



**Brandon Johnson**  
Mayor

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

**Larry B. Snelling**  
Superintendent of Police

March 14, 2025

Robin Murphy  
General Counsel  
Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA)  
1615 W. Chicago Ave., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Re: Superintendent's Partial Concurrence with COPA's Findings and Concurrence with Penalties  
Complaint Log. 2023-0005404  
Officer Geraldo Ortiz, Star #18496  
Officer Sergio Zagala, Star #19734

Dear General Counsel Murphy:

After a careful review of the above referenced complaint log number, the Chicago Police Department (Department) partially concurs with the recommended sustained findings and concurs with the penalty recommendations, as they pertain to Officer Geraldo Ortiz, Star No. 18496, and Officer Sergio Zagala, Star No. 19734.

The COPA investigation recommended a suspension of up to 10 days for Officer Geraldo Ortiz after concluding that he:

1. Detained Complainant [REDACTED], without justification.
2. Searched Complainant [REDACTED], without justification.

The COPA investigation recommended a suspension of up to 15 days for Officer Sergio Zagala after concluding that he:

1. Detained Complainant [REDACTED], without justification.
2. Searched Complainant [REDACTED], without justification.
3. Displayed a gun at or in the direction of [REDACTED], without justification.

The Department concurs with allegation two for Officer Ortiz and Officer Zagala.


However, the Department believes allegation one for Officer Ortiz and Officer Zagala should be Exonerated. The Officers articulated their reason for detaining Mr. [REDACTED]. Based on their experience, they believed Mr. [REDACTED] was armed with a firearm. The fact that Mr. [REDACTED] did not have a firearm when detained, does not make the stop unlawful. Moreover, Officer Zagala exits the squad car with his weapon at the lower ready position. However, once Mr. [REDACTED] complies with Officer Zagala's verbal commands to get his hand out of his pockets, Officer Zagala immediately holsters his weapon. Attachment #12 at 2:02. For the reasons listed above, the Department does not concur with allegation three for Officer Zagala and believes it should be an Exonerated finding.

The Department will impose, consistent with the penalty recommendations, the following disciplinary actions:

Officer Geraldo Ortiz #18496- One (1) day suspension;  
Officer Sergio Zagala #19734- Two (2) day suspension.

In addition, each member will be given additional Fourth Amendment training. The Department looks forward to discussing this matter with you pursuant to MCC-2-78-130(a)(iii).

Sincerely,



Larry B. Stelling  
Superintendent of Police  
Chicago Police Department