.

³ Attachment 20, p. 6.

⁴ Attachment 1, p. 8.

⁵ Ibid.

The body worn camera (BWC) footage of Officer Brown shows responding CPD members carrying the arrestee out of the residence and placing them on the ground while waiting for assisting CPD members to bring leg restraints.⁶ While on the ground, the arrestee kicks their legs in the direction of assisting CPD members. CPD Officer Arturo Gonzalez, Star #9161, grabs the arrestee's leg and tells the arrestee, "Kick again. I fucking dare you to kick again." The arrestee tells Officer Gonzalez, "What you gonna do?" and Officer Gonzalez responds, "Do it again." The arrestee repeats to Officer Gonzalez, "What you gonna do, bitch?" and Officer Gonzalez states, "Do it again." The arrestee states, "Do it. I want you to. I'm doing it again," while moving their legs. Officer Gonzalez tells the arrestee, "You're weak as hell, man." The arrestee states, "Yeah, yeah, yeah. What?" and continues to kick their legs.⁷ While holding the arrestee's legs, Officer Gonzalez uses a racial slur directed at the arrestee, stating, "Yeah, [n-word], two hands."⁸

Upon arrival at CPD's 3rd District station lockup, the arrestee attempted to kick Sergeant Martinez while exiting a CPD squadrol.⁹ Sergeant Martinez and assisting CPD members carried the arrestee from the CPD squadrol.¹⁰ While carrying the arrestee into a holding cell, BWC footage shows Sergeant Martinez grabbing the arrestee by their hair and carrying the arrestee with their arm around the back of the arrestee's neck, before placing the arrestee on the ground of the holding cell by their hair.¹¹ The Tactical Response Report (TRR) completed by Sergeant Martinez, reported Sergeant Martinez "grabbed [the arrestee's] shoulders and head to prevent [the arrestee] from injuring [themselves] while [they] were swinging [their] head side to side."¹²

Sergeant Martinez orders assisting CPD members to remove the arrestee's handcuffs after they were placed on the ground of the holding cell and points a Taser at the arrestee while their handcuffs were being removed. Sergeant Martinez states, "It's not a problem, if [the arrestee] ... I'll just light [the arrestee] up. You wanna fight, we'll fight. This is the game we're gonna play. It's not a problem."¹³ After the arrestee is unhandcuffed and their leg restraints are removed, they sit up and ask Sergeant Martinez, "You gonna tase me?" Sergeant Martinez responds, "Yep, in a heartbeat." The arrestee asks Sergeant Martinez, "Why you say that? Then why you say that you wanna fight?" and Sergeant Martinez responds, "I said if you wanna fight, this is what we're gonna do." The arrestee states to Sergeant Martinez, "C'mon, let's throw hands." Sergeant Martinez tells the arrestee, "Well we don't throw hands because I don't fight fair." The arrestee states to Sergeant Martinez, "You bogus. You a bitch." and states that they do not care about being tased. Sergeant Martinez, responds, "Yeah, well you will when you get dropped."¹⁴

Sergeant Martinez points their Taser at the arrestee's face while other CPD members hold the arrestee to the ground. The arrestee tells Sergeant Martinez, "I wanna die anyway. So, c'mon. C'mon. Do it. Do it. Do it. Yeah, I like it. I want all the pain, I wanna fucking die. C'mon, c'mon, c'mon." Sergeant Martinez instructs the CPD members assisting in the holding cell to let the

⁶ Attachment 25, at 13:05 – 14:00.

⁷ Ibid., at 14:32 – 14:46.

⁸ Attachment 25, at 14:45 – 14:47; Attachment 36, at 7:17 – 7:19; Attachment 37, at 7:18 – 7:20.

⁹ Attachment 4, at 2:39 – 2:41; Attachment 18, p. 2.

¹⁰ Attachment 2, at 3:03 – 3:45; Attachment 3, at 3:13 – 3:54; Attachment 5, at 2:15 – 2:58; Attachment 60, at 1:33:37 - 1:33:41.

¹¹ Attachment 4, at 2:54 – 3:24; Attachment 5, at 2:25 – 2:57.

¹² Attachment 18, p. 2.

¹³ Attachment 4, at 3:27 – 4:02.

¹⁴ Ibid., at 4:03 – 4:29.

arrestee go, release the arrestee's legs, and stand the arrestee up. The arrestee tells Sergeant Martinez "C'mon, c'mon. Let me go so I can go. Let me go. Yeah, c'mon. I wanna fucking die, bro." The arrestee lunges toward Sergeant Martinez and assisting CPD members grab the arrestee when Sergeant Martinez states, "Hold on, let me tase [the arrestee]. Let me tase [the arrestee]. Let me tase [the arrestee]. Look out." Sergeant Martinez discharges their Taser at the arrestee, stating, "Keep playing. Keep playing." The arrestee responds, "That shit don't hurt." Sergeant Martinez tells the arrestee, "Okay do it again. I'm gonna hit you again. Do it again. I'm gonna hit you a second time. You gonna fight again? Do it again! Do it again!" The arrestee tells Sergeant Martinez, "Just shoot me bro. I want you to shoot me. I don't wanna be here." Sergeant Martinez orders CPD Officer Jabir Redd, Star #15030, to exit the cell and tells the arrestee, "Listen, keep on fighting with us, we're gonna do this again. You're not gonna die tonight, unfortunately." The arrestee repeats, "I wanna die," while Sergeant Martinez responds, "Do it again, I'm gonna hit you again."¹⁵ The arrestee tells Sergeant Martinez that they are going to die tonight from one of the CPD members, and Sergeant Martinez tells the arrestee they will not die from the actions of any CPD member. The arrestee states, "It will be because I'm trying to swing off y'all. I'm trying to tell you. I'm trying to tell you. I wanna die." As CPD members attempt to re-handcuff the arrestee, Sergeant Martinez deploys their Taser a second time and the arrestee can be heard screaming, "Okay, okay, okay, okay." Sergeant Martinez tells the arrestee, "Do it again and I'mma hit you again. We'll make this real easy."¹⁶

