



Log # 2022-0002755

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On June 30, 2022, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) received a Chicago Police Department (CPD) Initiation Report² from Lieutenant Evelynna Quarterman alleging misconduct by Sergeant Anthony Ceja. Lieutenant Quarterman alleged that on June 30, 2022, Sergeant Ceja was not in compliance with the allowable use of force in that he appeared to be in a choking incident with the subject, ██████████³ Upon review of the evidence, COPA served an additional allegation that the Sergeant Ceja placed his hand at or near the neck area of ██████████ without justification, and made a false, incomplete, inaccurate, and/or misleading statements(s) when completing the Tactical Response Report (TRR) related to RD#JF299831. Following its investigation, COPA reached Not Sustained findings for all allegations.

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE⁴

BWC of Sergeant Ceja⁵ provided footage of the incident involving ██████████ and Sergeant Ceja. On the morning of June 30, 2022, Sergeant Ceja initiated a traffic stop on ██████████ for failure to wear a seatbelt at or near 1110 E. 52nd Street. During the traffic stop, Sergeant Ceja learned that ██████████ was operating his motor vehicle without a driver's license or insurance and had an active warrant. Sergeant Ceja requested additional officers to respond to the scene. Sergeant Ceja and responding officers attempted to detain ██████████ by escorting him out of his vehicle. ██████████ became combative and actively resisted Sergeant Ceja's and the officers' attempts to place him in custody.⁷ Sergeant Ceja appeared to place his hand at or near ██████████ neck twice before placing ██████████ into his CPD vehicle.⁸ Sergeant Ceja and the officers continued to struggle with placing ██████████ in the backseat of Sergeant Ceja's CPD vehicle.

¹ Appendix A includes case identifiers such as the date, time, and location of the incident, the involved parties and their demographics, and the applicable rules and policies.

² Att. 5.

³ One or more of these allegations fall within COPA's jurisdiction pursuant to Chicago Municipal Code § 2-78-120. Therefore, COPA determined it would be the primary investigative agency in this matter.

⁴ The following is a summary of what COPA finds most likely occurred during this incident. This summary utilized information from several different sources, including body worn camera (BWC) footage, civilian and officer interviews, event queries, and radio transmission.

⁵ Att. 12, Sergeant Ceja's BWC Pt 1.

⁶ ██████████ attorney declined for him to be interviewed, ██████████.

⁷ Att. 12 at 2:00 to 2:50, OEMC informed Sergeant that Ceja ██████████ license plates were stolen. At 11:47 to 13:11, OEMC revealed that ██████████ had an active warrant for failure to appear.

⁸ Att. 12 at 12:03 to 12:05 and 13:00.

Upon placing █████ in the backseat, █████ continued to resist the arrest by kicking Sergeant Ceja on or about his right shin area. Sergeant Ceja placed his hand on or about the neck area of █████ while attempting to gain control of █████⁹ Sergeant Ceja stated words to the effect of “Oh, you’re going to kick? You want to kick?” and █████ stated, “Let me go. You got me by the throat.”¹⁰ Sergeant Ceja stated that he “utilized a c-grip on or about the chin area of █████ to stop █████ from spitting and biting him.”¹¹ Sergeant Ceja denied making contact with █████ neck or throat area while utilizing the c-grip hold.¹² █████ was placed in the back of the CPD vehicle and transported to the 2nd District for processing. █████ refused medical attention.¹³

Sergeant Ceja stated that he documented his contact with █████ in his TRR.¹⁴ Sergeant Ceja’s TRR detailed that █████ did not follow verbal directions, made verbal threats, stiffened, pulled away, fled, posed an imminent threat of battery – no weapon, physically obstructed, physically attacked without a weapon, and opened his mouth to bite. Sergeant Ceja utilized force mitigation efforts and control tactics, which included member’s presence, verbal directions/control techniques, movement to avoid attacks, additional unit members, escort holds, pressure sensitive areas, handcuffs/physical restraints, and pull back of shirt, to subdue █████ Sergeant Ceja also documented in the narrative section of his TRR his utilization of a c-grip hold on █████ chin.

III. ALLEGATIONS

Sergeant Ceja:

1. Using a chokehold on █████ without justification.
 - Not Sustained
2. Made a false, incomplete, inaccurate, and/or misleading statement(s) when completing the Tactical Response Report related to RD#JF299831.
 - Not Sustained
3. Placing your hand at or near the neck area of █████ without justification.
 - Not Sustained

IV. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

This investigation did not reveal any evidence that caused COPA to question the credibility of any of the individuals who provided statements.

⁹ Att. 13, Sergeant Ceja’s BWC Pt 2, at 2:25.

¹⁰ Att. 13 at 2:33.

¹¹ Att. 31, Sergeant Ceja’s Audio Transcripts, pg 28, lns 3-6.

¹² Att. 31, pg. 28, ln. 18 through Pg 29, ln 1.

¹³ Att. 3, Original Case Incident Report; Att. 31, No record response for Request of Ambulance Report; Att. 8, █████ Arrest Report documented that he had a cut on the side of his left palm, lacerations to both of his wrists, and his right wrist and forearm were swollen.

¹⁴ Att. 18.

