

## SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident:	February 28, 2022
Time of Incident:	3:12 pm
Location of Incident:	9700 S Harvard Ave., Chicago, IL 60628
Date of COPA Notification:	March 2, 2022
Time of COPA Notification:	1:00 pm

On February 28, 2022, at approximately 3:15 pm, Officer Ryan Edwards, Officer Calla Roulds, and Officer Adan Pedroza Jr. were on patrol in a marked Chicago Police Department (CPD) vehicle in the area of 97<sup>th</sup> St. when they observed a Hyundai Tucson Hatchback without a front license plate. The officers conducted a traffic stop of the vehicle at 9700 S Harvard Ave. An initial Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS) inquiry revealed the Hyundai's registration to be expired since May 2020. The officers approached the vehicle and asked the driver to produce a valid driver's license and insurance, but he failed to produce any type of identification. The driver, later identified as ██████████ was then asked to exit the vehicle to verify his identity via LEADS. An additional LEADS inquiry revealed that ██████████ had a suspended driver's license and an active arrest warrant for domestic battery out of Riverside, Illinois. Further, the officers noted that the vehicle was lacking a valid City of Chicago sticker on the front windshield. ██████████ was then arrested and transported to the 5<sup>th</sup> District police station. ██████████ was issued a bond for the traffic violations and released from lockup at 11:30 pm when he was picked up by an officer from the Riverside Police Department.

██████████ made a telephone complaint to the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) on March 2, 2022. ██████████ alleged that during the stop, Officer Edwards searched his Hyundai without consent. He further alleged that Officer Edwards called him a racial epithet. COPA made multiple attempts to interview ██████████ between March 10, 2022, and August 19, 2022, but ██████████ failed to appear for a scheduled interview and then stopped responding to COPA's contact attempts.<sup>1</sup> COPA proceeded with the investigation based on ██████████ initial telephone complaint and the available body-worn camera (BWC) recordings and CPD reports.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See CMS Notes CO-0125819, CO-0125821, CO-0126656, CO-0144249, CO-0144767, CO-0146871, CO-0147608, CO-0149694, CO-0149695, CO-0149696, CO-0149697, and CO-0149698.

<sup>2</sup> COPA's preliminary investigation did not reveal sufficient objective, verifiable evidence of misconduct to proceed with allegations against any of the accused officers with regard to ██████████ allegation that his vehicle was searched without his consent. The BWC recordings and CPD reports show that Officer Edwards briefly searched the immediate area around the driver's seat in ██████████ vehicle shortly after ██████████ stepped out. After ██████████ was arrested for various traffic offenses and a criminal arrest warrant from another jurisdiction, his vehicle was impounded, and a more thorough inventory search was conducted. Police officers may conduct a protective search of a vehicle, limited to areas where a weapon may be accessible to the driver, if they reasonably believe that the driver is dangerous and could gain control of a weapon. See *People v. Colyar*, 2013 IL 111835, ¶ 39. Without a statement from ██████████ any reasonable justification for the search proffered by Officer Edwards would be

COPA’s investigation found that Officer Edwards’ utterance of a racial epithet, which was captured on body-worn camera, made in reference to the actual or perceived race of ██████ violated CPD Rules and directives.

**II. INVOLVED PARTIES**

Involved Officer #1:	Police Officer Ryan Edwards, Star #19672, Employee ID #█████, DOA: February 20, 2018, Unit: 005, Black, Male
Involved Officer #2:	Police Officer Calla Roults, Star #8592; Employee ID #█████, DOA: August 29, 2016, Unit: 005, Black, Female
Involved Officer #3:	Police Officer Adan Pedroza Jr., Star #9584, Employee ID #█████, DOA: December 17, 2018, Unit: 005, White Hispanic, Male
Involved Individual #1:	█████ Black, Male

**III. ALLEGATIONS**

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Officer Ryan Edwards	<p>It has been alleged by The Civilian Office of Police Accountability that on or about February 28, 2022, at approximately 3:12 p.m., at or near 9700 South Harvard Avenue, Chicago, IL 60628, Officer Ryan Edwards, Star #19672, committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions, by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Directing words to the effect of “Nigger, we don’t care about this shit,” at Mr. ██████</li> </ol>	<b>Sustained / Reprimand</b>

unrebutted, and Officer Edwards could argue that ██████ demeanor, combined with his inability to produce identification and his initial reluctance to exit the vehicle, made him believe that ██████ might be armed. Also, there is no dispute that ██████ arrest was valid based on both his suspended driver’s license and an arrest warrant from another jurisdiction that was discovered during the course of the stop. Officer Edwards and his partners were therefore justified in conducting the inventory search of ██████ vehicle after the vehicle was impounded. *See* People v. Gipson, 203 Ill.2d 298 (2003) (holding that police may search a lawfully impounded vehicle for the purpose of inventorying the vehicle’s contents); Att. 16, S04-14-05(IV), Traffic Violators, Name Checks, and Bonding (effective September 3, 2015 to present); Att. 17, G07-03, Vehicle Towing and Relocation Operations(IV)(A)(7) (effective November 1, 2014 to present).

#### IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS

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##### Rules

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1. **Rule 2:** Any action or conduct which impedes the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.
  2. **Rule 3:** Any failure to promote the Department's efforts to implement its policy or accomplish its goals.
  3. **Rule 6:** Disobedience of an order or directive, whether written or oral.
  4. **Rule 8:** Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty.
  5. **Rule 9:** Engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.
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##### General Orders

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1. **General Order G02-01**, Human Rights and Human Resources (effective October 5, 2017, through June 30, 2022)<sup>3</sup>
  2. **General Order G07-03**, Vehicle Towing and Relocation Operations (effective November 1, 2014, to present)<sup>4</sup>
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##### Special Orders

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1. **Special Order S04-14-05**, Traffic Violators, Name Checks, and Bonding (effective September 3, 2015, to present)<sup>5</sup>
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#### V. INVESTIGATION<sup>6</sup>

##### a. Interviews

**Police Officer Calla Roulds was interviewed by COPA investigators on September 9, 2022.**<sup>7</sup> Officer Roulds said that on February 28, 2022, she and her two partners conducted a traffic stop on S Harvard Ave. after observing a vehicle missing a front license plate. Upon stopping the vehicle, the officers noticed that the registration for the rear license plate had expired. Officer Roulds recalled one of her partners speaking with the driver and removing him from the vehicle

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<sup>3</sup> Att. 15.

<sup>4</sup> Att. 17.

<sup>5</sup> Att. 16.

<sup>6</sup> COPA conducted a thorough and complete investigation. The following is a summary of the material evidence gathered and relied upon in our analysis.

<sup>7</sup> Att. 6.

because the driver failed to produce a driver's license or any other form of identification. Officer Roulds explained that it is standard to remove a driver from the vehicle when they cannot produce an identification card or driver's license until officers can confirm their identity. Officer Roulds explained that she attempted to run the driver's name and license plate but was unable to get the driver's name, so Officer Pedroza ran the name instead. At that time, the officers discovered that the driver's license was suspended, so they radioed for transport. Officer Roulds did not recall whether a search or protective pat down was conducted of either the driver's person or vehicle, but she did remember that an inventory search of the vehicle was done upon its arrival at the station because the car was impounded following the driver's arrest.

Officer Roulds recalled that while Officer Pedroza ran the driver's name, she and Officer Edwards stood at the back of the vehicle with the driver. Officer Roulds described the demeanor of the driver, [REDACTED] as "quite irate, quite hysterical."<sup>8</sup> She described how Officer Edwards "tried his best to deflect Mr. [REDACTED] rage,"<sup>9</sup> but [REDACTED] was directing his anger at Officer Edwards throughout their wait for transport. Officer Roulds recalled that there was banter back and forth between Officer Edwards and [REDACTED] but she did not recall what was said. She also did not recall Officer Edwards using any profanity. However, Officer Roulds remembered that [REDACTED] specifically complained that Officer Edwards called him the N-word during their interaction, but she said that she had not heard Officer Edwards say that word.<sup>10</sup>

**Officer Adan Pedroza Jr. was interviewed by COPA investigators on September 12, 2022.**<sup>11</sup> Officer Pedroza said that on February 28, 2022, he and his partners conducted a traffic stop of a vehicle after observing that the vehicle was missing a front license plate. He also explained that a LEADS inquiry showed the vehicle's registration was expired. The driver, [REDACTED] was then asked to step out of the vehicle until the officers could verify his identity because he was unable to produce a driver's license, insurance, or other identification. Officer Pedroza explained that this is general protocol for safety reasons until a driver's identity can be verified. He related that he ran [REDACTED] name and discovered that [REDACTED] had a suspended driver's license and an active arrest warrant.

