



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent of Police

May 06, 2024

Andrea Kersten
Chief Administrator
Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA)
1615 W. Chicago Ave., 4th Floor

Re: Superintendent's Non-Concurrence with COPA's Finding and Penalty
Log# 2023-0003320
Sergeant Bryan Topczewski

Dear Chief Administrator Kersten:

After a careful review of the above referenced complaint log number, the Chicago Police Department (Department) does not concur with the recommended finding or penalty recommendation, as they pertain to Sergeant Bryan Topczewski, Star No. 2347. Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Department provides the following comments:

The COPA investigation recommended a suspension of 30-days for Sergeant Bryan Topczewski (Sergeant Topczewski) after concluding that he:

1. Stating words to the effect of "If you want to help out, what you need to do is you need to line them up, pick out one of them, and take it home like they do at the pound," to ██████████ ██████████ in reference to asylum seekers residing at the 17th District Station.

For the reasons stated below, the Department does not concur with COPA's finding and penalty as they pertain to Sergeant Topczewski. The Department has four major concerns regarding COPA's findings.

First, during Sergeant Topczewski's interview with COPA, he is asked about allegation one and he answers "I never said that, that would be unprofessional, and I conduct myself professionally because I represent my command staff, so anything that happens, I am their face, I am the face of this station, so that would be unprofessional, I wouldn't do anything like that." Attachment #22 at pg. 5. Sergeant Topczewski emphasized again later during his statement, "I did not say it." Attachment #12 at 11:30. Sergeant Topczewski is fully aware that his COPA interview would have the status of an official department report and any intentional falsification of their answer would constitute a direct violation of departmental rules and regulations; that would result in a violation of Rule 14, and the possibility of separation.

Secondly, COPA makes no attempts to interview any additional witnesses that were working at the District desk during the alleged incident. Even though ██████████ during her COPA interview, states the Sergeant "was next to a Detective" and "said it right next to the desk Officers." Attachment #1 at

20:45. COPA uses the CPD attendance records to identify Sergeant Topczewski but makes no attempts to identify the desk Officers working during that time. [REDACTED] states "I think there was three" Officers working the desk however, COPA made no effort to interview those Officers. Attachment #1 at 22:25. In addition, [REDACTED] states during her interview "there were other English speaking Officers present." Attachment #2 at 7:14. Consequently, the Department deems it highly concerning that COPA failed to seek out or interview any additional witnesses.

Thirdly, [REDACTED] couldn't identify the Sergeant she was reporting when she made the initial complaint and couldn't identify the Sergeant during her COPA interview. "[REDACTED] was not aware of the name of this particular sergeant." Attachment #22 at pg. 2. At the time of the incident, [REDACTED] assumed the Sergeant she reported was the DSS, but realistically the Sergeant could have been any other white shirt there at that time. COPA identifies Sergeant Topczewski by assuming the accused Sergeant was the DSS and worked in the 17th District. The reality is, that it could have been a Sector Sergeant, a Sergeant from a different Unit or District, or even a Lieutenant. Furthermore, during [REDACTED] interview with COPA, she is asked by COPA "you said this was a desk sergeant correct?" Attachment #2 at 4:13. [REDACTED] responds "I don't know everyone's role; I know he wears a white shirt." Attachment #2 at 4:14. The complainant nor the witness were able to identify the reported Sergeant when the complaint was made or during their interviews with COPA. Neither party could identify the reported Sergeant, they simply describe a white shirt, a fact that unsettles the Department.

Lastly, COPA cites various unreported incidents that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] vaguely recall. Attachment #1 and #2. The various unreported incidents were not investigated. Therefore, the alleged incidents have no bearing on the complaint log number in question. The Department believes COPA should not have included them in the final summary report. For all the foregoing reasons, the Department does not concur with COPA's finding and penalty as they pertain to Sergeant Topczewski.

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

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Superintendent of Police
Chicago Police Department