



CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

20
26

Recommendation to Reopen Chicago Police Department Disciplinary Investigation

CPD Log # 2026-0000854

OIG Case #C2026-0000000160

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

COPA investigated allegations that an unknown CPD police officer, who identified himself as Ivan or Ivin, approached the complainant at a Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) platform, insisted the complainant take the officer's phone number, and touched the complainant on the arm and buttocks.

In its preliminary investigation, COPA determined the phone number provided to the complainant was associated with CPD Field Training Officer (FTO) Ivan Sanford, Star #9204. While COPA noted it spoke with the complainant and obtained additional information regarding the incident, COPA administratively closed the Log, citing its inability to obtain the complainant's statement.

During its review, OIG identified video footage showing an interaction on a CTA platform between an individual and a CPD FTO who repeatedly touched the individual's arm during the interaction. COPA did not note whether it considered the video evidence when it administratively closed the Log.

OIG recommended that COPA reopen the investigation to consider all available evidence, including CTA security footage of the incident, and gather all available evidence, including any relevant time records for FTO Sanford, which could result in COPA naming FTO Sanford as the accused and conducting an interview.

In response to OIG's recommendations, COPA declined to reopen Log #2026-0000854, stating the video evidence identified by OIG does not constitute sufficient evidence of misconduct. COPA stated additional evidence, including a statement from the complainant, would be required to support the allegations.

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

July 16, 2026

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

Re: Log #2026-0000854

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 #2026-0000854. OIG recommends that COPA reopen the investigation to fully account for all available evidence. Log #2026-0000854 is currently in a Closed/No Finding status.

Log #2026-0000854 concerns allegations that an unknown CPD officer, who identified themselves as Ivan or Ivin, approached the complainant at the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Jackson Red Line platform and touched the complainant on their arm and buttocks on February 18, 2026, at 12:10 p.m.¹ The complainant alleged the CPD officer first asked the complainant for their phone number before insisting that the complainant take the officer's phone number and call them when the complainant had time to chat.² The complainant provided a phone number that the unknown officer gave them, stating they received the phone number despite them advising the officer that they were a sophomore in college while the officer appeared to be in their late 40s.³

COPA found that the phone number provided to the complainant was the home phone number associated with CPD Field Training Officer (FTO) Ivan Sanford, Star #9204.⁴ COPA included a Watch Sheet Report for FTO Sanford and a Watch Sheet Report for the third watch in CPD's 2nd District showing Officer Sanford had a regular day off on the date of the alleged incident.⁵ However, the alleged incident occurred at the Jackson Red Line Platform, and COPA did not conduct any queries to determine whether FTO Sanford worked a CTA overtime initiative on that date. OIG

¹ Attachment 12, p. 1 – 2.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Attachment 9; Attachment 13, p. 2.

⁵ Attachments 10 & 11.

reviewed its internal Sworn CPD Overtime dashboard, derived from CPD data, and found that FTO Sanford was working overtime on the date and time of the alleged incident.

COPA included CTA footage from the alleged date and time of the incident. The CTA footage captures an individual wearing a CPD uniform with an FTO patch glancing toward a member of the public as they stood on the platform looking at their phone.⁶ The CPD FTO approaches the individual and initiates a conversation with them.⁷ Throughout the conversation, the CPD FTO repeatedly touches the arm and shoulder area of the individual. As an incoming train approaches the platform, the CPD FTO steps in front of the individual's path while gesturing toward the individual, who then pulls their cell phone from their pocket as the FTO touches the individual on their shoulder.⁸ The CTA footage captures the interaction as alleged by the complainant, yet COPA's Non-Final Summary Report (Non-FSR) did not note the incident from CTA footage, nor did it indicate whether COPA considered the CTA footage of the incident.

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 to consider all available evidence, including CTA security footage of the incident, and gather all available evidence, including any relevant time records for FTO Sanford, which may result in COPA naming FTO Ivan Sanford, Star #9204, as the accused and conducting an interview.

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
Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety
City of Chicago

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
Angela Snell, Acting General Counsel, COPA
Timothy Moore, Chief, Bureau of Internal Affairs, CPD

⁶ Attachment 1, at 26:34 – 27:57.

⁷ Ibid., at 27:58 - 30:12.

⁸ Ibid., at 30:13 - 30:49.

Appendix B | Department Response



September 22, 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. 2026-0000854

Dear Deputy Inspector General Richardson:

I am in receipt of your July 16, 2026 letter recommending that COPA re-open and conduct additional investigation in Log No. 2026-0000854. We understand the Office of the Inspector General - Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety (PSIG) recommends re-opening this case to gather additional evidence and to consider all evidence. For the reasons stated below, COPA does not concur with PSIG's recommendation to re-open.

PSIG has not identified a material deficiency in COPA's investigation. COPA reviewed the CTA footage cited in your letter. That footage, without more, does not constitute sufficient evidence of misconduct. The footage shows several interactions between various CPD members and the public. COPA would need additional evidence, such as the complainant's account of the conversation that took place, to support allegations. As shown in the case file, COPA made several attempts to speak with the complainant but was ultimately not able to obtain a statement.

Under COPA's ordinance, the Chief Administrator may, in their discretion, re-open any closed investigation upon PSIG's recommendation.¹ 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 MCC § 2-78-120(x)(iii).

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September 22, 2026
Ms. Tobar Richardson

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LaKenya White".

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.

