



CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

20
26

Recommendation to Reopen Chicago Police Department Disciplinary Investigation

CPD Log #2024-0007497

OIG Case #C2026-0000000115

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.¹

COPA investigated allegations related to a motor vehicle pursuit. Officer Jose Lopez, Star #11943, followed the fleeing vehicle for approximately nine minutes over the course of six miles, but told COPA he was not engaged in a motor vehicle pursuit and was never close enough to the fleeing vehicle to initiate a traffic stop. For Officer Lopez, COPA sustained seven allegations and recommended a 90- to 179-day suspension.

During its review, OIG identified that video evidence showed Officer Lopez driving directly behind the fleeing vehicle, and COPA did not consider an analysis of CPD's Rule 14, prohibiting making false statements, regarding Officer's Lopez's statements to COPA concerning the motor vehicle pursuit.

OIG recommended that COPA reopen the investigation to conduct a Rule 14 analysis of Officer Lopez's statements and fully account for video evidence showing Officer Lopez engaging in a motor vehicle pursuit without headlights and taillights.

In response to OIG's recommendations, COPA declined to reopen the investigation, stating OIG did not identify "any evidence to establish that Officer Lopez willfully made false statements" when stating they were not engaged in a motor vehicle pursuit under CPD policy.

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



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 13, 2026

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

Re: Log #2024-0007497

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 #2024-0007497. OIG recommends that COPA reopen the investigation to conduct a Rule 14 analysis and fully account for all available evidence. Log #2024-0007497 is currently in a Command Channel Review status.

Log # 2024-0007497 concerns allegations against Chicago Police Department (CPD) Officers Jose Lopez, Star #11943, David Arauz, Star #4101, Lucas Pentek, Star #17373, Joseph Stopka, Star #18814, Bryan Schied, Star #18279, and Andrzej Kozlowski, Star #11900, related to a fatal motor vehicle pursuit conducted on October 1, 2024. The allegations and COPA's findings against each officer are:

Officer Jose Lopez:

1. Driving a Department vehicle without due regard to the safety of all persons, in violation of General Order G03-03, without justification
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10
2. Failing to activate emergency-roof lights and siren, in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10
3. Initiating a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 10

4. Continuing a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 10
5. Engaging in caravanning during a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 10
6. Failing to timely activate his body worn camera (BWC) without justification, in violation of Special Order S03-14, without justification
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10
7. Failing to submit a Traffic Pursuit Report in violation of G03-03-01, without justification.
Not Sustained
8. Failing to immediately notify OEMC of a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification.
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10

Officer David Arauz:

1. Failing to activate emergency-roof lights and siren, in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10
2. Initiating a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
3. Continuing a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 10
4. Engaging in caravanning during a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 10
5. Failing to immediately notify OEMC of a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10
6. Failing to timely activate his body worn camera (BWC) without justification, in violation of Special Order S03-14, without justification
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10
7. Failing to submit a Traffic Pursuit Report in violation of G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained

Officer Lucas Pentek:

1. Driving a Department vehicle without due regard to the safety of all persons, in violation of General Order G03-03, without justification
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10
2. Failing to activate emergency-roof lights and siren, in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
3. Initiating a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
4. Continuing a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
5. Engaging in caravanning during a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
6. Failing to timely activate his body worn camera (BWC) without justification, in violation of Special Order S03-14, without justification
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10.
7. Failing to submit a Traffic Pursuit Report in violation of G 03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
8. Deactivating his BWC in violation of Special Order 03-14 without justification
Not Sustained

Officer Joseph Stopka:

1. Driving a Department vehicle without due regard to the safety of all persons, in violation of General Order G03-03, without justification
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10
2. Failing to activate emergency-roof lights and siren, in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
3. Initiating a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
4. Continuing a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained

5. Engaging in caravanning during a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
6. Failing to timely activate his body worn camera (BWC) without justification, in violation of Special Order S03-14, without justification
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10
7. Failing to submit a Traffic Pursuit Report in violation of G 03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
8. Deactivating his BWC in violation of Special Order 03-14 without justification
Not Sustained

Officer Bryan Schied:

1. Failing to activate emergency-roof lights and siren, in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
2. Initiating a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
3. Continuing a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
4. Engaging in caravanning during a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
5. Failing to immediately notify OEMC of a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
6. Failing to timely activate his body worn camera (BWC) without justification, in violation of Special Order S03-14, without justification
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10
7. Failing to submit a Traffic Pursuit Report in violation of G03-03-01, without justification.
Not Sustained

