



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent

January 12, 2024

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. 2019-0004230

Dear Chief Administrator Kersten:

After a careful review of the above referenced complaint log number investigation, the Chicago Police Department (Department) concurs with the recommended sustained findings but does not concur with the recommended penalties as they pertain to the accused members. Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Department provides the following comments.

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a fifteen (15) day suspension for Sergeant Paris Thompson, Star No. 945, after concluding that he:

1. Failed to properly announce entry into an apartment during the execution of a search warrant;
2. Entered an apartment without justification;
3. While entering the apartment, caused damage to the front door, without justification;
4. Detained a citizen and her minor children without justification;
5. Searched the apartment without justification;
6. Failed to supervise the execution of a search warrant at the proper location.

The COPA investigation also recommended a penalty of a ten (10) day suspension for Officer Ryan Graal, Star No. 13320, after concluding that he:

1. Failed to properly announce entry into an apartment during the execution of a search warrant;
2. Entered an apartment without justification;
3. While entering the apartment, caused damage to the front door, without justification;
4. Pointed his firearm at a citizen and her minor children without justification;
5. Detained a citizen and her minor children without justification;
6. Searched the apartment without justification.

The COPA investigation also recommended a penalty of a ten (10) day suspension for Officer Juan V. Gali, Star No. 12394, after concluding that he:

1. Failed to properly announce entry into an apartment during the execution of a search warrant;
2. Entered an apartment without justification;

3. While entering the apartment, caused damage to the front door, without justification;
4. Detained a citizen and her minor children without justification;
5. Searched the apartment without justification.

The COPA investigation also recommended a penalty of a ten (10) day suspension for Officer Jazz A. Pedregosa, Star No. 10861, after concluding that he:

1. Failed to properly announce entry into an apartment during the execution of a search warrant;
2. Entered an apartment without justification;
3. While entering the apartment, caused damage to the front door, without justification;
4. Detained a citizen and her minor children without justification;
5. Searched the apartment without justification.

The COPA investigation also recommended a penalty of a ten (10) day suspension for Officer Bradley A. Yamaji, Star No. 17650, after concluding that he:

1. Failed to properly announce entry into an apartment during the execution of a search warrant;
2. Entered an apartment without justification;
3. While entering the apartment, caused damage to the front door, without justification;
4. Detained a citizen and her minor children without justification;
5. Searched the apartment without justification.

The Department agrees that all the allegations against each accused member should be sustained. But the Department believes that the penalty recommendations are excessive and recommends a 10-day suspension for Sergeant Thompson and a 7-day suspension for Officer Graal, Officer Gali, Officer Pedregosa and Officer Yamaji. In addition, each member would receive additional training on Search Warrant Policy and Procedures.

If the purpose of discipline is to correct errant behavior and modify future conduct, then this can be accomplished with this lesser suspension along with the additional training. A higher suspension would serve no purpose except to be punitive and therefore is not in this member's nor in the Department's best interest. This is particularly applicable to this case as the conduct occurred more than five years ago. Further, this penalty falls within the progressive discipline principal after reviewing each member's complimentary and disciplinary history. Each member had an impressive complimentary history and, with the exception of Officer Graal, each member had no disciplinary history. And Officer Graal's only disciplinary action was Summary Punishment with no disciplinary action for misuse of equipment/supplies.

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

Sincerely,


Larry B. Stelling
Superintendent
Chicago Police Department