



Brandon Johnson  
Mayor

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

Larry B. Snelling  
Superintendent of Police

April 19, 2024

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

Re: Superintendent's Non-Concurrence with COPA's Findings and Penalty  
Log# 2021-0004827  
Officer John Thompson Jr.

Dear Chief Administrator Kersten:

After a careful review of the above referenced complaint log number, the Chicago Police Department (Department) does not concur with all the recommended findings, nor with the penalty recommendation, as they pertain to Officer John Thompson, Star No. 18524. Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Department provides the following comments:

The COPA investigation recommended a 10-day suspension for Officer John Thompson (Officer Thompson) after concluding that he:

1. Used force prohibited by CPD General Order G03-02-01 in that Officer Thompson grabbed arrestee [REDACTED] by the throat when he was restrained with handcuffs.

After reviewing the associated videos, the Department disagrees that Officer Thompson used force prohibited by CPD General Order G03-02--01. CPD members are permitted to use force to overcome resistance. Attachment #35 G03-0-01, Response to Resistance and Force Option (effective April 15, 2021 to June 28, 2023). Additionally, a CPD member's use of force must be "objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional to the threat, actions, and level of resistance offer by a person, under the totality of the circumstances." Attachment #35 G03-02-01 II(C). When a member encounters a citizen who is using or threatening the use of force against another person or themselves which is likely to cause injury, that citizen is an assailant. Attachment #35 G03-02-01 IV(C). If the citizen's actions are aggressively offensive with or without weapons, members are permitted to respond with presence; verbal directions; holding and compliance techniques; control instruments; deployments of oleoresin capsicum; stunning; takedowns; canine use; taser deployment; direct mechanical strikes; and impact weapons and munitions. Attachment #35 G03-02-01 IV(C)(1). CPD policy prohibits members from "using chokeholds or other maneuvers for applying direct pressure on a windpipe or airway, with the sole exception of being an act of last resort, when necessary to protect against an imminent threat to life." Attachment #27 G03-02 IV(D)(2).

In this case, [REDACTED] was being arrested and secured in the CPD vehicle, he presented as an active resister by not complying with officers' order and attempting to exit the vehicle. Officers on scene