Officer Pedroza was unsure as to whether a search or protective pat down was conducted of [REDACTED] or his vehicle. He did recall that Officer Edwards and Officer Roulds stood with [REDACTED] while he conducted the name check and also recalled that some words were exchanged between Officer Edwards and [REDACTED]. Officer Pedroza explained that he did not hear much of their conversation because he was in the squad car, but he could tell that they were going back and forth. Officer Pedroza recounted, "I didn't hear too much, until Mr. [REDACTED] kind of went off."<sup>12</sup> He explained that [REDACTED] was asking for badge numbers and that his demeanor was "heightened" with his partners, but [REDACTED] was respectful towards him.

Officer Pedroza did not recall Officer Edwards using any profanity during his interaction with [REDACTED] nor did he hear him use any profane language when he reviewed his BWC recording from the incident. Officer Pedroza did recall [REDACTED] "re-phrasing something along the lines of did

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<sup>8</sup> Att. 6 at 10:37.

<sup>9</sup> Att. 6 at 10:45.

<sup>10</sup> Att. 6 at 11:20.

<sup>11</sup> Att. 5.

<sup>12</sup> Att. 5 at 8:38.

you call me X, Y, and Z, and them just going back and forth.”<sup>13</sup> He affirmed that he was referring to ██████ complaining that Officer Edwards had called him the N-word and being upset. Officer Pedroza said that he did not recall Officer Edwards using the N-word in reference to ██████ during this interaction, nor did he hear Officer Edwards say the N-word during his review of BWC footage.

**Officer Ryan Edwards was interviewed by COPA investigators on October 26, 2022.**<sup>14</sup> Officer Edwards said that on February 28, 2022, he and his partners observed ██████ vehicle and conducted a traffic stop due to several infractions: the license plate registration was expired, and the side view mirror was broken. Officer Edwards explained that ██████ was then asked to step out of the vehicle because he could not produce a driver’s license or insurance. He also affirmed that he conducted a protective pat down and protective search of ██████ person and the immediately accessible areas of the vehicle.

Officer Edwards recalled that he and Officer Roulds stood with ██████ while Officer Pedroza conducted a name check via LEADS inside the squad car. Officer Edwards described his interaction with ██████ as “standoff-ish at most, but nothing aggressive, nothing that would warrant any physical altercation or anything like that.”<sup>15</sup> Officer Edwards described ██████ demeanor during the stop as “not pleased to be stopped, from the initial interaction he seemed agitated, frustrated, then it only increased when I asked him to step out of the vehicle and detained him.”<sup>16</sup> He recalled ██████ being upset about being stopped, about the protective search of the immediate area of his vehicle, and because his vehicle was going to be impounded.

Officer Edwards said that he did not recall using the N-word in reference to ██████ at any point during their interaction. He also confirmed that he did not review his BWC footage until just prior to his interview. COPA then played the BWC footage again for Officer Edwards. After viewing the footage again, Officer Edwards reiterated that he did not recall calling ██████ the N-word and that he did not wish to amend his prior answers. Officer Edwards explained that the audio was “mumbled,” and it was hard for him to understand what he said, stating, “It could be, but from the video ... from my recollection, I don’t recall at all, but from the video, it’s muffled at best. I’m not sure what to make of it.”<sup>17</sup> However, Officer Edwards did agree that it was possible that he said the N-word based on ██████ visible reaction. Officer Edwards then clarified, “I’m not saying I did not say it, just from my recollection I do not recall. After reviewing the video, and his reaction, there’s a possibility that I did say it ... If I did say it, it was not meant in a malicious way, or with any malice behind it ... I’m not saying I did not say it, but I do not recall saying it.”<sup>18</sup>

## **b. Digital Evidence**

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<sup>13</sup> Att. 5 at 9:35.

<sup>14</sup> Att. 8.

<sup>15</sup> Att. 8 at 7:45.

<sup>16</sup> Att. 8 at 7:59.

<sup>17</sup> Att. 8 at 10:20.

<sup>18</sup> Att. 8 at 11:20.