CPD members re-handcuff the arrestee, who leans over the bench and begins to cry, repeating that they want to die.¹⁷ Sergeants Terence D. Huels, Star #988, and David Benitez, Star #833, assist the arrestee in sitting down on the bench. Sergeant Martinez points their Taser at the arrestee who is handcuffed, stating, "I got one more so..."¹⁸ Sergeants Benitez and Huels calmly speak with the arrestee, asking for their name while Sergeant Martinez keeps their Taser pointed at the arrestee. Sergeant Martinez exits the lockup cell while Sergeant Benitez and Huels speak with the arrestee.

Per CPD's General Order G03-02-01, Response to Resistance and Force Options, Section (IV)(A)(2)(b), CPD members are required to use de-escalation techniques, including verbal control techniques, to de-escalate confrontations prior to, during, and after the use of physical force and prevent or reduce the need for force, unless doing so would place a person or a Department member in immediate risk of harm, or de-escalation techniques would be clearly ineffective under the circumstances at the time. Additionally, Sections (1) and (2) of G03-02-01(III)(A) further require CPD members to attempt to use verbal control techniques to avoid or minimize confrontations prior to, during, and after the use of physical force, and use continual communication, including exercising persuasion, advice, and instruction prior to the use of physical force, when it is safe and feasible. Further, G03-02(II)((D)(1) of CPD Directives require CPD members to continually assess the situation and consider individualized factors such as: the person's age, disability, or physical condition (e.g., known, suspected, or perceived behavioral or mental health conditions; intellectual, developmental, psychiatric, or physical disability; vision, hearing, or neurological impairment), the risk posed by the person, and if the person is restrained, injured, or in crisis. Finally, G03-02(II)((D)(2) requires CPD members to modify their use of force and determine whether the member may be able to stabilize the situation through the use of time, distance, or positioning to

¹⁵ Ibid., at 4:30 - 5:57.

¹⁶ Ibid., at 6:02 - 6:30.

¹⁷ Ibid., at 6:31 - 6:56.

¹⁸ Ibid., at 8:23 - 9:33.

isolate and contain a person (e.g., establishing a zone of safety). There is no indication in the electronic case file that COPA considered whether Sergeant Martinez adhered to the CPD Directives regarding de-escalation and use of force.

CPD's General Order G03-02, Section (III)(C)(3), prohibits force used as punishment or retaliation (e.g., force used to punish or retaliate for fleeing, resisting arrest, or insulting a Department member). Nothing in the electronic case file indicates whether COPA considered an allegation of retaliation when Sergeant Martinez tased the arrestee.

CPD's Special Order S04-20-05, Persons Under Arrest In Need of Mental Health Treatment, details the procedural requirements of CPD members processing and transporting arrestees that require mental health evaluation, treatment, or hospitalization. Section (II)(A) requires Department members to use de-escalation techniques to prevent or reduce the need for force, unless doing so would place a person or a Department member in immediate risk of harm, or de-escalation techniques would be clearly ineffective under the circumstances at the time. Per Section (III)(B), persons under arrest requiring mental health treatment will be transported in a squadrol to the nearest designated mental health intake facility for evaluation. Although the arrestee repeatedly stated suicidal ideations to Sergeant Martinez in lockup, there is no indication that CPD members requested transportation for the arrestee to receive a mental health evaluation. Notably, the Watch Commander Comments section of the Arrest Report completed for the arrestee noted the "arrestee was refused at Cook County Jail after it was determined by jail staff that [the arrestee] needed a mental health evaluation prior to being admitted there."¹⁹

CPD's General Order G02-04, Prohibitions Regarding Racial Profiling and Other Biased-Based Policing, prohibits CPD members from using language or taking action intended to taunt or denigrate an individual, including racist or derogatory language. Officer Gonzalez is observed on the BWC footage of multiple responding CPD members directing a racial slur at the arrestee. COPA, however, did not address Officer Gonzalez's use of a racial slur directed at the arrestee during this incident.

In its Non-Final Summary Report (FSR) Closure Memorandum, COPA did not consider bringing allegations against Sergeant Martinez, Jr. for failure to de-escalate or using force as retaliation. Additionally, COPA did not address Sergeant Martinez, Jr.'s grabbing the arrestee by their hair nor carrying the arrestee by their neck into the holding cell at the 3rd District station. Lastly, Sergeant Martinez, Jr. did not provide a mental health transport nor did they complete a crisis intervention (CIT) report.

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 #2024-0002043 to fully account for all available evidence and consider all potential rule violations.

¹⁹ Attachment 1, p. 11.

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tobara Richardson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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



July 15, 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. 2024-0002043

Dear Deputy Inspector General Richardson:

I am in receipt of your May 19, 2026 letter recommending that COPA re-open and conduct additional investigation in Log No. 2024-0002043. We understand the Office of the Inspector General - Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety (PSIG) recommends re-opening this case to consider available evidence and to determine any rule violations. 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 July 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).

Page 2 of 2
July 15, 2026
Ms. Tobara Richardson

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LaKenya White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a stylized "W".

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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