

**BEFORE A MEMBER OF THE POLICE BOARD  
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE</b>	)	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISCIPLINE OF</b>	)	
	)	
<b>POLICE OFFICER KENNETH SUNDE,</b>	)	<b>Case No. 26 RR 06</b>
<b>STAR No. 18633, AND</b>	)	
	)	
<b>POLICE OFFICER RICHARD RODRIGUEZ JR.,</b>	)	<b>Case No. 26 RR 02</b>
<b>STAR No. 12157,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>DEPARTMENT OF POLICE,</b>	)	<b>(CR No. 2023-4486)</b>
<b>CITY OF CHICAGO.</b>	)	

**REQUEST FOR REVIEW**

On January 13, 2026, the Executive Director of the Police Board of the City of Chicago received from the Chief Administrator of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) a request for review of the Chief Administrator’s recommendations for discipline of Police Officer Kenneth Sunde, Star No. 18633, and Police Officer Richard Rodriguez Jr., Star No. 12157, arising out of the investigation of Complaint Register No. 2023-4486 (“Request for Review”). The Request for Review included the following material: the Final Summary Report of COPA’s investigation that sets forth the Chief Administrator’s original recommendations for discipline, the Superintendent of Police’s written response to the recommendations, the Chief Administrator’s written objections to the response and final recommendations for discipline, and a Certificate of Meeting and Service.

The investigation stems from an incident that took place on July 9, 2022.

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According to COPA's Final Summary Report, Officers Rodriguez, Sunde, and Crystina Kittrell, while conducting a routine patrol, observed three subjects, including [REDACTED] sitting on the front steps of a local business at 42 East Chicago Avenue in Chicago. The officers approached the subjects and questioned them. Officer Rodriguez asked the three subjects to stand and started to pat them down. Officer Sunde held [REDACTED] wrist while Officer Rodriguez searched him. When Officer Rodriguez reached [REDACTED] waist, [REDACTED] broke free of Officer Sunde and ran across Chicago Avenue. Officers Rodriguez and Sunde pursued [REDACTED] across Chicago Avenue and through an alley to Rush Street. [REDACTED] then threw a firearm while running south on Rush. [REDACTED] turned west on to Superior Street before officers detained him near 60 East Superior Street. When the officers caught up with him, Officer Sunde told him to "get on the fucking ground, dickhead."

Officer Rodriguez restrained [REDACTED] while Officer Sunde recovered the firearm near a curb in front of Giordano's Restaurant. Officer Rodriguez handcuffed and searched [REDACTED] ripping [REDACTED] pants as he did. [REDACTED] asked, "Why you rip my jeans?", to which Officer Rodriguez replied, "cause you got something in yo ass." Officer Rodriguez completed his search of [REDACTED] before Officer Kittrell and additional responding officers escorted him to a transporting vehicle.

Following the conclusion of COPA's investigation, the Chief Administrator issued recommendations for discipline of Officers Sunde and Rodriguez. The

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Superintendent did not agree with the Chief Administrator’s recommendations and proposed different action than that recommended by the Chief Administrator.

The Chief Administrator recommended that the following allegation against Officer Sunde be *Sustained*:

1. Using profanity toward ██████████ in violation of Chicago Police Department (CPD) General Order G02-04 – Prohibitions Regarding Racial Profiling and Other Bias-Based Policing.

The Chief Administrator’s final recommendation is that Officer Sunde be suspended from the Chicago Police Department for two (2) days and receive retraining.

The Superintendent disagreed with the Chief Administrator’s recommendation. The Superintendent agreed that Officer Sunde used profanity but did not agree that it was a violation of General Order G02-04; rather, the Superintendent found that Officer Sunde’s use of profanity is a violation of General Order G02-01 – Protection of Human Rights. The Superintendent recommended that Officer Sunde be suspended for two (2) days and receive retraining on “Communication in the Police Environment.”

The Chief Administrator recommended that the following allegations against Officer Rodriguez be *Sustained*:

1. Failing to activate Body Worn Camera (BWC) in a timely manner in accordance with CPD Special Order: S03-14 – Body Worn Camera; and
2. Conducting an improper search of ██████████ during an arrest.

The Chief Administrator recommended that Officers Rodriguez be suspended from the Chicago Police Department for thirty (30) to forty-five (45) days and receive retraining

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on CPD’s BWC operation, standards of professionalism, and “Stop/Seizure Person Protective Pat Down.”

The Superintendent disagreed with the Chief Administrator’s recommendation for discipline. The Superintendent agreed with the finding of *Sustained* for Allegation No. 1 but recommended a finding of *Not Sustained* for Allegation No. 2. The Superintendent recommended that Officer Rodriguez be suspended for one (1) day.

According to the Certificate submitted by the Chief Administrator: (1) the Chief Administrator issued the recommendation for discipline on January 27, 2025; (2) the Chief Administrator received the Superintendent’s written response on April 18, 2025; (3) the Chief Administrator’s designees met with the Superintendent’s designees and concluded their discussion of this matter on January 9, 2026; and (4) the Request for Review was sent via email to the Executive Director of the Police Board on January 13, 2026.

The Executive Director of the Police Board forwarded the Request for Review material to Justin Terry, the member of the Police Board who was selected on a random basis, pursuant to Article VI of the Police Board’s Rules of Procedure (“Reviewing Member”). The Reviewing Member reviewed the Request for Review pursuant to Section 2-78-130(a)(iii) of the Municipal Code of Chicago and Article VI of the Police Board’s Rules of Procedure. Following his initial review of this matter on January 27, 2026, the Reviewing Member requested, received and reviewed audio recordings of Mr. [REDACTED] September 25, 2023, phone complaint to COPA and his subsequent

statement he provided to COPA.

### OPINION

I conducted a thorough review of the Request for Review material and the additional items noted above.

In my opinion, the Superintendent met the burden of overcoming the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline of Officer Sunde. Officer Sunde's use of profanity did not constitute racial profiling or bias-based policing, which are the subjects of General Order G02-04.

In my opinion, the Superintendent did not meet the burden of overcoming the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline of Officer Rodriguez. The Superintendent's explanation of Officer Rodriguez's actions is not persuasive in light of Officer Rodriguez's statement in response to Mr. [REDACTED] asking why he ripped his jeans and the exposure of his undergarment when taken with Mr. [REDACTED] accounting of events in his phone complaint and subsequent statement

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Therefore, pursuant to Section 2-78-130(a)(iii) of the Municipal Code of Chicago:  
(1) the Superintendent's response shall be implemented as to Police Officer Kenneth Sunde, and (2) the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline of Police Officer Richard Rodriguez Jr. shall be deemed accepted by the Superintendent.

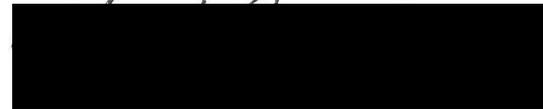
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DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 17<sup>th</sup>  
DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.



JUSTIN TERRY  
Member  
Police Board

Attested by:



MAX A. CAPRONI  
Executive Director  
Police Board