COPA obtained and reviewed the **BWC footage from Officer Edwards,<sup>19</sup> Officer Roults,<sup>20</sup> and Officer Pedroza<sup>21</sup>** depicting ██████ stop. The BWC footage from all three officers began at or around 3:10 pm. The officers exited their patrol car and Officer Edwards approached ██████ vehicle. Officer Roults and Officer Pedroza stood near the back of the vehicle. Officer Edwards greeted ██████ and ██████ asked why he was pulled over. Officer Edwards answered, “That’s broken [appearing to reference Mr. ██████ side mirror], plate’s expired, and you have no front plate.”<sup>22</sup> ██████ stated that he “already got a ticket for that”<sup>23</sup> and held up several orange documents that appeared to be traffic tickets. Officer Edwards then asked for ██████ license and insurance. Officer Edwards also asked if ██████ had a “FOID license or a concealed carry,” and ██████ answered, “No.” ██████ also said, “That’s why you pulled me over,” but the remainder of his statement was inaudible.<sup>24</sup>

After looking for his identification, ██████ said that he did not have his license, and Officer Edwards then asked him to exit the vehicle. ██████ stepped out of the vehicle holding his phone, and Officer Edwards told him to put his phone down. Officer Edwards then began to handcuff ██████ explaining, “I’m going to detain you until we can confirm your name.”<sup>25</sup> ██████ was then handcuffed by Officer Edwards and escorted to the back of the vehicle by Officer Roults.

Officer Edwards reached into ██████ vehicle, shut off the music, and began to shine his flashlight over the driver’s seat and the front passenger seat.<sup>26</sup> ██████ standing at the back of the vehicle with Officer Pedroza and Officer Roults, repeatedly asked why he was being detained before stating that he should not be detained unless he is committing a crime, and that a traffic stop is not a crime.<sup>27</sup> Officer Roults asked for ██████ name, which he provided and spelled. While spelling his name for Officer Roults, ██████ repeatedly asked for a police supervisor to come to the scene. Officer Roults then returned to the patrol vehicle to attempt to run his name.

██████ again yelled that he wanted a police supervisor, and Officer Pedroza asked Officer Edwards if he had one coming. Officer Edwards then called over the radio for a sergeant to come to the scene. ██████ then said, “And I need a report stop [*sic*],” and, “I need the stop for my report, so I can call COPA, I need your ID numbers.”<sup>28</sup> Officer Edwards then went back into ██████ vehicle through the driver’s side door and opened the center console and then gripped the base of the driver’s seat. ██████ said, “You’re in the car, I told you I don’t consent to you searching my car, I hope that’s being audio and videoed too,”<sup>29</sup> and Officer Edwards responded, “We can search the immediate area, sir.”<sup>30</sup> ██████ continued to protest the search and then asked the officers if they

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<sup>19</sup> Att. 7.

<sup>20</sup> Att. 4.

<sup>21</sup> Att. 3.

<sup>22</sup> Att. 7 at 2:10.

<sup>23</sup> Att. 7 at 2:13.

<sup>24</sup> Att. 7 at 2:26.

<sup>25</sup> Att. 7 at 2:53.

<sup>26</sup> Att. 7 at 3:20.

<sup>27</sup> Att. 3 at 3:36.

<sup>28</sup> Att. 7 at 4:55.

<sup>29</sup> Att. 3 at 5:40.

<sup>30</sup> Att. 7 at 5:40.

were recording; the officers responded that their cameras were on. Officer Pedroza told ██████ that “as police officers, we’re able to look in your immediate area for weapons.”<sup>31</sup>

Officer Roulds explained to Officer Edwards that she could not find ██████ information when searching on LEADS, and she handed her notepad to Officer Pedroza. ██████ spelled his name again for Officer Pedroza to write down. Officer Pedroza asked the other two officers to stand with ██████ while he went back to the patrol vehicle to run ██████ name. After entering ██████ name into the computer, Officer Pedroza yelled from the patrol vehicle, “He’s suspended,” referring to ██████ driver’s license.<sup>32</sup>

Officer Edwards asked ██████ how he was doing, and ██████ responded, “Don’t talk to me.”<sup>33</sup> Officer Edwards then asked ██████ if he was “just stressed out for no reason,” and ██████ responded, “I’m not stressed out, I just don’t go for the bullshit that y’all do.”<sup>34</sup> ██████ and Officer Edwards continued to argue over why ██████ was stopped, and ██████ asked why the officers did not just write him a ticket. ██████ then explained that he was pulled over the day before and did not get removed from his vehicle. Officer Edwards responded that they told ██████ why he was stopped and that they “didn’t get that far,” referencng writing him a ticket.<sup>35</sup> As the verbal exchange between ██████ and Officer Edwards continued, ██████ told Officer Edwards, “Get your lame ass out of here you [unintelligible]-ass nigger.”<sup>36</sup>

After additional conversation about the reasons for the stop, ██████ asked Officer Edwards for his star number, and Officer Edwards provided the number. As they continued to discuss the reasons for the stop and previous interactions between ██████ and the police, Officer Edwards said, “Nigger, we don’t care about this shit.”<sup>37</sup> ██████ immediately responded, “Oh, you calling me a nigger?” and later added, “That’s going to COPA.”<sup>38</sup>

Two transport officers, who had been summoned by Officer Roulds, then arrived. Officer Pedroza and Officer Roulds guided ██████ into the back seat of their patrol vehicle. Officer Edwards returned to the patrol vehicle, and Officer Roulds drove ██████ vehicle to the police station. The remainder of Officer Roulds BWC footage depicts her driving ██████ vehicle, as well as the officers’ inventory search of the vehicle at the police station. All BWC footage ends around 3:20 pm.