Officer Andrzej Kozlowski:

1. Failing to activate emergency-roof lights and siren, in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained

2. Initiating a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
3. Continuing a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
4. Engaging in caravanning during a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
5. Failing to immediately notify OEMC of a motor vehicle pursuit in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained
6. Failing to timely activate his body worn camera (BWC) without justification, in violation of Special Order S03-14, without justification
Sustained in violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10
7. Failing to submit a Traffic Pursuit Report in violation of G03-03-01, without justification
Not Sustained

COPA recommended a 90 to 179-day suspension for Officer Lopez, a 30 to 89-day suspension for Officer Arauz, an 11 to 29-day suspension for Officers Pentek and Stopka, and a Reprimand for Officers Schied and Kozlowski. COPA recommended retraining on CPD's policies regarding motor vehicle pursuits (G03-03-01) for Officers Lopez and Arauz, retraining on driving a Department vehicle with due regard (G03-03) for Officers Lopez, Pentek, and Stopka, and retraining on BWC activation (S03-14) for all accused officers.

The Traffic Pursuit Report, recorded under #24-0325, reported that on October 1, 2024, Officers Lopez and Arauz were in CPD's 8th District on patrol in a marked CPD vehicle driven by Officer Lopez when Officer Lopez observed "what appeared to be [a Hispanic individual] walking while wearing a hood over [their] head concealing part of [their] face while holding [their] front waistband area with [their] right arm tucked close to [their] body."¹ Officer Lopez reported that the individual "appeared to be looking around in different directions consistent with being on high alert and such actions being consistent with that of a person holding a firearm as [they] approached a white vehicle which was parked facing southbound near 5505 S. Kildare Street."²

Officers Lopez and Arauz believed the individual's actions were consistent with that of an attempted robbery and relocated to 5505 S. Kildare by making a left turn onto Kolin Avenue before utilizing an alleyway to reach Kildare Street.³ Upon arrival, Officers Lopez and Arauz no longer observed the hooded individual. Officers Lopez and Arauz then observed a black sedan traveling at a high rate of speed from the area in the eastbound direction on 56th Street.⁴ Officers Lopez and Arauz relayed

¹ Attachment 149, p.2.

² Ibid.

³ Attachment 149, p. 10; Attachment 169, p. 1.

⁴ Attachment 149, p. 2.

the vehicle's direction of travel to dispatch "for officer safety reasons."⁵ Officers Lopez and Arauz did not activate emergency lighting equipment in attempt to stop the black sedan they observed driving erratically, as they "were not in a close enough proximity to the vehicle to conduct a traffic stop or obtain registration information."⁶

At 1:51:48 a.m., Police Observation Device (POD) footage shows a black sedan driving east on 56th Street with a marked CPD vehicle driven by Officer Lopez traveling approximately two to four seconds behind the black sedan before making a left turn on to Pulaski Road.⁷ Notably, the headlights appear to be off on the CPD squad car driven by Officer Lopez, with only the running lights on.⁸ POD footage shows the black sedan and CPD car next traveling eastbound on 55th Street as GPS records show Officer Lopez's squad car reached a speed of 70 mph at 1:52:24 a.m.⁹ The black sedan drives east on 55th Street until it makes a left turn to travel northbound on Kedzie Street, through a solid red signal at 1:53:07 a.m. as Officer Lopez follows in the CPD vehicle, approximately 15 seconds behind the black sedan, and also through a solid red signal at the intersection of 55th and Kedzie Streets.¹⁰ As the black sedan travels north on Kedzie Street without any exterior lights illuminated, Officer Lopez travels approximately 15 seconds behind the black sedan.¹¹ The black sedan then turns eastbound on 51st Street from Kedzie Street at 1:53:46 a.m., as Officer Lopez follows approximately 14 seconds behind it.¹² GPS records for Officer Lopez's squad car showed them traveling at 64 mph at 1:54:14 a.m.¹³

