



CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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Recommendation to Reopen Chicago Police Department Disciplinary Investigation

CPD Log # 2025-0001531

OIG Case #C2026-0000000168

September 30, 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 recommend reopening an investigation to address a deficiency materially affecting its outcome.¹

Log #2025-0001531 concerns allegations against CPD Officers Joseph Vecchio, Star #14469, and Richard Rodriguez Jr., Star #12157, arising from their stop of complainant's vehicle. The Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) administratively closed the allegation regarding the search and seizure and referred the matter to BIA to address Officer Rodriguez's failure to complete an Investigative Summary Report (ISR) for the passenger. BIA found that Officer Rodriguez failed to submit an ISR and issued a Summary Punishment Action Request (SPAR) against him.

A review of body worn camera (BWC) footage showed the complainant asking for an ISR receipt at the conclusion of a traffic stop to make a complaint about Officer Rodriguez's interaction with the complainant. Officer Rodriguez stated that he would write the complainant tickets first. When, in response to another prompt from Officer Rodriguez, the complainant later said they no longer wanted the receipt, Officer Rodriguez stated he would not write the tickets. This exchange raised concerns that Officer Rodriguez improperly tied the issuance of tickets to complainant's request for an ISR receipt.

OIG Recommended that BIA reopen the investigation to determine whether Officer Rodriguez violated General Order G08-05 - Prohibition of Retaliation, General Order G08-01 –Complaint Initiation, Special Order S04-14 – Citing Traffic Violations, and any other Department rules and directives.

BIA declined OIG's recommendation to reopen the investigation after determining that the conversation between Officer Rodriguez and the complainant did not constitute retaliation.

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



David Glockner | 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

August 26, 2026

TIMOTHY L. MOORE
CHIEF
BUREAU OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
3510 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60653

Re: Log #2025-0001531

Dear Chief Moore:

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 #2025-0001531. OIG recommends that the investigation be reopened to consider all available evidence and conduct an analysis of all potential violations. Log #2025-0001531 is currently administratively closed.

Log #2025-0001531 concerns allegations against CPD Officers Joseph Vecchio, Star #14469, and Richard Rodriguez Jr., Star #12157, arising from their stop of complainant's vehicle. The Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) administratively closed the allegation regarding the search and seizure but referred the matter to BIA to address Officer Rodriguez's failure to complete an Investigative Summary Report (ISR) for the passenger. BIA found that Officer Rodriguez failed to submit an ISR and issued a Summary Punishment Action Request (SPAR) #579428.

BIA's review found BWC footage showing that after the complainant asked Officer Rodriguez for an ISR receipt, Officer Rodriguez said he would write tickets first. When the complainant later said he no longer wanted the receipt in response to another prompt, Officer Rodriguez stated he would not write the tickets. BIA's Administrative Closure Report notes it reviewed body worn camera (BWC) footage from March 31, 2025. BIA notes that the BWC footage shows, "P.O. Rodriguez asked [complainant] if he wanted an ISR receipt, to which [complainant] replied, 'yea give me everything that I can get to tell on your ass.' P.O. Rodriguez replied that he would write the tickets first and sat in the patrol vehicle." Next, P.O. Rodriguez stated, "Hold on, you don't want your receipt?"

[complainant] replied, "Naw bro." P.O. Rodriguez replied, "I just wanted to make sure. I'm not going to write tickets then."¹

This exchange raises concern that Officer Rodriguez improperly tied the issuance of tickets to complainant's request for an ISR after the complainant indicated that he wanted the ISR receipt to tell about Officer Rodriguez's interaction with the complainant. According to General Order G08-05 - Prohibition of Retaliation Section III-G specifies that retaliation is "deliberate action or failure to take action as required of a Department member that involves an improper motive," including but not limited to: "1. physical conduct and direct or indirect actions, including arrests, issuance of citations, surveillance, and vehicle or street stops." Moreover, General Order G08-01-02 – Complaint Initiation and Log Number Investigation Assignment requires complaints be accepted impartially and discourages any interference or influence of reporting.