### c. Documentary Evidence

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<sup>31</sup> Att. 7 at 6:03.

<sup>32</sup> Att. 3 at 7:58.

<sup>33</sup> Att. 7 at 7:14.

<sup>34</sup> Att. 7 at 7:20.

<sup>35</sup> Att. 7 at 7:50

<sup>36</sup> Att. 7 at 9:02.

<sup>37</sup> Att. 7 at 11:20.

<sup>38</sup> Att. 7 at 11:22.

An **Arrest Report**<sup>39</sup> dated February 28, 2022, documents the arrest of ██████████ at 9700 S Harvard Ave. The offense cited is 725 ILCS 5/110-3: Issuance of a Warrant. The incident narrative documents that officers were on patrol in a marked squad car when they observed a vehicle without a front license plate, after which they conducted a traffic stop. A LEADS inquiry then revealed that the vehicle's registration had been expired since May 2020, that the driver (██████████) had a suspended driver's license, and that ██████████ had an active arrest warrant out of Riverside, Illinois. The driver further failed to produce any identification when asked for his driver's license and insurance. Mr. ██████████ was then placed in custody and transferred to the 5<sup>th</sup> District, where an inventory search of his vehicle was conducted. ██████████ was issued multiple traffic citations and was released to the custody of an officer from the Riverside Police Department. **OEMC messages**<sup>40</sup> transmitted to Officer Edwards on February 28, 2022, confirm that ██████████ license was suspended and that a warrant had been issued for ██████████ arrest through the Riverside Police Department.

## VI. LEGAL STANDARD

For each Allegation, COPA must make one of the following findings:

1. Sustained – where it is determined the allegation is supported by a preponderance of the evidence;
2. Not Sustained – where it is determined there is insufficient evidence to prove the allegations by a preponderance of the evidence;
3. Unfounded – where it is determined by clear and convincing evidence that an allegation is false or not factual; or
4. Exonerated – where it is determined by clear and convincing evidence that the conduct described in the allegation occurred, but it is lawful and proper.

A **preponderance of evidence** can be described as evidence indicating that it is **more likely than not** that a proposition is proved.<sup>41</sup> For example, if the evidence gathered in an investigation establishes that it is more likely that the conduct complied with CPD policy than that it did not, even if by a narrow margin, then the preponderance of the evidence standard is met.

**Clear and convincing evidence** is a higher standard than a preponderance of the evidence but lower than the “beyond-a-reasonable doubt” standard required to convict a person of a criminal offense. Clear and convincing can be defined as a “degree of proof, which, considering all the evidence in the case, produces the firm and abiding belief that it is highly probable that the proposition . . . is true.”<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Att. 1.

<sup>40</sup> Att. 14.

<sup>41</sup> See *Avery v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 216 Ill. 2d 100, 191 (2005) (“A proposition proved by a preponderance of the evidence is one that has been found to be more probably true than not true.”).

<sup>42</sup> *People v. Coan*, 2016 IL App (2d) 151036, ¶ 28 (quoting Illinois Pattern Jury Instructions, Criminal, No. 4.19 (4<sup>th</sup> ed. 2000)).



## VII. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

COPA was unable to interview the complainant, ██████████ and makes no findings regarding his credibility. The misconduct alleged to have been committed by Officer Edwards was recorded on his own BWC, and Officer Edwards has admitted that he may have used the racial epithet, although he claims not to remember doing so. Because COPA can determine that the misconduct occurred by relying on the BWC recording, it is not necessary to determine if Officer Edward's claim not to remember using the epithet is credible.