POD footage shows Officer Lopez, driving with only the squad car's running lights activated, traveling east on 51st Street, approximately 15 seconds behind the black sedan, at 1:54:35 a.m.¹⁴ The black sedan continues eastbound on 51st Street before driving through two solid red signals while turning northbound at Western Avenue without any taillights illuminated.¹⁵ Officer Lopez's squad car also drives through both solid red signals, approximately 14 seconds behind the black sedan. At 1:56:02 a.m., POD footage captures the black sedan traveling at a high rate of speed through the intersection of Western Avenue and 43rd Street. Officer Lopez's squad car travels approximately 15 seconds behind the black sedan.¹⁶ GPS records for Officer Lopez's squad car showed it traveling at 72 mph at 1:56:20 a.m.¹⁷ Officer Lopez's BWC footage begins in the buffering mode with a timestamp of 1:56:54 a.m., as Officer Lopez is driving the squad car while the knob to the headlight control panel is set to the running light option.¹⁸

The black sedan drives through a solid red signal to turn north onto Ashland Avenue from Pershing Road at 1:57:32 a.m. Two additional marked squad cars, driven by 9th District Officers Pentek and

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Attachments 31 & 32, at 1:51:48 – 1:52:03.

⁸ Attachment 32, at 1:51:54 - 1:51:49.

⁹ Attachment 80, p. 7.

¹⁰ Attachment 35, at 1:53:02 – 1:53:24.

¹¹ Attachment 36, at 1:53:14 – 1:53:38.

¹² Attachment 37, at 1:53:44 - 1:54:01.

¹³ Attachment 80, p. 7.

¹⁴ Attachment 39, 1:54:35 – 1:54:41.

¹⁵ Attachment 41, at 1:55:00 – 1:55:20.

¹⁶ Attachment 43, at 1:56:00 – 1:56:21.

¹⁷ Attachment 80, p. 7.

¹⁸ Attachment 84, at 0:00 – 1:44.

Stopka follow immediately behind the black sedan. Officer Lopez drives approximately three seconds behind Officers Pentek and Stopka.¹⁹ At 1:57:55 a.m., POD footage from the intersection of 35th Street and Ashland Avenue shows the black sedan drive through a solid red signal then striking another vehicle head on before striking a vacant building located on the corner.²⁰ Approximately twelve seconds after the accident, a squad car driven by Officer Stopka arrives on scene, followed four seconds later by a squad car driven by Officer Pentek. Officer Lopez's squad car arrives on scene approximately four seconds after Officer Pentek.²¹

The Arrest Report from the incident, recorded under CB#30396513, reported that one occupant of the black sedan was ejected from the vehicle at the time of the crash and pronounced dead on scene while the other occupant, "whom was initially observed outside the black sedan at 5505 South Kildare Avenue, was now observed inside the black sedan while [their] legs were on the driver's side floorboard area and [their] upper body was on the front passenger side seat."²² As the sole occupant was removed from within the vehicle, a firearm previously reported stolen was observed falling to the floor from their body. Officers placed the surviving occupant in custody with charges for Reckless Homicide in a Motor Vehicle, Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon, Disregarding a Traffic Control Light, No Turn Signal Lights, and No Tail Lights. The Arrest Report reported that the arrestee was later released without charges.²³

During their statement to COPA, Officer Lopez stated they observed a hooded individual with their hand inside their waistband standing between a vehicle parked and another black vehicle that was running in the middle of the street.²⁴ When COPA asked Officer Lopez whether they were able to see a physical description of the hooded individual, specifically their race, Officer Lopez responded, "No, ma'am, because from my standpoint where I'm driving eastbound and I'm looking southbound, that was - the street that this individual was standing on is a one-way street going southbound, so [the individual is] facing southbound. I'm making this observation as I'm traveling westbound looking over my left shoulder, because I'm the driver. So I'm looking at [them]. So [their] back is towards me."²⁵

Officer Lopez told COPA that they informed their partner, Officer Arauz, of their observations and their intention "to go conduct an investigation pertaining to the hooded individual that was standing in between the car and the, the black vehicle that was on the street and the parked vehicle."²⁶ Officer Lopez continued to patrol before they observed the black sedan approximately two to three blocks ahead of them.²⁷ Officer Lopez followed the black sedan, noting they observed it accelerate, and, "at that point, I also accelerated in order to get a complete plate number so I could give that information over the - well, so we can give that information over the radio that there's a vehicle now

¹⁹ Attachment 44, at 1:57:27 – 1:57:48.