V. ANALYSIS¹⁵

a. Sergeant Ceja's use of a chokehold and/or placing his hand at or near the neck area of [REDACTED]

COPA finds the allegation that Sergeant Anthony Ceja used a chokehold on [REDACTED] and placed his hand at or near the neck area of [REDACTED] without justification, **Not Sustained**. Sergeant Ceja's hand(s) was in [REDACTED] neck area prior to placing [REDACTED] in his CPD vehicle. However, it cannot be factually determined if Sergeant Ceja made contact with [REDACTED] neck area prior to getting him into the department vehicle. [REDACTED] did resist arrest and struggled with Sergeant Ceja and responding officers. Further, BWC depicts that Sergeant Ceja's hand(s) speared to be on [REDACTED] neck area while in the back of Sergeant Ceja's CPD vehicle and [REDACTED] told Sergeant Ceja that he had him by the throat. Sergeant Ceja documented in his TRR that he utilized a c-grip on [REDACTED] chin in an attempt to subdue him. Sergeant Ceja stated that his hand was on or about [REDACTED] trap area and jawline and denied making contact with [REDACTED] neck and/or throat area. Attempts to contact and gather further information about the incident from [REDACTED] were unsuccessful, so it cannot be ascertained if Sergeant Ceja choked [REDACTED] did not appear, and was not, seriously injured and refused medical treatment. Based on the available evidence, there is insufficient evidence to prove/disprove the allegation. Therefore, the allegations are Not Sustained.

b. False, Incomplete, Inaccurate, or Misleading TRR Allegation.

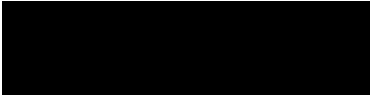
COPA finds the allegation that Sergeant Anthony Ceja made a false, incomplete, inaccurate, and/or misleading statement when completing the TRR related to RD#JF299831, **Not Sustained**. General Order, G03-03-02, Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report,¹⁶ details that department members will be responsible for articulating the specific facts to explain the member's own decision to employ a particular use of force and the reasonableness, necessity, and proportionality of the force used.¹⁷ [REDACTED] resisted arrest, and Sergeant Ceja completed a TRR documenting his use of force. Sergeant Ceja appeared to have made contact with [REDACTED] neck area a few times during the course of the incident. Sergeant Ceja documented in his TRR that he utilized a c-grip on [REDACTED] chin in an attempt to subdue him. Sergeant Ceja stated that his hand was on or about [REDACTED] trap area and jawline and denied making contact with [REDACTED] neck and/or throat area. Attempts to contact and gather further information about the incident from [REDACTED] were unsuccessful, so the extent of Sergeant Ceja's contact cannot be determined. Based on the available evidence, there is insufficient evidence to prove/disprove the allegation. Therefore, this allegation is Not Sustained.

¹⁵ For a definition of COPA's findings and standards of proof, see Appendix B.

¹⁶ Att. 32.

¹⁷ II, C.

Approved:



1-24-24

LaKenya White
Director of Investigations

Date

Appendix ACase Details

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	June 30, 2022 / 11:09 am / 1110 E. 52 nd Street
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	July 01, 2022 / 4:04 pm.
Involved Member #1:	Sergeant Anthony Ceja, Star #1005, Employee ID # [REDACTED] DOA: October 29, 2007, Unit: 002, Male, Hispanic.
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] Male, Black.

Applicable Rules

- Rule 2:** Any action or conduct which impedes the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.
- Rule 3:** Any failure to promote the Department's efforts to implement its policy or accomplish its goals.
- Rule 5:** Failure to perform any duty.
- Rule 6:** Disobedience of an order or directive, whether written or oral.
- Rule 8:** Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty.
- Rule 9:** Engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.
- Rule 10:** Inattention to duty.
- Rule 14:** Making a false report, written or oral.
- Rule 38:** Unlawful or unnecessary use or display of a weapon.
- Rule __:** *[Insert text of any additional rule(s) violated]*

Applicable Policies and Laws

- G03-02-02, Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report (Effective April 15, 2021 to present).
- G03-02, De-Escalation, Response to Resistance, and Use of Force (Effective April 15, 2021 to present).

Appendix B

Definition of COPA’s Findings and Standards of Proof

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.¹⁸ 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.”¹⁹

¹⁸ See *Avery v. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co.*, 216 Ill. 2d 100, 191 (2005) (a proposition is proved by a preponderance of the evidence when it is found to be more probably true than not).

¹⁹ *People v. Coan*, 2016 IL App (2d) 151036, ¶ 28 (quoting Illinois Pattern Jury Instructions, Criminal, No. 4.19 (4th ed. 2000)).

Appendix C

Transparency and Publication Categories

Check all that apply:

- Abuse of Authority
- Body Worn Camera Violation
- Coercion
- Death or Serious Bodily Injury in Custody
- Domestic Violence
- Excessive Force
- Failure to Report Misconduct
- False Statement
- Firearm Discharge
- Firearm Discharge – Animal
- Firearm Discharge – Suicide
- Firearm Discharge – Unintentional
- First Amendment
- Improper Search and Seizure – Fourth Amendment Violation
- Incidents in Lockup
- Motor Vehicle Incidents
- OC Spray Discharge
- Search Warrants
- Sexual Misconduct
- Taser Discharge
- Unlawful Denial of Access to Counsel
- Unnecessary Display of a Weapon
- Use of Deadly Force – other
- Verbal Abuse
- Other Investigation