## VIII. ANALYSIS

It has been alleged that Officer Ryan Edwards directed a racial epithet at ██████████. In his interview with COPA investigators, Officer Edwards said that he did not recall using the epithet in reference to ██████████ at any point during their interaction, although he admitted it was possible after reviewing his BWC recording. However, it is clearly depicted and audible on BWC footage that Officer Edwards stated, "Nigger, we don't care about this shit,"<sup>43</sup> when speaking to ██████████. ██████████ then visibly and audibly reacted to Officer Edwards' choice of words, responding, "Oh, you calling me a nigger?" and ██████████ appeared to be angry and distressed.<sup>44</sup>

The racial epithet used by Officer Edwards was offensive and disrespectful to ██████████ and to the public.<sup>45</sup> Additionally, the usage of such language is not in line with the professional manner, respect, and overall appropriate conduct required of Officer Edwards by CPD when interacting with members of the community. CPD policy requires that "Department members will treat all persons with the courtesy and dignity which is inherently due every person as a human being. Department members will act, speak and conduct themselves in a professional manner . . . and maintain a courteous, professional attitude in all contacts with the public,"<sup>46</sup> and Officer Edward's conduct in this incident fell short of these standards. Officer Edwards's utterance of the epithet violates several CPD Rules, specifically, Rule 2 (impeding the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals and bringing discredit upon the Department), Rule 3 (failing to promote the Department's efforts to implement its policy or accomplish its goals), Rule 6 (disobedience of a written directive), Rule 8 (disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty), and Rule 9 (engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty). Based on the analysis set forth above, COPA finds that Allegation #1 against Officer Ryan Edwards is **Sustained**.

## IX. RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE FOR SUSTAINED ALLEGATION

### a. Police Officer Ryan Edwards

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<sup>43</sup> Att. 7 at 11:20.

<sup>44</sup> Att. 7 at 11:22.

<sup>45</sup> See *Smith v. Ill. Dept't of Transp.*, 936 F.3d 554, 561 (7th Cir. 2019) ("The n-word is an egregious racial epithet."); see also *Waters v. Police Bd.*, 405 Ill. App. 3d 1207 (1st Dist. 2011) (holding that the use of the n-word by a Chicago police officer, among other misconduct, was offensive and disrespectful to the public).

<sup>46</sup> Att. 15, G02-01(III)(B).

**i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History<sup>47</sup>**

Officer Edwards has received 52 Honorable Mentions, the Annual Bureau Award of Recognition, and 3 other awards. Officer Edwards has been reprimanded twice through the summary punishment process: in August 2022, he was reprimanded for a court appearance violation, and in October 2022, he was reprimanded for a failure to perform assigned tasks.

**ii. Recommended Penalty**

COPA has found that Officer Edwards violated Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9 when he directed a racial epithet at ██████████ COPA has been unable to interview ██████████ and cannot determine the extent of the impact Officer Edward’s misconduct had on him, although he appeared to be angry and distressed immediately afterwards on the available BWC recordings. Officer Edwards has admitted that he might have committed this misconduct, but he claims not to remember doing so. The BWC recording shows that ██████████ directed the same racial epithet towards Officer Edwards earlier in the encounter and that Officer Edward’s use of the epithet happened during an unfortunate verbal exchange that Officer Edwards unwisely allowed to escalate. Given that both Officer Edwards and ██████████ are Black, Officer Edward’s use of the epithet was likely motivated not by racial animus, but by a lapse in professionalism that allowed him to address ██████████ in an overly familiar manner after ██████████ had already used the same epithet. This conduct still falls short of the standard expected from a CPD member, as CPD members are expected to maintain a professional demeanor towards members of the public, even in the face of provocation. Based on this information, combined with Officer Edwards’s history, COPA recommends a **reprimand**.

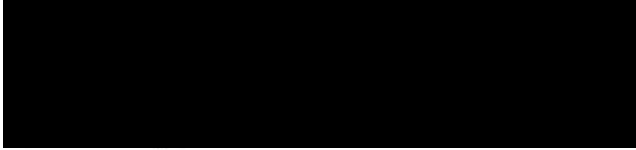
**X. CONCLUSION**

Based on the analysis set forth above, COPA makes the following findings:

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Officer Ryan Edwards	<p>It has been alleged by The Civilian Office of Police Accountability that on or about February 28, 2022, at approximately 3:12 p.m., at or near 9700 South Harvard Avenue, Chicago, IL 60628, Officer Ryan Edwards, Star #19672, committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions, by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Directing words to the effect of “Nigger, we don’t care about this shit,” at Mr. ██████████ ██████████</li> </ol>	<b>Sustained / Reprimand</b>

<sup>47</sup> Att. 24.

Approved:



6-16-2023

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Angela Hearts-Glass  
*Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator*

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Date