CPD's Special Order S04-14 - Citing Traffic Violations and Attending Traffic Court emphasizes that the Department is committed to enforcing all State and municipal traffic laws in a fair and impartial manner, and officers are required to follow established procedures for issuing citations and attending court. Although officers have discretion regarding whether to issue traffic citations, BIA did not address that Officer Rodriguez's decision to issue citations appeared potentially retaliatory in response to the complainant's request for an investigatory stop receipt and a desire to make a complaint. Once the complainant stated they no longer wanted the receipt, Officer Rodriguez then decided not to issue the citations.² Officer Rodriguez demonstrated the decision to cite the complainant was based on the complainant's desire to file a complaint rather than valid enforcement factors.

Based on OIG's preliminary review, and without taking any position on any other aspect of the investigation, OIG recommends that BIA reopen the investigation to determine whether Officer Rodriguez violated General Order G08-05 - Prohibition of Retaliation, General Order G08-01 – Complaint Initiation, Special Order S04-14 – Citing Traffic Violations, and any other Department 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 before a final disciplinary decision is made with respect to this investigation and in no case later than 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,



Tobara Richardson
Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety
City of Chicago

¹ Attachment 14.

² Attachment 6, Officer Rodriguez BWC at minute 6:45.

cc: David Glockner, 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 Connie Flores, BIA, CPD
Officer Jessica R. Medina, Legal Affairs, CPD

Appendix B | Department Response



Re: Recommendation to Reopen Log #2025-0001531

From Flores, Connie D. <Connie.Flores@chicagopolice.org>

Date Thu 9/3/2026 1:10 PM

To LaDonna Candia Flanagan <lcandia_flanagan@igchicago.org>

Cc Walker, Traci L. <Traci.Walker@chicagopolice.org>; Medina, Jessica <Jessica.Medina@chicagopolice.org>; Spears, Scott <Scott.Spears@chicagopolice.org>; David Glockner <dglockner@igchicago.org>; Tobará Richardson <trichardson@igchicago.org>; Samuel Chae <schae@igchicago.org>; Moore, Timothy L. <timothy.moore@chicagopolice.org>

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Good afternoon,

On behalf of Chief Timothy Moore, BIA reviewed all objectively verifiable evidence submitted in support of the request to reopen Log Number 2025-001531. After reviewing the available evidence, BIA determined that the conversation between Police Officer Richard Rodriguez Jr. #12157 and the driver of the vehicle did not constitute retaliation. Based on this determination, BIA will not reopen the investigation.

Thank you,

Sgt. Connie Flores

Chicago Police Department

Bureau of Internal Affairs

Administrative Section

3510 S. Michigan Ave., 5th Floor

Office 312-745-6125 Ext: 85015, Pax: 0216



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From: LaDonna Candia-Flanagan <lcandia-flanagan@igchicago.org>

Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 10:12 AM

To: Moore, Timothy L. <Timothy.Moore@chicagopolice.org>

Cc: Walker, Traci L. <Traci.Walker@chicagopolice.org>; Flores, Connie D. <Connie.Flores@chicagopolice.org>; Medina, Jessica <Jessica.Medina@chicagopolice.org>; Spears, Scott <Scott.Spears@chicagopolice.org>; David Glockner <dglockner@igchicago.org>; Tobar Richardson <trichardson@igchicago.org>; Samuel Chae <schae@igchicago.org>

Subject: Recommendation to Reopen Log #2025-0001531

Dear Director Moore:

On behalf of Deputy Inspector General Tobar Richardson, please find attached to this email a recommendation to reopen letter for Log #2025-0001531. Please acknowledge your receipt of this correspondence and let me know if you have any questions.

LaDonna Candia-Flanagan

Chief Investigative Analyst-Public Safety
City of Chicago | Office of Inspector General
231 S. LaSalle, 12th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604
lcandia-flanagan@igchicago.org
(773) 478-5614

(833) Talk-2-IG | (833) 825-5244
talk2ig@igchicago.org | igchicago.org

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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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talk2ig@igchicago.org

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(773) 478-7799

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