



Log # 2023-0004395

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On September 20, 2023, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) received an Initiation Report² from the Chicago Police Department (CPD) reporting alleged misconduct by a member of the CPD. Lieutenant Michael Campbell alleged that on September 16, 2023, Officer Gregory Saint Louis threw an unknown individual onto the ground and failed to complete a Tactical Response Report (TRR).³ Following its investigation, COPA reached sustained findings for both allegations.

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE⁴

On September 16, 2023, at approximately 1:17 am, Officer Saint Louis was dispatched to the area of 3246 S. Homan Avenue⁵ where a large crowd of people had gathered for Mexican Independence Day. Some individuals in the crowd had become violent, throwing bottles and other items, seriously injuring two officers, and a “10-1” had been called.

Upon his arrival, Officer Saint Louis joined other officers in attempting to disperse the crowd. An unknown individual was videorecording from his cellphone,⁶ placing the cellphone up to Officer Chadi Abouassi’s face.⁷ Officer Abouassi moved the unknown individual’s arm down and told the unknown individual, “you can record all you want, don’t put it in my face.”⁸ The unknown individual told Officer Abouassi not to touch him and moved even closer to Officer Abouassi, moving his face very close to the officer’s face,⁹ and swiped Officer Abouassi’s hand away.¹⁰ Officer Abouassi pushed the unknown individual on his chest to create distance between them, but the individual would not move away.¹¹

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. 1.

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 BWC footage, police reports, and officer interviews.

⁵ Att. 6 (10-1: Police officer calling for help, immediately).

⁶ Att. 20 starting at 01:16:34.

⁷ Att. 20 at 01:16:53.

⁸ Att. 20 at 01:16:57.

⁹ Att. 20 at 01:17:12.

¹⁰ Att. 24, pg. 12, Ins. 10 to 14.

¹¹ Att. 20 at 01:17:13.

At that point, Officer Saint Louis grabbed the unknown individual under his left arm and pulled him away from Officer Abouassi, causing the unknown individual to fall and hit the ground.¹² The unknown individual stood up and walked off.¹³ The officers proceeded to walk and did not have further contact with the unknown individual.

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer Gregory Saint Louis:

Throwing an unknown individual onto the ground without justification.

- Sustained, Violation of Rules 2, 3, 6

Failing to complete a Tactical Response Report documenting the use of force used on the unknown individual.

- Sustained, Violation of Rules 2, 6, 10

IV. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The credibility of an individual relies primarily on two factors: 1) the individual's truthfulness and 2) the reliability of the individual's account. The first factor addresses the honesty of the individual making the statement, while the second factor speaks to the individual's ability to accurately perceive the event at the time of the incident and then accurately recall the event from memory.

In this case, the officers' statements were consistent with one another's, and they largely matched the Body Worn Camera (BWC). However, during Officer Saint Louis's interview with COPA, he stated that he believed when he grabbed the unknown individual, the individual lost his balance and stumbled backwards causing him to fall.¹⁴ BWC captured Officer Saint Louis forcefully pulling the unknown individual towards the ground. The unknown individual hit the ground hard, and his cellphone flew into the air. Officer Saint Louis's attempt to minimize his use of force impacts his truthfulness.

V. ANALYSIS¹⁵

- Allegation: Throwing an unknown individual onto the ground without justification.*

¹² Att. 20 at 01:17:12 to 01:17:17.

¹³ Att. 20 at 01:17:18.

¹⁴ Att. 7 at 01:17:15.

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

COPA finds that the allegation – throwing an unknown individual on the ground without justification – is **Sustained**.

The Chicago Police Department seeks to gain the voluntary compliance of persons, when consistent with personal safety. The Department expects its members to develop and display the skills and abilities to act in a manner to eliminate the need to use force and resolve situations without resorting to force. Department members will only resort to the use of force when required under the circumstances to serve a lawful purpose.¹⁶ In all uses of force, the goal of a member’s response is to resolve the incident “with the foremost regard for the preservation of human life and the safety of all persons involved.”¹⁷

CPD defines force as any physical contact by a department member, either directly or through the use of equipment, to compel a person’s compliance.¹⁸ Department members may only use force that is objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional, under the totality of the circumstances, in order to provide for the safety of any person or Department member, stop an attack, make an arrest, bring a person or situation safely under control, or prevent escape.¹⁹

Responses must be “proportional to the threat, actions, and level of resistance offered by a person.” Proportional force may include using greater force or a different type of force than that used by the person. The greater the threat and the more likely that the threat will result in death or serious physical injury, the greater the level of force that may be necessary to overcome it. When or if the person offers less resistance, however, the member will decrease the amount or type of force accordingly.²⁰

Department members are required to use de-escalation techniques to prevent or reduce the need for force, unless doing so would place a person or a Department member in immediate risk of harm, or de-escalation techniques would be clearly ineffective under the circumstances at the time.²¹ The use of de-escalation techniques will include continually assessing the situation, considering individualized factors including the risk posed by the person.