²⁰ Attachment 45, at 1:57:55 – 1:58:20.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Attachment 2, p. 3.

²³ Ibid., p. 1.

²⁴ Attachment 124, p. 9.

²⁵ Ibid., p. 11, 12.

²⁶ Ibid., p. 14.

²⁷ Ibid., p. 15, 16.

traveling at a high rate of speed.”²⁸ In their statement to COPA, Officer Lopez confirmed that they informed dispatch that they were not attempting to curb the black sedan.²⁹

Officer Lopez told COPA that they continued to follow the black sedan while it traveled at a high rate of speed because, “as the driver of that, of that vehicle that day, I wanted to make sure that this was (unintelligible) matching the description of the individual I saw initially. But we were unable to determine that.”³⁰

In their statement to COPA, Officer Lopez maintained that they never attempted to initiate a traffic stop on the black sedan due to the distance, as the “vehicle was ahead of [Officers Lopez and Arauz] from quite some distance.”³¹ Officer Lopez stated to COPA, “So I was never behind that vehicle, directly behind it enough. Not to mention, I didn't have a -- a lot of information that I needed for this vehicle. I didn't have a full plate number on it. And I still, at that point, had not verified if this was the individual I had initially observed.”³² When COPA asked Officer Lopez for the purpose of following the black sedan, Officer Lopez stated, “For the safety of citizens in the area, to give an accurate direction of *flight* of this vehicle over the air for any officers that may be in that area. But as I stated, first and foremost, public safety. You want to make sure that -- well, obviously, I can see that a vehicle is traveling at a high rate of speed. I wanted to make sure it did not crash into a -- possibly a vehicle. It could have struck maybe a pedestrian that could have been on the street.”³³

COPA questioned Officer Lopez about the speeds they reached during the motor vehicle pursuit, specifically the GPS records showing Officers Lopez and Arauz's squad car reaching 74 mph at 1:57:25 a.m. near 3859 S. Honore Street and then 75 mph at 1:57:55 a.m. near 3723 S. Ashland Avenue Overpass. Although Officer Lopez told COPA they found out “that the vehicle was involved in a car accident” and accelerated at that time “to get to the site of the accident in order to render aid,” COPA did not question Officer Lopez's answer against the POD footage of 3500 S. Ashland Avenue showing the accident occurred at 1:57:55 a.m. nor the Event Query Report recorded under #2427500994, showing the accident was first dispatched at 1:58:46 a.m.³⁴ POD footage at 3500 S. Ashland Avenue showed the squad car with Officers Lopez and Arauz arriving at the scene of the accident at 1:58:16 a.m. and traveling approximately four seconds behind the second CPD vehicle.³⁵

Officer Lopez told COPA that they decided not to initiate a traffic stop on the vehicle because they were “not in a position to try to safely curb the vehicle,” as it “had already traveled at a high rate of speed and it had gained distance away from us.”³⁶ Although COPA's FSR detailed the POD footage showing the pursuit and noted several instances where Officer Lopez's squad car was either “immediately behind” or just seconds behind the black sedan at various points, COPA did not question Officer Lopez's assertion that they were never in a position close enough to the black sedan to initiate a traffic stop.

²⁸ Ibid., p. 19.

²⁹ Ibid., p. 49.

³⁰ Ibid., p. 24.

³¹ Ibid., p. 29.

³² Ibid., p. 29, 30.

³³ Ibid., p. 30 (Emphasis added).

³⁴ Ibid., p 42; Attachment 46, at 1:57:55; Attachment 11, p. 1.

³⁵ Attachment 46.

³⁶ Attachment 124, p. 51.

When COPA asked Officer Lopez for their definition of a traffic pursuit, Officer Lopez stated, “actively attempting to apprehend a vehicle.” Officer Lopez denied to COPA that this incident fell in line with a traffic pursuit.³⁷ In its FSR, COPA found that Officers Lopez and Arauz “subjective belief that they were not engaged in a pursuit because they did not attempt to curb the vehicle is not reasonable under the circumstances.”³⁸ In sustaining the allegation that Officer Lopez initiated a motor vehicle pursuit, COPA found that Officer Lopez attempted to evade responsibility for misconduct and simply decide not to follow CPD’s motor vehicle pursuit order by failing to engage their lights or siren.³⁹ In determining its discipline recommendation for Officer Lopez, COPA noted, “Officer Lopez failed to accept responsibility for engaging in the out-of-policy pursuit, denying that [they were] involved in *any* pursuit.”⁴⁰ While COPA found that GPS records showed Officer Lopez followed the black sedan for approximately nine minutes over the course of six miles between two CPD Districts and “several POD videos depict Officers Lopez and Arauz’s vehicle pursuing the black sedan, following its location for several minutes,” there is no indication that COPA conducted a Rule 14 analysis of Officer Lopez’s denial of a pursuit.⁴¹

