



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Fred L. Waller
Interim Superintendent

June 21, 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. 2020-0001524

Dear Chief Administrator Kersten:

After a careful review of the above referenced complaint log number, the Chicago Police Department (Department) concurs with the recommended findings but does not concur with the recommended penalty for Officer Joseph Vecchio # 14469.

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a 30-day suspension for Officer Vecchio as well as a recommendation for Anger Management after concluding that he:

1. Threw eggs at [REDACTED]'s vehicle;
2. Threw and kicked [REDACTED]'s cell phone;
3. Stepped on [REDACTED]'s vacuum cleaner;
4. Stated words to the effect of "You better watch your back;"
5. Stated words to the effect of "I'm about to do something really stupid right now and it's going to be all your fault if I do this."

The Department agrees with all the sustained findings but the Department believes that a 30-day suspension is excessive for Officer Vecchio and recommends a 15-day suspension as well as Anger Management. Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Department provides the following comments.

The Department agrees that domestic violence allegations against a Department member must be taken very seriously. Fortunately, in this situation, there are no allegations nor indications of any type of physical violence or physical harm. And as this incident happened over three years ago and the

Department has no record of any other allegations of this nature against this member since that time, it would seem likely that this was an isolated incident specific to the relationship at the time between the Officer and [REDACTED].

Considering that Officer Vecchio has an impressive complimentary history and no significant disciplinary history in three reprimands for summary punishment, then progressive discipline would not go from a Reprimand to a 30-day suspension. If the purpose of discipline is to correct errant behavior and modify future conduct, then this can be accomplished with a lesser suspension. It is the Department's position that a 15-day suspension 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,

[REDACTED]
Fred L. Waller
Interim Superintendent
Chicago Police Department