



Brandon Johnson  
Mayor

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

Fred L. Waller  
Interim Superintendent

July 19, 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. 2019-0001864

Dear Chief Administrator Kersten:

After a careful review of the above referenced complaint log number, the Chicago Police Department (Department) concurs with the recommended sustained finding but does not concur with the recommended penalty for Detention Aide Iesha Wheatley, Employee # 98172.

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a 90-day suspension for Detention Aide Wheatley after concluding that she:

1. Struck an Arrestee with without justification.

The Department agrees that this allegation should be sustained. But the Department believes that a 90-day suspension is excessive and recommends a 30-day suspension. Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Department provides the following comments.

At the time of the incident, the accused member had less than 5 years of service and also had no disciplinary history. As stated in the Summary Report, this use of force did not result in any documented serious injury to the arrestee. Summary Report at Page 11. The accused member should have used better judgment and walked away rather than re-entering the cell alone. However, as supported by her statement, it seems the accused member determined that her only option was to re-enter the cell. This determination, while in error, is best addressed by additional training in the Use of Force, De-Escalation Techniques, lock-up procedures and restraining arrestees.

If the purpose of discipline is to correct errant behavior and modify future conduct, then this can be accomplished with a lesser suspension that would support the principal of progressive discipline. It is

the Department's position that a 30-day suspension is a significant suspension and, along with the additional training is sufficient to accomplish this goal. 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