



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent of Police

January 27, 2025

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

Re: Superintendent's Partial-Concurrence with COPA's Findings and Non-Concurrence with Penalty
Log# 2023-0001884, Officer Clifford Martin Jr.

Dear Chief Administrator Kersten:

After a careful review of the above referenced complaint log number, the Chicago Police Department (Department) partially concurs with the recommended findings but not with the penalty recommendation, as they pertain to Officer Clifford Martin Jr., Star No. 18859. Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Department provides the following comments:

The COPA investigation recommended a suspension of 120-180-days for Officer Clifford Martin Jr. (Officer Martin) after concluding that he:

1. Struck [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on the head with his gun.
2. Failing to complete a Tactical Response Report regarding the arrest of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
3. Making unnecessary physical contact with [REDACTED] during his arrest by patting him on the head, tapping and pushing him on the chest.
4. Pointing his gun at the back of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] head.
5. Use of profanity and derogatory language toward [REDACTED] during his arrest by stating words to the affect, "Get on the fucking ground, shut the fuck up, goofy ass, and I don't give a fuck."

After reviewing this case, the Department concurs with allegation two, three, four, and five.

However, the Department does not concur with allegation one for three reasons. First, Officer Martin denies this allegation. Officer Martin is fully aware that his COPA interview would have the status of an official department report. 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 separation from the Department. Secondly, none of the body worn camera footage demonstrates that Officer Martin **struck** [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on the head with a gun. Lastly, COPA argues that a medical exam revealed "a small knot to the back of [REDACTED] head." Attachment #31 at pg. 3. However, during [REDACTED] sprint away from Officer Martin, [REDACTED] aggressively somersaults onto the concrete ground. Attachment #7 at 4:59. Officer Martin's body worn camera captures the back of [REDACTED] head hitting the concrete ground. Id. This impact likely caused the small knot to the back of [REDACTED] head. For

the foregoing reasons, the Department does not agree that Officer Martin struck [REDACTED] on the head with his gun.

Officer Martin has received 104 Honorable Mentions and 1 Department Commendations. Moreover, Officer Martin does not have a sustained complaint history. Therefore, the Department believes a 5-day suspension and training is a more progressive and appropriate penalty.

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

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Larry B. Shelling
Superintendent of Police
Chicago Police Department