



CIVILIAN OFFICE OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

INTEGRITY • TRANSPARENCY • INDEPENDENCE • TIMELINESS

Log # 2023-0005718

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On February 2, 2024, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) received a complaint from [REDACTED] reporting alleged misconduct by a member of the Chicago Police Department (CPD). [REDACTED] alleged that on December 5, 2023, Officer Bret Hon, Officer Steven Sreniawski, and Officer Michael Tannon stopped him without justification, arrested him without justification, and strip-searched him without justification.² Following its investigation, COPA found there was insufficient evidence to sustain the allegations.³

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE⁴

On December 5, 2023, Officers Hon, Sreniawski, and Tannon observed [REDACTED] standing outside a fast food restaurant and placing his index finger and thumb towards his mouth in a smoking gesture directed towards pedestrian and vehicular traffic.⁶ [REDACTED] attempted to walk away but was stopped by the officers. The officers placed [REDACTED] into custody. During a custodial search of [REDACTED] Officer Tannon recovered cannabis located in [REDACTED] left pants pocket.⁸ [REDACTED] was charged with unlawful soliciting and possession of cannabis.¹⁰ Officers Andrew Macis and Nicholas Manieri responded to the incident location and transported [REDACTED] to the 015th District Police Station for processing.¹¹ Officers Sreniawski, Manieri, and Macis conducted a custodial search of [REDACTED] at the 15th District Police Station, which the search was video recorded.¹² [REDACTED] was not subjected to a strip search.

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 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.

³ On June 24, 2025, COPA received a letter from the Inspector General of the City of Chicago (Att.41). The letter detailed that the OIG's Public Safety section conducted a preliminary review of Log #2023-0005718 and recommended that the investigation be reopened to consider only the pre-arrest facts when conducting the probable cause analysis for the misconduct allegation that CPD members arrested the complainant without justification.

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 footage, officer statements, and police reports.

⁶ Att. 4, [REDACTED] Arrest Report, the officers reported that they knew this gesture to be solicitation for the unlawful sale of street cannabis. Att. 6, Video Footage from Sharks, at 05:44 to 05:50.

⁸ Att. 10, BWC of Officer Tannon, at 07:41 to 07:58.

¹⁰ Att. 6, at 05:58 to 06:20.

¹¹ Att. 12, BWC of Officer Manieri, at 03:39 to 10:41.

¹² Att. 12, at 12:19 to 12:53. Officers Manieri and Macis specifically instructed [REDACTED] to keep his underclothes on.

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer Bret Hon:

1. Stopping [REDACTED] without justification.
 - Not Sustained.
2. Arresting [REDACTED] without justification.
 - Not Sustained.
3. Strip searching [REDACTED] without justification.
 - Unfounded.

Officer Steven Sreniawski:

1. Stopping [REDACTED] without justification.
 - Not Sustained.
2. Arresting [REDACTED] without justification.
 - Not Sustained.
3. Strip searching [REDACTED] without justification.
 - Unfounded.

Officer Michael Tanon:

1. Stopping [REDACTED] without justification.
 - Not Sustained.
2. Arresting [REDACTED] without justification.
 - Not Sustained.
3. Strip searching [REDACTED] without justification.
 - Unfounded.

IV. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The credibility of an individual relies primarily on two factors: the individual's truthfulness and 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 later accurately recall the event from memory. In this case, there was no concern with the ability of the individuals who gave statements to recall events accurately.

In the final analysis, COPA concluded that the statements provided by the officers made it impossible to say, on a balance of probabilities, that misconduct occurred in connection with the stop and arrest of [REDACTED]. The statements of Officers Hon, Sreniawski, and Tanon were consistent with each other. [REDACTED] initially indicated that the accused officers planted cannabis in his pocket.

████████ later testified that the recovered cannabis belonged to his brother, who was also present during his interaction with the police.

Despite that, from available video footage, it was difficult to discern the underlying conduct that provided probable cause for ██████ arrest. ██████ behavior was equally consistent with his walking into the restaurant parking lot and smoking a cigarette (as he contended) as with his soliciting the sale of cannabis (as the officers contend). The relatively small amount of cannabis recovered from ██████ person and the modest amount of money on his person at the time of arrest (\$69)¹³ do not suggest that ██████ was involved in the sale of cannabis. The arrest relied almost completely on the officers' subjective interpretation of ██████ actions. As ██████ possession of the cannabis was central both to his arrest and to the allegations, this discrepancy caused COPA to prefer the testimony from Officers Hon, Sreniawski, and Tannon to ██████ testimony where there was a conflict.

V. ANALYSIS¹⁴

a. Stopping ██████ without justification.

