



Lori E. Lightfoot  
Mayor

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

David O. Brown  
Superintendent of Police

July 27, 2020

Sydney Roberts  
Chief Administrator  
Civilian Office of Police Accountability  
1615 West Chicago Avenue, 4th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60622

RE: Superintendent's Non-Concurrence with COPA's Proposed Penalty  
Complaint Register Number: #1090199  
Chicago Police Department: Officer David Di Santi 20-Day Suspension

Dear Chief Administrator:

The Chicago Police Department (CPD) concurs with the sustained findings that Officer David Di Santi failed to respond to the correct address, improperly searched a hotel room, and failed to activate his BWC; however, CPD respectfully does not concur with the additional sustained findings, nor with the penalty recommendation of a twenty (20) day suspension for Officer Di Santi. According to the Municipal Code of Chicago, MCC 2-78-130, the Superintendent provides comments on the following when there is a disagreement as to the penalty.

***Summary of Key Facts of Punishment***

On June 24, 2018, at approximately 1:50 a.m., Officer David Di Santi, while assigned as a 10-99 unit, was dispatched to investigate an incident involving two black males with a firearm at the River Park Motel, Room 124, located at 6060 North Lincoln Avenue. Officer Di Santi mistakenly responded to the Rodeway Inn located at 5952 North Lincoln Avenue. Upon entering the hotel, Officer Di Santi spoke with the night desk clerk and asked him, not verbatim, where Room 124 was located. The desk clerk responded that Room 124 doesn't exist and told Officer Di Santi that the hotel had a C24. After Officer Di Santi relocated to the vestibule, officers arrived to assist, and the hotel employee escorted Officer Di Santi and the officers to Room C24.

Officer Di Santi knocked on the door. After receiving no response, Officer Santi attempted to move the handle and open the door; as he did so, the occupant on the other side quickly closed the door and locked it. Officer Di Santi identified himself as a police officer and requested the occupants open the door. As the door opened, Officer Di Santi withdrew his firearm and ordered Mr. [REDACTED] a white male, and the other occupant, Ms. [REDACTED] to put their hands on the wall. Assisting officers also had their firearms unholstered but did not point their weapons at Mr. [REDACTED] or Ms. [REDACTED]. After Officer Di Santi performed a protective sweep of the room, and found neither a firearm nor any black males present in the hotel room, the officers relocated back to their cars. It was then determined they were at the wrong address and they relocated to the River Park Motel.

### *Summary of Allegations*

COPA sustained the following allegations of the incident against Officer Di Santi:

- Failed to respond to the correct address,
- Unlawfully entered a hotel room,
- Unlawfully search a hotel room,
- Failed to engage his BWC,
- Unnecessarily displayed his firearm, and
- Improperly detained Ms. [REDACTED]

Command Channel Review noted that Officer Di Santi, having 22 years on the job, made the excusable mistake of arriving at the wrong address of a hotel that was adjacent to another hotel. Neither he nor any of the assisting officers noticed that the address was incorrect. Further, because officers respond to calls as the preliminary investigators, the responding officers would have no way of knowing that nothing was amiss until they proceeded to investigate. After investigating, the officers promptly left. Although Officer Di Santi made a mistake, his mistake is not as egregious as COPA concluded, as the Officers were only briefly in the room.

In conclusion, the Department concurs with the sustained findings that Officer Di Santi failed to respond to the correct address, incorrectly searched a hotel room, and failed to activate his BWC, and believes a ten (10) day suspension is fair and just discipline.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
David O. Brown  
Superintendent of Police  
Chicago Police Department