In its Credibility Assessment within the FSR, COPA wrote:

However, COPA questions the accuracy of Officer Lopez’s account. Officer Lopez followed behind the black sedan for several miles at high rate of speed while the vehicle committed various observable traffic violations. Rather than take any police action, Officer Lopez instead chose to misinform the OEMC dispatcher by stating that he and Officer Arauz were not pursuing or attempting to stop the black sedan. Thus, while COPA credits Officer Lopez’s account of the beginning of the incident, COPA does not credit the explanations he offered for some of his actions or his perception of some events, such as his denial of pursuing the black sedan or his participation in a motor vehicle pursuit.⁴²

There is no indication that COPA conducted an analysis of whether Officer Lopez violated Rule 14 despite Officer Lopez having: (1) denied engaging in a pursuit; (2) stated to COPA that they were never close enough to the black sedan to initiate a traffic stop; (3) stating to COPA they drove at 74-75 mph to render aid after being dispatched about the auto accident while GPS showed they traveled at these speeds prior to the accident; and (4) stated to COPA that they were never close enough to the hooded individual to observe the individual’s race, yet completed reports attesting that they specifically observed a Hispanic individual identified as the arrestee of CB#30396513.

In its Final Summary Report (FSR), COPA documented that POD footage shows Officers Lopez and Arauz driving east on 51st Street before turning north on Western Boulevard at 1:55:14 a.m. COPA noted the CPD squad car assigned to Officers Lopez and Arauz and driven by Officer Lopez during the incident appeared to have its taillights off.⁴³ Despite COPA observing that the CPD squad car assigned to Officers Lopez and Arauz appeared to have its headlights off and BWC footage

³⁷ Attachment 124, p. 39.

³⁸ Attachment 169, p. 13.

³⁹ Ibid., p. 13, 14.

⁴⁰ Ibid., at p. 20.

⁴¹ Ibid., p. 14.

⁴² Attachment 169, p. 10-11.

⁴³ Attachment 169, p. 6.

confirming the Officer Lopez drove with only running lights on, COPA failed to ask Officer Lopez any questions regarding this.

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 conduct a Rule 14 analysis of Officer Lopez's statements to COPA and consider all available evidence, including Officer Lopez's driving without headlights, and any additional applicable rules and directives.

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
Office of Inspector General

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 L. Moore, Chief, Bureau of Internal Affairs, CPD

Appendix B | Department Response



June 9, 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. 2024-0007497

Dear Deputy Inspector General Richardson:

I am in receipt of your May 13, 2026 letter recommending that COPA re-open and conduct additional investigation in Log No. 2024-0007497. We understand the Office of the Inspector General - Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety (PSIG) recommends re-opening this case to conduct a Rule 14 analysis for statements CPD officer Jose Lopez made in connection with the incident.¹ For the reasons stated below, COPA does not concur with PSIG's recommendation to re-open.

To establish a Rule 14 violation, COPA must prove: (1) that a false statement was made, (2) that it was made willfully, and (3) that it was made about a fact that was material to the investigation.² PSIG has not identified any evidence to establish that Officer Lopez willfully made false statements. COPA's report found that Officer Lopez's subjective beliefs about the incident were unreasonable. But Officer Lopez consistently demonstrated his belief that he was not engaged in a pursuit under CPD policy. Those beliefs were wrong, but COPA has no evidence that he intended to mislead or to fabricate his account.

Under COPA's ordinance, the Chief Administrator may, in their discretion, re-open any closed investigation upon PSIG's recommendation.³ 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 Star # 11943.

² See *Agreement between City of Chicago Department of Police and the John Dineen Lodge No. 7*, effective Jul 1, 2017 through June 30, 2027, §6.1(M).

³ MCC § 2-78-120(x)(iii).

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June 9, 2026
Ms. Tobar 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

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.

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