



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent

October 3, 2024

Andrea Kersten
Chief Administrator
Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA)
1615 West Chicago Avenue, 4th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60622

Re: Superintendent's Partial Non-Concurrence with Findings and
Superintendent's Non-Concurrence with Penalty Recommendation
Complaint Log No. 2023-0000284
Officer Keanna Dapkus, Star No. 4642

Dear Chief Administrator Kersten:

After a careful review of the above referenced complaint log number investigation, the Chicago Police Department (Department) does not concur with four of the six recommended sustained findings and does concur with the penalty recommendation as they pertain to Officer Keanna Dapkus, Star No. 4642. Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Department provides the following comments.

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a suspension of 15 to 30-days after concluding that she:

1. Struck [REDACTED] about the face and /or head and /or upper body with her hand;
2. Grabbed [REDACTED], about and/or by her hair and/or dragged her;
3. Pushed [REDACTED], about the body;
4. Failed to timely activate her body worn camera at approximately 12:52am at or near [REDACTED].
5. Threatened [REDACTED], in that she stated words to the effect of "I just saw you and I'm about to come there and whoop your ass" at approximately 12:56am at or near [REDACTED];
6. Engaged in an unjustified physical and/or verbal altercation with [REDACTED]

The Department does concur with the sustained finding for Allegation #4 and Allegation #5. In determining the appropriate penalty recommendation for these two violations, the Department has considered this member's complimentary and disciplinary history. The Department has also considered the fact that Officer Dapkus has voluntarily completed parenting classes and is utilizing the services of EAP for her and [REDACTED]. Further, the Department's opinion is that the "threat" was a statement made between a parent and the offspring in the heat of the moment and in

frustration and aggravation. The Department does not agree with the COPA analysis that this "threat" shows that Officer Dapkus had the intention of getting in a physical altercation with [REDACTED]. In her statement, Officer Dapkus said she went into "parent mode" to let [REDACTED] know that she was in trouble. However, to make this statement while on-duty and on a telephone in view of others is not appropriate as only the member knows who they are speaking to on the telephone. As such, the Department has determined that a Reprimand is the appropriate penalty.

Regarding Allegation # 1, Allegation #2, Allegation #3 and Allegation #6, the Department does not concur and recommends an alternative finding of Not Sustained. Although Officer Dapkus admitted to physical contact with [REDACTED] this does not rise to the level of striking, grabbing and pushing the [REDACTED]. Regarding Allegation #2, COPA notes that "rather than denying the allegation, Officer Dapkus related that she did not recall grabbing ([REDACTED] by her hair and dragging her." SRI at page 8. But simply not recalling is not an admission that the conduct as alleged did in fact occur. COPA states that they do not believe that the contact was reasonable (SRI at page 7) and that "rather than calmly speaking to [REDACTED] about her behavior, Officer Dapkus got physical with her." SRI at page 8. COPA's jurisdiction does not extend to judging a member's parenting philosophy. The investigation is to determine if physical contact was made and if it was reasonable corporal punishment or excessive in the nature of child abuse.

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) concluded their investigation with a finding of "Unfounded" for the allegation of child abuse. It must be noted that DCFS interviewed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and he stated that he went to the police station after the incident and that Officer Dapkus' [REDACTED] told him that she had lied to the police and that it was not true that [REDACTED] hit her. The criminal case of domestic battery was also dismissed because the [REDACTED] did not appear in court.

The [REDACTED] also did not provide a statement to COPA for this investigation. As the [REDACTED] and Officer Kapkus were the only persons present for the alleged altercation, detailed statements from both are needed to determine who is more credible.

The Department also believes that another investigation conducted by COPA that resulted in Not Sustained findings should be compared to the instant case.

Log #2021-0004747

On November 28, 2021, at approximately 10:00 p.m., Sgt. Armando Rosas responded to a domestic disturbance. Officer LaShawn Taylor attempted to remove her partner from Officer Taylor's apartment while off duty. Officer Taylor's partner was visiting from out of town. It was alleged by the partner that Officer Taylor engaged in an unjustified physical altercation with her. In the Case Report, it is documented that Officer Taylor returned from a night of drinking with friends to find her partner asleep on the couch in her apartment. She woke up her partner. There was an argument between Officer Taylor and her partner and Officer Taylor told her partner to leave the apartment. However, the partner refused, as she was visiting Officer Taylor from Georgia and had nowhere to stay. Officer Taylor threw items around the apartment and struck her partner with a shoe. Her partner pushed Officer Taylor to stop her from throwing things around the apartment. As the argument continued, a second open-handed push was delivered by her partner to Officer Taylor. Officer Taylor and her partner were knocked to the ground after a struggle. With Officer Taylor's legs around her partner's

body, Officer Taylor pinned her to the floor in a sumo hold/choke hold. Both Officer Taylor and her partner called CPD after they separated from each other. Her partner had a "minor scratch" on her forearm and did not want to press charges. The residence was not in disarray, so the aggressor could not be identified. Officer Taylor and her partner declined medical treatment. As Officer Taylor was not forthcoming with information regarding the altercation, she was transported to the 018 District Station, where she took a Breathalyzer test and was then transferred to Northwestern Hospital. In response to detectives' inquiries, her partner declined to press charges, saying that her luggage had been thrown and there had been minor physical contact between the two. Due to the refusal of the complainant to prosecute, the criminal case was classified as non-prosecution. The partner refused to cooperate with COPA's investigation. Both allegations that Officer Taylor engaged in an unjustified physical altercation and restrained her partner with her legs were not sustained by COPA. According to COPA, Officer Taylor denied the allegations and "there are no independent witnesses". COPA concluded that "the totality of the circumstances indicates that it is not possible for COPA to determine if these allegations did or did not occur as alleged. Therefore, these allegations should be Not Sustained."

It is for these reasons that the Department recommends a finding of Not Sustained for Allegation #1, #2, #3 and #6. The Department incorporates its reasons for not concurring with Allegation #1, #2 and #3 with its response to the sustained finding for Allegation #6 as Allegation #6 does not specifically identify what the sustained finding is for and appears to be a repeat of Allegation #1, #2 and #3.

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

Sincerely,



Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent
Chicago Police Department