



Log # 2024-5614

## FINAL SUMMARY REPORT<sup>1</sup>

### I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On June 14, 2024, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) received a website complaint from [REDACTED] reporting alleged misconduct by a member of the Chicago Police Department (CPD) [REDACTED] alleged that on June 14, 2024, Officer Adan Pedroza improperly detained and searched him, pulled his mask off, and pushed him to the ground.<sup>2</sup> Upon review of the evidence, COPA served additional allegations that Officer Pedroza failed to complete an Investigatory Stop Report (ISR), failed to provide [REDACTED] an Investigatory Stop Receipt (ISR), failed to complete a Tactical Response Report (TRR), and stated words to the effect “what’s up pussy, come on.” Following its investigation, COPA reached **Sustained** findings on all allegations except Allegations 1, 2, and 5.

### II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE<sup>3</sup>

On June 14, 2024, at approximately 9:22 pm, Officers Adan Pedroza and Alexander David were dispatched to a call of a gang disturbance at the intersection of Cullerton Avenue & Rockwell Street.<sup>4</sup> The officers were notified that eight to ten masked gang members were outside throwing rocks at cars.<sup>5</sup> At approximately 9:40 pm, the officers arrive at the intersection of Cullerton Avenue & S. Rockwell Street and encounter a group of males wearing black hoodies, pants and masks.<sup>6</sup> Officer Pedroza exited the front passenger side of his unmarked CPD vehicle and made immediate contact with a male, now known as [REDACTED], who is wearing a black mask, black coat and pants.<sup>7</sup> Officer Pedroza asked [REDACTED] “you got anything on you?” and immediately grabbed him by his jacket while pulling off his black mask.<sup>8</sup> Officer Pedroza conducted a brief pat down of [REDACTED] and both parties continued with verbal insults towards each other.<sup>9</sup> At one point during the encounter Officer Pedroza stated to [REDACTED], “what’s up pussy, come on.”<sup>10</sup> After Officer Pedroza and his partner both conducted brief pat-downs of all males, no arrests were made

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> The following is a summary of what COPA finds most likely occurred during this incident. This summary utilized information from several different sources, including BWC footage, ICC footage, third-party video, police reports, civilian interviews, officer interviews.

<sup>4</sup> Att. 7, Event Query # 2416615678

<sup>5</sup> Att. 7

<sup>6</sup> Att. 5, PO David BWC at 1:40 to 2:00; and Att. 4, PO Pedroza at 1:50 to 2:00

<sup>7</sup> Att. 4, at 2:00

<sup>8</sup> Att. 4, at 02:02.

<sup>9</sup> Att. 4, at 2:05 to 2:30

<sup>10</sup> Att. 4, at 2:10 to 2:15

and they were free to leave.<sup>11</sup> One of the unidentified masked males requested a receipt from Officer Pedroza to which Officer Pedroza replied “give me your name and I’ll give you a receipt.”<sup>12</sup> BWC of the event did not capture Officer Pedroza giving any citizen an Investigatory Stop Receipt.<sup>13</sup>

### III. ALLEGATIONS

#### Officer Adan Pedroza:

1. Detaining [REDACTED], without justification.
  - **Exonerated.**
2. Searching [REDACTED], without justification.
  - **Exonerated.**
3. Pulling [REDACTED] mask off, without justification.
  - **Sustained**, Violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10.
4. Pushing [REDACTED] to the ground, without justification.
  - **Sustained**, Violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10.
5. Failing to complete an Investigatory Stop Report documenting the interaction with [REDACTED].
  - **Unfounded.**
6. Failing to provide [REDACTED] with an Investigatory Stop Receipt.
  - **Sustained**, Violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10.
7. Failing to document the force used on [REDACTED] in a Tactical Response Report.
  - **Sustained**, Violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10.
8. Stating words to the effect of “what’s up pussy? come on.”
  - **Sustained**, Violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10.

### IV. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The credibility of an individual relies primarily on two factors: 1) the individual’s truthfulness and 2) 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 then accurately recall the event from memory. In this case, the investigation did not reveal any evidence that caused COPA to question the credibility of any of the individuals (sworn or unsworn) who provided statements.

### V. ANALYSIS<sup>14</sup>

#### a. Detaining and Searchin [REDACTED], without Justification

<sup>11</sup> Att. 4, at 4:20 to 5:00; and Att. 5, at 4:15 to 5:00

<sup>12</sup> Att. 4, at 3:58 to 4:30

<sup>13</sup> Att. 4.

<sup>14</sup> For a definition of COPA’s findings and standards of proof, *see* Appendix B.