Department members will modify the use of force as circumstances change and in ways that are consistent with officer safety, including stopping the use of force when it is no longer necessary.²² Examples of de-escalation techniques include but are not limited to: providing a

¹⁶ Att. 52, G03-02, § (II)(C), De-Escalation, Response to Resistance, and Use of Force (effective June 28, 2023, to present).

¹⁷ Att. 25, G03-02, (III)(A).

¹⁸ Att. 25 G03-02 (III)(A), De-escalation, Response to Resistance, and Use of Force (effective June 28, 2023, to present).

¹⁹ Att. 25 G03-02 (III)(B), De-escalation, Response to Resistance, and Use of Force (effective June 28, 2023, to present).

²⁰ Att. 25 G03-02 (III)(B)(3), De-escalation, Response to Resistance, and Use of Force (effective June 28, 2023, to present).

²¹ Att. G03-02, (II)(D).

²² Att. 25, G03-02, (II)(D)(2).

warning and exercising persuasion and advice prior to the use of force; and use of time, distance, or positioning to isolate and contain a person (e.g., establishing a zone of safety).²³

CPD directives classify a person who fails to comply with verbal directives as a passive resister. Force options authorized for passive resisters include: holding techniques, compliance techniques, and control techniques.²⁴

An active resister is defined as a person who attempts to create distance between himself or herself and the member's reach with the intent to avoid physical control and/or defeat the arrest. In addition to the force options available for a passive resister, for an active resister, members may also use stunning techniques, takedown methods, canines, and tasers.

An assailant is a person who is using or threatening the use of force against another person or himself/herself which is likely to cause physical injury.²⁵ For an assailant whose actions are aggressively offensive with or without weapons, but whose actions do not constitute an imminent threat of deadly force or great bodily harm, an officer may use "Direct Mechanical" techniques, which are forceful concentrated striking movements such as punching kicking, or focused pressure strikes and pressures, and these techniques can be combined with take-downs or pins against the ground or other objects.²⁶

Here, the unknown individual was a passive resister who failed to comply with de-escalation techniques of Officer Abouassi's verbal commands and attempt to create distance. The unknown individual became an assailant when he seemed to threaten the use of force when he repeatedly got closer and closer into Officer Abouassi's personal space in an aggressive manner, even swiping at Officer Abouassi's hand.

Officer Saint Louis told COPA that he believed the unknown individual was being a passive resister up to an assailant.²⁷ Officer Saint Louis's told COPA that he believed the unknown individual was going to batter Officer Abouassi due to the unknown individual being so close to Officer Abouassi's face.

Accordingly, COPA finds that the use of force was objectively reasonable and necessary to remove the threat from Officer Abouassi. However, COPA finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the amount of force used was not proportional to the threat presented. The BWC shows that Officer Saint Louis's action of pulling the unknown individual's arm away from Officer Abouassi was so powerful that the unknown individual stumbled back over several feet before forcefully hitting the pavement. An act that initially appeared to constitute a control technique of

²³ Att. G03-02, (II)(D)(2).

²⁴ Att. 26, G03-02-01 IV (B)(1) (Response to Resistance and Force Options (effective June 28, 2023 to present).

²⁵ Att. 26, G03-02-01 (IV)(C).

²⁶ Att. 26, G03-02-01 (IV)(C)(1)(a)(1).

²⁷ Att. 19, pg. 12 to 13.

grabbing an arm or a come along hold, was so forceful it effectively resulted in a takedown. Officer Saint Louis's claim that the unknown individual merely "lost his balance," is not well-taken.²⁸

Ultimately, COPA finds that lesser force could have been used to accomplish the same goal of removing the threat from Officer Abouassi. Therefore, COPA **sustains** this allegation.

b. Allegation: Failing to complete a Tactical Response Report documenting the use of force used on the unknown individual.

COPA finds that the allegation – failing to complete a Tactical Response Report documenting the use of force used on the unknown individual - against Officer Saint Louis is **Sustained**.

