



Lori E. Lightfoot
Mayor

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

David O. Brown
Superintendent of Police

June 10, 2021

Andrea Kersten
Interim Chief Administrator
Civilian Office of Police Accountability
1615 West Chicago Avenue, 4th Floor
Chicago, IL 60622

RE: Superintendent's Increase of COPA's proposed penalty
Complaint Register #2019-0004852
Timothy Mason, Star No. 15802, Employee ID No. [REDACTED]

Dear Interim Chief Administrator:

This letter is to address only the four allegations that COPA sustained against Officer Timothy Mason regarding making a false report, written or oral, in the above-referenced complaint register number:

Allegation #6: Made one or more false, misleading, incomplete, and/or inaccurate statements in his supplementary report in stating that [REDACTED] was alert and/or responsive upon his arrival to the scene;

Allegation #7: Made one or more false, misleading, incomplete, and/or inaccurate statements in his supplementary report in that it omitted that [REDACTED] lost consciousness;

Allegation #8: Provided false, misleading, incomplete, and/or inaccurate statements in his supplementary report including his statement to the effect that “[o]ffender who at the feet of the LEMART trained R/O’s was alert”; and

Allegation #9: Provided false, misleading, incomplete, and/or inaccurate statements in his supplementary report including a statement to the effect that “[a]fter repeatedly admonishing the alert offender to stand, R/O’s placed the offender who was . . . feigning unconsciousness into restraints.”

COPA recommended a ninety-day (90-day) suspension for Officer Mason.


In accordance with the Municipal Code of Chicago, Chapter 2-78, Civilian Office of Police Accountability, the Superintendent notified COPA that, after reviewing the investigation, he intended to take action that differed from that recommended by the Chief Administrator regarding, amongst other things, Officer Mason's sustained Rule 14 allegations. In a letter dated February 11, 2021, the Superintendent described the reasons for his different action. Following the receipt of that letter, CPD and COPA discussed the Superintendent's response; the parties did not agree on the classification of the allegations or the proposed penalties. Therefore, the Superintendent's response and the Chief Administrator's written objections were sent for review to a City of Chicago Police Board member, who would issue an opinion regarding the impasse.

On May 12, 2021, Paula Wolff, the member of the Police Board selected to review the impasse, issued an opinion and stated, in reference to Officer Mason, "it is my opinion that, based on a thorough review of the Request for Review file, the Superintendent's response does not meet the burden of overcoming the Chief Administrator's recommendations for discipline" (Nos. 21 RR 06 – 11, Police Officer Kerr et al., Request for Review and Opinion). Because the opinion of the member of the Police Board found that the Superintendent did not meet his burden of overcoming the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline, the recommendation by the Chief Administrator is deemed accepted by the Superintendent.

Because four of the sustained allegations against Officer Mason are violations of Rule 14, Making a False Report, the Superintendent will seek the separation of Officer Mason. Since approximately 2008, CPD has sought the separation of officers with sustained Rule 14 violations because such a violation impairs an officer's ability to testify in criminal cases, to effectuate arrests, hinders an officer from signing affidavits in support of search warrants, and participating in joint federal task forces. Federal and state prosecutors routinely inquire whether an officer has a sustained Rule 14 violation and generally will not call an officer with such a violation to testify in criminal cases because the facts of that violation would be subject to cross-examination and may negatively affect the officer's credibility. As CPD's Rules and Regulations state, "[t]he public demands that the integrity of its law enforcement officers be above reproach, and the dishonesty of a single officer may impair public confidence and cast suspicion and disrespect upon the entire Department."

Due to these restrictions on officers with sustained Rule 14 violations, CPD must seek the separation of Officer Mason.

Sincerely,


David O. Brown
Superintendent of Police
Chicago Police Department