



Log # 2020-3949

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On August 21, 2020, the Chicago Police Department's (CPD) Crime Prevention and Information Center (CPIC) notified the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) of an officer-involved shooting that occurred earlier that day, at approximately 10:11pm, near 2500 S. King Drive.² COPA learned that an off-duty CPD member, Officer Jalen Woods, discharged his firearm at unknown individuals after those individuals rear ended Officer Wood's car, held him at gunpoint and carjacked him of his vehicle. Upon review of the evidence, COPA served allegations on Officer Woods for unauthorized discharge of his firearm and failure to fully load his firearm in accordance with CPD policy. Following its investigation, COPA reached not sustained findings.

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE²

On August 21, 2020, Officer Jalen Woods and his partner Officer Marcus Griggs were off-duty and driving southbound on King Drive in Officer Woods' personal vehicle, a gray Dodge Charger.³ While Woods was stopped at the traffic light located at 25th St. and King Drive, a white truck approached Woods' vehicle at a high rate of speed and rammed the rear of Woods' vehicle.⁴ Woods then exited his vehicle and approached the white truck on the drivers' side.⁵ The driver of the white truck then produced a handgun and pointed it at Woods, who, lacking any nearby cover,⁶ retreated to a nearby McDonald's.⁷ In the passenger seat of Woods' vehicle, Officer Griggs was confronted by another armed individual who pointed a gun at his chest.⁸ Officer Griggs also retreated away from Woods' vehicle and to the McDonald's.

After gaining some distance between himself and the subjects, Officer Woods turned around and perceived one of the subjects still pointing a gun at both Officer Griggs and himself.⁹

¹ Appendix A includes case identifiers such as the date, time, and location of the incident, the involved parties and their demographics, and the applicable rules and policies.

² The following is a summary of what COPA finds most likely occurred during this incident. This summary utilized information from several different sources, including *Third-party video*, *POD footage*, *BWC*, *Event Queries*, *police reports*, and *interviews*.

³ Att. 70 pg. 16

⁴ Att. 70 at pg. 18; Att. 22 at 10:08:53

⁵ Att. 22 at 10:08:56

⁶ Att. 70 at pg. 30

⁷ Att. 70 at pg. 30; Att. 22 at 10:09:02

⁸ Att. 63 at pg. 15

⁹ Att. 70 at pg. 36

Officer Woods then drew his weapon and fired towards armed individual's center mass.¹⁰ He discharged his weapon eight times with no hits.¹¹ Both officers then kept running until they reached the McDonald's parking lot. The involved individuals then fled the scene in both Woods' vehicle and their own white truck.¹² Having left their phones in Woods' car, the officers used the phone at the nearby McDonald's to report the incident.

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer Jalen Woods:

1. Discharged a firearm in violation of G03-02-03.
 - Not Sustained
2. Failed to comply with U04-02 by failing to fully load your firearm.
 - Not Sustained

IV. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

This investigation did not reveal any evidence that caused COPA to doubt the credibility of any of the individuals (sworn or unsworn) who provided statements. COPA found Officer Woods and Griggs to be credible and consistent in their statement, as neither had difficulty in recalling details of the incident. While Officer Woods' discharge was not caught on the available camera footage, the details of the encounter that are captured on third-party video are consistent with Officer Woods and Officer Griggs account.

V. ANALYSIS¹³

Officer Woods' Firearm Discharge was within CPD Policy

COPA finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the use of deadly force by Officer Woods was objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional to the circumstances he faced.¹⁴ COPA further finds that the circumstances did not allow for the officer to engage in de-escalation tactics due to the totality of the circumstances. COPA thus concludes by a preponderance of the evidence that Officer Woods' use of deadly force complied with CPD policy.

The use of deadly force is permitted only as a "last resort" when "necessary to protect against an imminent threat to life or to prevent great bodily harm to the member or another person."¹⁵ A CPD member may use deadly force in only two situations: (1) to prevent "death or great bodily harm from an imminent threat posed to the sworn member or to another person;" or (2) to prevent "an arrest from being defeated by resistance or escape, where the person to be

¹⁰ Att. 70 at pg. 36

¹¹ Att. 1

¹³ For a definition of COPA's findings and standards of proof, *see* Appendix B.

¹⁴ Att. 77 G03-02 (III) (B), Use of Force

¹⁵ Att. 77 G03-02 (III) (C) (3)

arrested poses an imminent threat of death or great bodily harm to a sworn member or another person unless arrested without delay.”¹⁶

A threat is considered imminent “when it is objectively reasonable to believe that: (a) the person’s actions are immediately likely to cause death or great bodily harm to the member or others unless action is taken; and (b) the person has the means or instruments to cause death or great bodily harm; and (c) the person has the opportunity and ability to cause death or great bodily harm.” Officers are expected to modify the use of force as circumstances change and in ways that are consistent with officer safety, including stopping the use of force when it is no longer necessary.¹⁷

Based on the review of the evidence, COPA finds that it is more likely than not that Officer Woods’ use of deadly force was objectively reasonable considering the imminent threat he and Officer Griggs faced. Officer Woods reported that he had fired his weapon only after the individual pointed a firearm towards Officer Woods in a manner he believed was threatening to his life and the life of others. The individuals had already shown a willingness to use force when they intentionally hit Woods’ vehicle in a manner that could have caused either Officer Woods or Griggs harm. Further, there was no safe cover for the officers to retreat to in the immediate area. It was thus objectively reasonable for Officer Woods to believe that the subjects’ actions were immediately likely to cause death or great bodily harm. Additionally, COPA finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the subjects had the means or instruments and the opportunity and ability to cause death or great bodily harm.