COPA finds Allegations 1 and 2, that Officer Pedroza detained and searched [REDACTED] without justification, are **Exonerated**. CPD members are authorized to conduct investigatory stops when they have reasonable articulable suspicion that the person stopped is committing, is about to commit, or has committed a criminal offense.<sup>15</sup> Reasonable articulable suspicion has been described as less than probable cause but more than a hunch or general suspicion. It “depends on the totality of the circumstances which the sworn member observes and the reasonable inferences that are drawn based on the sworn member's training and experience.”<sup>16</sup>

In this case, it is clear officers were dispatched by the Office of Emergency Management (OEMC) to a service call of a gang disturbance involving eight to ten masked men.<sup>17</sup> Upon arrival, officers encountered individuals who matched the number and description given by OEMC.<sup>18</sup> For the reasons above, COPA finds there is clear and convincing evidence that the officers were within policy to briefly detain and search [REDACTED]. Therefore, COPA finds Allegations 1 and 2 are **Exonerated**.

#### b. Use of Excessive Force, without Justification

COPA finds Allegations 3 and 4, that Officer Pedroza pulled [REDACTED] mask off and pushed him to the ground, without justification are **Sustained**. Under CPD policy, members may only use force that is objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional to the threat, actions, and level of resistance offered by a *person*.<sup>19</sup> In this case, Officer Pedroza exited the front passenger side of his unmarked CPD vehicle and made immediate contact with Valdovinos, who is wearing a black mask, black coat hoodie and pants. Officer Pedroza stated “you got anything on you?” and immediately grabbed [REDACTED] by his jacket while pulling off the black mask.<sup>20</sup> Officer Pedroza stated he pulled [REDACTED] mask off because he fit the description and wanted to see what he was dealing with.<sup>21</sup> Officer Pedroza then reached out with his right hand and delivered a push to [REDACTED] chest.<sup>22</sup> In his statement to COPA, Officer Pedroza stated Valdovinos pushed him first and that he pushed [REDACTED] to create space.<sup>23</sup>

While COPA acknowledges the situation was tense and the civilians were verbally expressing their dissatisfaction, they were also largely compliant and dispersing as directed.<sup>24</sup> Rather than using force, Officer Pedroza should have utilized the principles of force mitigation, such as, continual communication, tactical positioning, and most importantly – time as a tactic.<sup>25</sup> Therefore, COPA finds Allegations 3 and 4 are **Sustained**.

<sup>15</sup> The authority for conducting an investigatory stop is delineated in 725 ILCS 5/107-14(a) and Special Order S04-13-09, Investigatory Stop System (effective July 10, 2017 – present).

<sup>16</sup> S04-13-09(II)(C).

<sup>17</sup> Att. 7

<sup>18</sup> Atts. 4 and 5

<sup>19</sup> See G03-02-01 (II)(C), Force Options (effective June 28, 2023, to present).

<sup>20</sup> Att. 4, at 2:00 to 2:20

<sup>21</sup> Att. 23, pg. 51, lns. 1 to 4.

<sup>22</sup> Att. 4. At 03:04.

<sup>23</sup> Att. 23, Pg. 41, Lns. 5 to 7

<sup>24</sup> Att. 4, at 2:00 to 4:00

<sup>25</sup> G03-02-01 (III)(A to C), Response to Resistance and Force Options (Eff. June 28, 2023 to present)

### c. Reports

#### i. Failure to submit an ISR

COPA finds Allegation 5, that Officer Pedroza failed to complete an Investigatory Stop Report, is **Unfounded**. COPA served the allegation after a search using the complaint's name and results produced negative results.<sup>26</sup> However, Officer Pedroza, in his statement, produced a copy of ISR #028316967, which was completed using a John Doe alias.<sup>27</sup> Therefore, COPA finds that Allegation 5 is **Unfounded**.

#### ii. Failure to Provide an ISR Receipt

COPA finds Allegation # 6 that he failed to issue [REDACTED] an Investigatory Stop Receipt is **sustained**. The order provides that, “[u]pon the completion of an Investigatory Stop that involves a Protective Pat Down or any other search, sworn members are required to provide the subject of the stop a completed Investigatory Stop Receipt.”<sup>28</sup> During his COPA statement, Officer Pedroza acknowledged that he was asked for an Investigatory Stop Receipt. Indeed, on Officer Pedroza's BWC, an individual asked for “a receipt.”<sup>29</sup>

In his statement to COPA, Officer Pedroza stated he went back to his vehicle to get a receipt but the group dispersed and left when responding officers arrived.<sup>30</sup> However, Officer Pedroza's BWC does not show him going back to his vehicle for more than five minutes after the receipt was requested – and when he did – it was to conclude the event, not obtain a receipt.<sup>31</sup> Therefore, COPA finds this allegation is **Sustained**.

