



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent

October 17, 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 Recommendations
Complaint Log No. 2022-0000532

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 findings but does not concur with the recommended penalties as they pertain to all three accused members in the above captioned complaint log number. Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Department provides the following comments.

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a 5-day suspension Officer Carl Smith # 18090 after concluding that he:

1. Arrested [REDACTED] without Justification.

The COPA investigation also recommended a penalty of a 10-day suspension for Officer Demetrius Prothro # 8805 after concluding that he:

1. Arrested [REDACTED] without justification.
2. Made one or more false, misleading, inaccurate or incomplete statements when completing his Arrest Report narrative, when he reported that "A/O Smith asked Mr. [REDACTED] if there were any weapons within the vehicle which Mr. [REDACTED] nervously continued to look about the vehicle while making furtive movements with both hands.
3. Made one or more false, misleading, inaccurate or incomplete statements when completing his Original Case Incident Report narrative, when he reported that "A/O Smith asked Mr. [REDACTED] if there were any weapons within the vehicle which Mr. [REDACTED] nervously continued to look about the vehicle while making furtive movements with both hands.
4. Made one or more false, misleading, inaccurate or incomplete statements when completing his Investigatory Stop Report narrative, when he reported that "A/O Smith asked Mr. [REDACTED] if there were any weapons within the vehicle which Mr. [REDACTED] nervously continued to look about the vehicle while making furtive movements with both hands.

The COPA investigation also recommended a penalty of a 15-day suspension for Sergeant Ignatius Goetz # 1664 after concluding that he:

1. Failed to properly direct subordinates as he should have directed his officers to not include the charge regarding a "high-capacity magazine" when completing their reports in related to the arrest of [REDACTED] because he should have known the charge was inapplicable to [REDACTED]

The Department agrees that the allegations against all three of the accused member should be sustained. But the Department believes that the penalty recommendations are excessive and recommends a 2-day suspension for Officer Carl Smith, a 3-day suspension for Officer Demetrius Prothro and a 5-day suspension for Sergeant Goetz. All three members would receive additional training on the enforcement of the Illinois Firearm Identification Act (FOID) and the Illinois Concealed Carry Act (CCL) as well as any other type of weapons violation. Further, both officer Smith and Officer Prothro would receive additional training on report writing and the importance of the verification of information put in Department reports to ensure their accuracy.

A review of their statements given for this investigation indicate that they have a misunderstanding of the law pertaining to CCL enforcement as well as a very relaxed attitude when completing reports. If the purpose of discipline is to correct errant behavior and modify future conduct, then this can be accomplished with these lesser suspensions along with the additional training. A higher suspension would service no purpose to improve the officer's knowledge of the law nor with their report writing skills and responsibilities and therefore is not in these officers' nor the Department's best interest. The Department looks forward to discussing this matter with you pursuant to MCC 2-78-130(a)(iii).

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent
Chicago Police Department