Based on a totality of the circumstances, COPA finds by a preponderance of the evidence that Officer Woods’ use of deadly force complied with CPD policy and therefore allegation 1 is Not Sustained.

Officer Woods properly loaded his firearm in accordance with CPD policy.

Under CPD Uniform and Property Code U04-02¹⁸ all firearms carried by CPD personnel must be fully loaded with only one manufacture and style of prescribed ammunition. Based on COPA's observation of the weapon breakdown¹⁹ and the crime scene processing reports²⁰ eight shell casings were recovered from the scene, while seven rounds were still present in Officer Woods' firearm after the incident. In his statement to COPA, Officer Wood’s indicated that he fired nine rounds at the offenders.²¹ These rounds fall one round short of the weapon's fifteen plus one capacity. In review of the crime scene processing reports, ETs were instructed to conduct an additional “extensive systematic search”, which lead to the discovery of the eight round being on

¹⁶ Att. 77 G03-02 (III) (C) (3 a/b)

¹⁷ Att. 77 G03-02 (III) (C) (2 a/b/c)

¹⁸ Att. 78

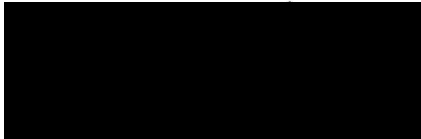
¹⁹ Att. 1

²⁰ Att. 50 and 51

²¹ Att. 70, pg. 39 line 6

the parkway.²² Additionally, after the shooting occurred, several vehicles can be seen driving through the scene before it is eventually taped off by CPD.²³ These factors lead COPA to plausible believe that the ninth casing could have been transported away from the scene by a passing vehicle, or not recovered by the ET. Therefore, based on a preponderance of the evidence, Allegation 2 against Officer Woods is **Not Sustained**.

Approved:



Matthew Haynam
Deputy Chief Administrator

Date: 1/22/2024



Andrea Kersten
Chief Administrator

Date: 1/22/2024

²² Att. 51, pg.3

²³ Att. 22 at 10:10

Appendix ACase Details

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	August 21, 2020; 10:11PM; 2500 S. King Dr
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	August 21, 2020; 11:04PM
Involved Member #1:	Jalen Woods, star # 11508, employee ID# [REDACTED], Date of Appointment: 11/16/17, Unit of Assignment: 004/017, Male, Black
Involved Member #2:	Marcus Griggs Star # 8086; employee ID# [REDACTED]; DOA: 7/17/17; Unit of Assignment: 004; Male Black
Involved Individual #1:	Unknown
Involved Individual #2:	

Applicable Rules

- Rule 2:** Any action or conduct which impedes the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.
- Rule 3:** Any failure to promote the Department's efforts to implement its policy or accomplish its goals.
- Rule 5:** Failure to perform any duty.
- Rule 6:** Disobedience of an order or directive, whether written or oral.
- Rule 8:** Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty.
- Rule 9:** Engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.
- Rule 10:** Inattention to duty.
- Rule 14:** Making a false report, written or oral.
- Rule 38:** Unlawful or unnecessary use or display of a weapon.
- Rule __:** *[Insert text of any additional rule(s) violated]*

Applicable Policies and Laws

- U04-02 Department Approved Weapons and Ammunition (eff. Date 2/29/20-5/7/21)²⁴
- G03-02 Use of Force (eff. Date 2/29/20 to 4/1/21)²⁵

²⁴ Att. 78

²⁵ Att. 77

Appendix B

Definition of COPA’s Findings and Standards of Proof

For each Allegation, COPA must make one of the following findings:

1. Sustained – where it is determined the allegation is supported by a preponderance of the evidence;
2. Not Sustained – where it is determined there is insufficient evidence to prove the allegations by a preponderance of the evidence;
3. Unfounded – where it is determined by clear and convincing evidence that an allegation is false or not factual; or
4. Exonerated – where it is determined by clear and convincing evidence that the conduct described in the allegation occurred, but it is lawful and proper.

A **preponderance of evidence** can be described as evidence indicating that it is **more likely than not** that a proposition is proved.²⁶ For example, if the evidence gathered in an investigation establishes that it is more likely that the conduct complied with CPD policy than that it did not, even if by a narrow margin, then the preponderance of the evidence standard is met.

Clear and convincing evidence is a higher standard than a preponderance of the evidence but lower than the “beyond-a-reasonable doubt” standard required to convict a person of a criminal offense. Clear and convincing can be defined as a “degree of proof, which, considering all the evidence in the case, produces the firm and abiding belief that it is highly probable that the proposition . . . is true.”²⁷

²⁶ See *Avery v. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co.*, 216 Ill. 2d 100, 191 (2005) (a proposition is proved by a preponderance of the evidence when it is found to be more probably true than not).

²⁷ *People v. Coan*, 2016 IL App (2d) 151036, ¶ 28 (quoting Illinois Pattern Jury Instructions, Criminal, No. 4.19 (4th ed. 2000)).

Appendix C

Transparency and Publication Categories

Check all that apply:

- Abuse of Authority
- Body Worn Camera Violation
- Coercion
- Death or Serious Bodily Injury in Custody
- Domestic Violence
- Excessive Force
- Failure to Report Misconduct
- False Statement
- Firearm Discharge
- Firearm Discharge – Animal
- Firearm Discharge – Suicide
- Firearm Discharge – Unintentional
- First Amendment
- Improper Search and Seizure – Fourth Amendment Violation
- Incidents in Lockup
- Motor Vehicle Incidents
- OC Spray Discharge
- Search Warrants
- Sexual Misconduct
- Taser Discharge
- Unlawful Denial of Access to Counsel
- Unnecessary Display of a Weapon
- Use of Deadly Force – other
- Verbal Abuse
- Other Investigation