



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

Department of Police · City of Chicago
3510 S. Michigan Avenue · Chicago, Illinois 60653

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent of Police

April 08, 2024

Andrea Kersten
Chief Administrator
Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA)
1615 W. Chicago Ave., 4th Floor

Re: Superintendent's Concurrence with COPA's Findings and Non-Concurrence with COPA's Penalties
Log# 2021-0001500
Officer Justin Simik-Valadez, Sergeant Daniel Conway

Dear Chief Administrator Kersten:

After a careful review of the above referenced complaint log number, the Chicago Police Department (Department) concurs with the recommended findings but does not concur with the penalty recommendation as they pertain to Police Officer Dexter Justin Simik-Valadez, Star No. 8209 and Sergeant Daniel Conway, Star No. 1658. Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Department provides the following comments.

The COPA investigation recommended a 15-day suspension for Police Officer Justin Simik-Valadez (Officer Simik-Valadez) after concluding that he:

1. Engaged in a motor vehicle pursuit while operating a covert vehicle in violation of General Order G03-03-01.
2. Initiated a motor vehicle pursuit, without justification.
3. Continued a motor vehicle pursuit, without justification.
4. Engaged in emergency vehicle operations without due regard for the safety of all persons, without justification.

The COPA investigation recommended a 29-day suspension for Sergeant Daniel Conway (Sergeant Conway) after concluding that he:

1. Failed to properly supervise by authorizing Officer Simik-Valadez to engage in a motor vehicle pursuit in a covert vehicle in violation of General Order G03-03-01, without justification.
2. Failed to properly supervise by authorizing Officer Simik-Valadez to initiate a motor vehicle pursuit, without justification.

The Department agrees with COPA's sustained findings. However, the Department believes the penalty recommendations are excessive and recommends more progressive penalties. Therefore, the Department recommends a 10-day suspension for Officer Simik-Valadez. Officer Simik-Valadez's disciplinary history includes one violation noted for a sustained complaint for neglect of duty and has

received a total of 84 awards. In addition, the Department recommends a 15-day suspension for Sergeant Conway. Sergeant Conway has received one sustained complaint for neglect of duty in the past five years and has an extensive complimentary history. Sergeant Conway has received a total of 229 awards.

The Department looks forward to discussing this matter with you pursuant to MCC-2-78-130(a)(iii).

Sincerely,



Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent of Police
Chicago Police Department