TRRs are used by the Department to document, investigate, and evaluate reportable use of force incidents where members respond to the actions of a person, including any force mitigation efforts, or when members use a reportable use of force. A TRR is also completed when a Department member is assaulted or battered by an individual and no response option was used by the member.²⁹ A level 1 reportable use of force includes armbars, firm grips and takedowns.

CPD members are required to complete a TRR when a person whose actions are aggressively offensive, with or without weapons, or who is using or threatening the imminent use of force against the member that will likely cause physical injury, including an assault, aggravated assault, or threat of physical attack.³⁰ Additionally, physical attacks against a Department member, including murder, aggravated battery, or battery, regardless of whether or not the person made actual physical contact with the member or the member has sustained a physical injury.³¹

Here, Officer Saint Louis acknowledged that he pulled the unknown individual off of Officer Abouassi to prevent Officer Abouassi from receiving a potential battery. As described above, the act here appeared to be a holding technique that turned into a takedown. This is a reportable use of force. Therefore, COPA finds by a preponderance of the evidence that Officer Saint Louis should have completed a TRR. It is undisputed that he did not. As a result, this allegation is **Sustained**.

VI. DISCIPLINARY RECOMMENDATION

²⁸ Att. 19, pgs. 10, 15.

²⁹ Att. 16 G03-02-02 II (A)(1), Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report (effective June 28, 2023, to present).

³⁰ Att. 16 G03-02-02 III (A)(1)(d), Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report (effective June 28, 2023, to present).

³¹ Att. 16 G03-02-02 III (A)(1)(e), Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report (effective June 28, 2023, to present).

a. Officer Gregory Saint Louis

i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History³²

At the time of the incident, Officer Saint Louis had been an officer for over five years. He has a total of 24 awards, including: a 2019 crime reduction award, 22 honorable mentions, and a unit meritorious performance. Officer Saint Louis has two SPARs: one from February 2024, for failing to timely active his BWC, and one from November 19, 2023, for parking vehicles. He received reprimands for both. Officer Saint Louis has no sustained complaint history.

ii. Recommended Discipline

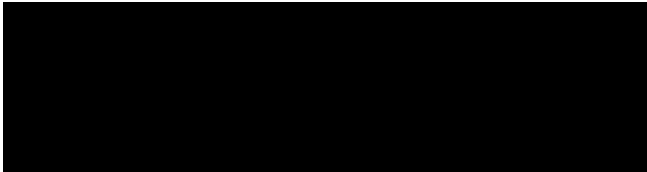
COPA has sustained allegations against Officer Sant Louis for excessive use of force and failing to complete a TRR. In mitigation, COPA will consider Officer Saint Louis numerous awards. COPA will also consider that the use of force did not appear to cause injury to its victim. COPA further appreciates that the circumstances under which the force was used were trying: in the course of trying to disperse a violent crowd from which at least two officers had already been injured.

In aggravation, COPA will consider Officer Saint Louis’s SPAR history. COPA will further consider Officer Saint Louis’s attempt to minimize his act by characterizing it as a mere pulling of the unknown individual, who then simply lost his balance.

Additionally, COPA will consider that all officers receive training regarding the policies, De-escalation, Response to Resistance, and Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report Use of Force. In particular, here, Officer Saint Louis, claimed that no TRR was necessary because he did not use “excessive” force, and because he was engaged in “crowd control.”³³ But neither is an acceptable reason for not completing a TRR. Thus, Officer Saint Louis exhibited a fundamental lack of understating of the policy for completing TRRs.

COPA recommends a 2-day **Suspension**, and re-training in the policies of TRR completion.

Approved:



6-27-2024

Angela Hearts-Glass

Date

³² Att. 27.
³³ Att. 19, pgs. 14, 24-25.

Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

Appendix A**Case Details**

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	September 16, 2023 / 1:17 am / 3246 W. 26 th St. Chicago, IL 60623
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	September 20, 2023 / 2:56 am
Involved Member #1:	Gregory Saint Louis, Star #5153, Employee ID # [REDACTED] DOA: June 25, 2018, Unit of Assignment: 011, Male, Black
Involved Member #2:	Chadi Abouassi, Star #10523, Employee ID # [REDACTED] DOA: May 17, 2017, Unit of Assignment: 010, Male, Hispanic
Involved Individual #1:	Unknown, Male

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 De-escalation, Response to Resistance, and Use of Force (effective June 28, 2023, to present).
- G03-02-02 Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report (effective June 28, 2023, 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.³⁴ 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.”³⁵

³⁴ 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).

³⁵ *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