

CITY OF CHICAGO OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL 740 NORTH SEDGWICK STREET, SUITE 200 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60654 TELEPHONE: (773) 478-7799 FAX: (773) 478-3949

## VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

November 8, 2019

SYDNEY ROBERTS
CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR
CIVILIAN OFFICE OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY
1615 W. CHICAGO AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60622

Re: Log #1092623

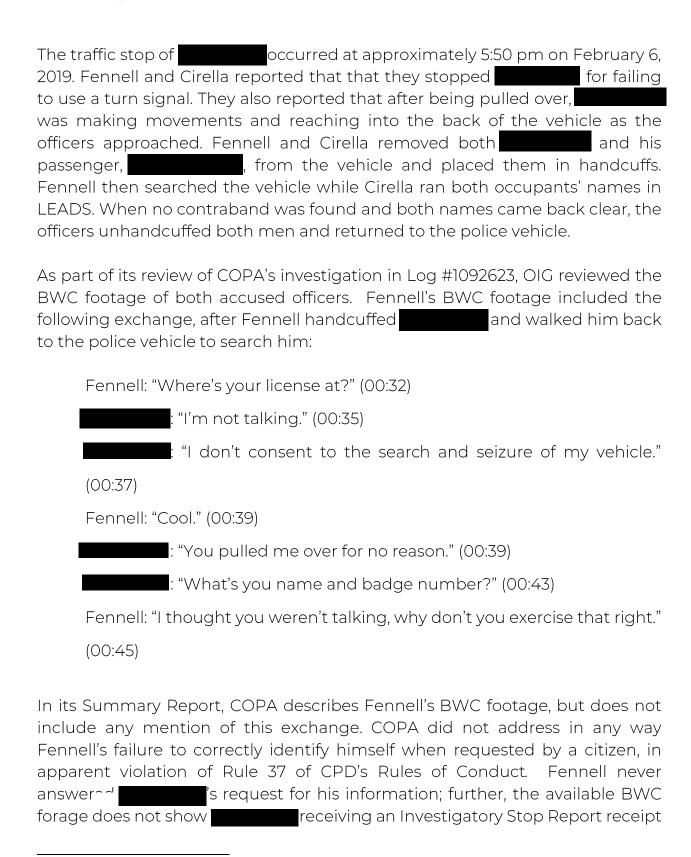
Dear Chief Administrator Roberts:

Pursuant to §2-56-230(c)(ii) of the Municipal Code of the City of Chicago, the Office of Inspector General, Public Safety Section (OIG) has conducted a preliminary review of the investigation conducted by the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) in Log #1092623, and recommends that the investigation be reopened.

As of today, the status of Log #1092623 is "Pending Superintendent Review" with respect to one accused officer, and "Pending Implement Action" with respect to the other.

COPA received a complaint from allegation listed on the face sheet is that the "Vitim [sic] reported being illegally stopped, handcuffed and pulled from his vehicle while it was searched." COPA brought allegations against Chicago Police Department (CPD) Officer Thomas Fennell and Officer Cynthia Cirella for stopping without justification, which were Not Sustained. COPA brought an additional allegation against Fennell for searching 's vehicle without justification, which was Exonerated, and one for failing to timely activate his Body Worn Camera (BWC), which was Sustained.

<sup>1</sup> On February 24, 2019, COPA obtained a sworn affidavit and consent to record a statement but failed to upload an audio or transcribed copy of a statement in CLEAR. As such, OIG was unable to hear the allegations as described by to COPA. COPA did not include any summary of statement in its Summary Report.



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at the end of the stop, raising the appearance that he was never provided with Fennell's identifying information, despite his having specifically requested it.

Based on OIGPS's preliminary review, and without taking any position on any other aspect of the investigation or its findings, OIGPS recommends that COPA reopen Log #1092623 to address the full evidentiary record, and particularly Fennell's apparent violation of Rule 37.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns; I can be reached at (773) or jlipari@igchicago.org

Sincerely,

Joseph Lipari
Deputy Inspector General
Public Safety
Office of Inspector General

cc: Joseph Ferguson, Inspector General, OIG
Deborah Witzburg, Associate General Counsel, OIG
Kevin Connor, General Counsel, COPA
Brandon Crase, Senior Litigation Counsel, COPA
Chief Karen Konow, Bureau of Internal Affairs, CPD