Municipal Code of Chicago 10-8-515 states no person may stand upon, use or occupy the public way to solicit any unlawful business; or interfere with or impede any pedestrian or anyone in a vehicle on the public way, for the purpose of soliciting any unlawful business, "soliciting" may be by words, gestures, symbols or any similar means.¹⁵ In this case, Officers Hon, Sreniawski, and Tannon stated that they observed ██████ placing his index finger and thumb towards his mouth in a smoking gesture and that this gesture was directed towards pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The accused officers interpreted this motion as solicitation for the unlawful sale of cannabis and initiated ██████ arrest. There is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that misconduct occurred. Therefore, the allegation is **Not Sustained** against Officers Hon, Sreniawski, and Tannon.

b. Arresting ██████ without justification.

Similarly, COPA finds that there is insufficient evidence that Officers Hon, Sreniawski, and Tannon arrested ██████ without justification. An officer must have probable cause to arrest a person.³² "Probable cause to arrest exists when the totality of the facts and circumstances known to a police officer would lead a person of reasonable caution to believe that the person apprehended has committed a crime, and its existence depends on the totality of the circumstances at the time of the arrest."³³ The officer's subjective belief is not determinative; rather probable cause is an objective standard.³⁴ Officers may arrest a person when they have probable cause to believe that the person committed a minor offense.³⁵

¹³ Att. 4.

¹⁴ For a definition of COPA's findings and standards of proof, *see* Appendix B.

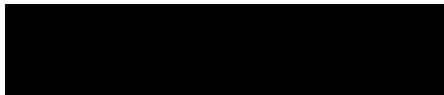
¹⁵ Att. 34, MCC 10-8-515, Soliciting Unlawful Business.

Here, Officers Hon, Sreniawski, and Tannon reported that they observed [REDACTED] making a gesture with his index finger and thumb toward his mouth, consistent with a smoking motion, and that this gesture appeared to be directed toward both pedestrians and passing vehicles. The officers interpreted this motion as a solicitation for the unlawful sale of cannabis and initiated [REDACTED] arrest. Video footage does not clearly depict the underlying conduct that provided probable cause for the arrest. [REDACTED] behavior could reasonably be interpreted either as walking into the restaurant parking lot and smoking a cigarette, as he claimed, or as engaging in conduct consistent with the officers' belief that he was soliciting the sale of cannabis. After [REDACTED] was detained, the officers recovered a small amount of cannabis and currency from [REDACTED] person. However, this evidence alone is inconclusive in determining whether [REDACTED] was involved in the sale of cannabis. Based on the available evidence, there is insufficient information to either refute or substantiate the allegation. Therefore, the allegation is **Not Sustained** against Officers Hon, Sreniawski, and Tannon.

c. Strip searching [REDACTED] without justification.

COPA finds the allegation against Officers Hon, Sreniawski, and Tannon, in that they strip searched [REDACTED] Unfounded. General Order G06-01-03 states that "strip search" means having an arrested person remove or arrange some or all of his or her clothing so as to permit a visual inspection of the genitals, buttocks, anus, female breasts or undergarments of such person.¹⁷ In this case, the search of [REDACTED] was conducted at the 15th District by Officers Sreniawski, Manieri, and Macis, not by Officers Hon or Tannon. The search was captured on video and revealed that the officers explicitly instructed [REDACTED] not to remove his underclothing. Based on the available evidence, including video documentation and the officers' statements, the allegation that a strip search occurred was not supported. Therefore, the allegation is **Unfounded** against all officers involved.

Approved:



11/6/25

LaKenya White
Interim Chief Administrator

Date

¹⁷ Att. 24, G06-01-03(II)(A)(2), Conducting Strip Searches (effective December 8, 2017 to present).

Appendix A**Case Details**

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	December 5, 2023 / 12:52 pm / 4758 W. Gladys Ave, Chicago, IL 60644.
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	December 5, 2023 / 03:26 pm.
Involved Member #1:	Officer Bret Hon, Star: 6214, Employee ID # [REDACTED] DOA: October 16, 2017, Unit: 015, Male, White.
Involved Member #2:	Officer Steven Sreniawski, Star: 2878, Employee ID # [REDACTED] DOA: January 16, 2018, Unit: 640, Male, White.
Involved Member #3:	Officer Michael Tannon, Star: 6300, Employee ID # [REDACTED] DOA: October 16, 2017, Unit: 015, Male, White 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.

Applicable Policies and Laws

- Municipal Code of Chicago 7-24-099, Prohibited Possession or Use of Cannabis.
- Municipal Code of Chicago 10-8-515, Soliciting Unlawful Business.
- G06-01-03, Conducting Strip Searches (effective 08 December 2017 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