



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Fred L. Waller
Interim Superintendent

June 1, 2023

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

Re: Superintendent's Non-Concurrence with Penalty Recommendation
Complaint Log No. 2020-0002595

Dear Chief Administrator Kersten:

After a careful review of the above referenced complaint log number, the Chicago Police Department (Department) does not concur with the recommended penalty for Officer Luis Alvarado # 15180.

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a 10-day suspension for Officer Alvarado after concluding that he:

1. Failed to notify a supervisor and/or prepare a written report after receiving an allegation of misconduct;
2. Failed to properly secure an arrestee with a seatbelt during transport.

The Department agrees that both allegations should be sustained. But the Department believes that a 10-day suspension is too severe considering the totality of the circumstances. It is the Department's recommendation that Officer Alvarado be given a three (3) day suspension for both sustained violations. Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Department provides the following comments.

First, at the time of the incident, Officer Alvarado was only two months off his probationary status and working a one-man beat car. Simultaneously, the City of Chicago was overwhelmed by protests that became violent and resulting in rampant looting, arson and extensive property damage. The arrest of the complainant was for involvement in one such looting incident. The Department believes that the combination of the accused member's inexperience as well as the citywide events occurring warrant consideration as to the penalty.

Second, if the purpose of discipline is to correct errant behavior and modify future conduct, then this can be accomplished with a lesser suspension. As stated in the Summary Report, Officer Alvarado acknowledges that he failed to secure the arrestee with a seatbelt as well as he should have taken the allegations made by the arrestee more seriously.

And finally, although the COPA report states that COPA has considered Officer Alvarado's complimentary history and lack of disciplinary history in mitigation, it is the Department's position that his complimentary history deserves additional consideration in mitigation. Officer Alvarado has an impressive complimentary history for a member with approximately 13 months of actual field duties. He has earned eight (8) honorable mentions in this short period of time and he has also earned a Life Saving Award, which is a high honor that many members never earn in their entire career.

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

Sincerely,



Fred L. Waller
Interim Superintendent
Chicago Police Department