#### iii. Failure to Properly Document Use of Force in a TRR

COPA finds Allegation 7, that Officer Pedroza failed to properly document his use of force in a TRR, is **Sustained**. CPD members are required to complete a TRR for all incidents involving a Department member's use of force.<sup>32</sup> In his statement to COPA, Officer Pedroza stated he did a quick push o [REDACTED] to create space for safety reasons.<sup>33</sup> Even if COPA were to accept this justification for using force, it would still require Officer Pedroza to complete and submit a TRR. Therefore, COPA finds Allegation 7, is **Sustained**.

### d. Verbal Abuse

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<sup>26</sup> Att. 11.

<sup>27</sup> Att. 25, ISR

<sup>28</sup> S04-13-09(VIII)(A)(3).

<sup>29</sup> Att. 4, at 3:58 to 4:02

<sup>30</sup> Att. 23, Pg. 39, Lns. 10 to 14

<sup>31</sup> Att. 4, at 4:00 to 9:54

<sup>32</sup> G03-02-02 (III), Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report (effective June 28, 2023, to Present).

<sup>33</sup> Att. 23, pg. 41. Lns 5-7

COPA finds Allegation 8, that Officer Pedroza violated CPD Policy by stating words to the effect of, “what’s up pussy, come on,” is **Sustained**. CPD Rules 8 and 9 prohibit members from engaging in unjustified verbal altercation and/or maltreating or disrespecting any person.<sup>34</sup> Additionally, CPD policy mandates that members will treat all persons with courtesy and dignity which is inherently due every person as a human being. Department members will act, speak, and conduct themselves in a professional manner ... and maintain a courteous attitude in all contacts with the public.”<sup>35</sup> The policy also states that members “will not exhibit a condescending attitude or direct any derogatory terms toward any person in any manner.”<sup>36</sup>

In his statement to COPA, Officer Pedroza said he could not remember if he said it but if he did it was “in the heat of the moment.”<sup>37</sup> While COPA understands the situation appeared tense, it is also true that Officer Pedroza chose to continually engage verbally with Valdovinos.<sup>38</sup> Moreover, Officer Pedroza’s BWC confirmed he said words to the effect of, “what’s up pussy come on.”<sup>39</sup> Therefore, COPA finds Allegation 8, is **Sustained**.

## **VI. DISCIPLINARY RECOMMENDATION**

### **a. Officer Adan Pedroza**

#### **i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History<sup>40</sup>**

Officer Pedroza has 147 total awards, including 133 honorable mentions, five Department commendations, and one life saving award. Officer Pedroza has received four disciplinary SPARs, two for preventable accidents, one for inattention to duty, and one for being absent/leaving his duty assignment. Officer Pedroza received two reprimands for the preventable accidents, and no disciplinary action was taken for the absence. However, he received a 1-day suspension for inattention to duty in August 2025. Officer Pedroza does not have a record of sustained cases against him in the last five years.

#### **ii. Recommended Discipline**

COPA has found that Officer Pedroza has violated Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 when he used force against ██████████, failed to document that force in a TRR, failed to provide an ISR receipt when specifically asked, and stated words to the effect of “what’s up pussy? Come on,” in the direction of civilians. In mitigation, COPA has considered Officer Pedroza’s numerous awards and honors. In addition, COPA has considered Officer Pedroza’s limited disciplinary history.

<sup>34</sup> Section V., Rules 8 and 9 of the Rules and Regulations of the Chicago Police Department.

<sup>35</sup> G02-01 III (B), Human Rights and Resources (effective June 30, 2022, to present).

<sup>36</sup> G02-01 III(B)(4).

<sup>37</sup> Att. 23 p. 43, lns. 7 to 9.

<sup>38</sup> Att. 4, at 2:00 to 4:00

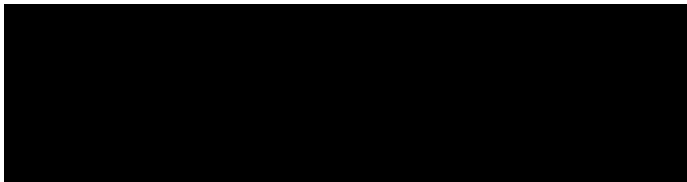
<sup>39</sup> Att. 4, at 2:10 to 2:15

<sup>40</sup> Att. 29.

However, the Department GOs in this case are very clear. Under CPD policy, members may only use force that is objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional to the threat, actions, and level of resistance offered by a *person*. Furthermore, once force is used, CPD policy requires Department members to complete and submit a TRR for review. Next, while an ISR was created for this event, it is clear on BWC a receipt was requested, and Officer Pedroza made no visible effort to provide one. Finally, Officer Pedroza admitted to using words to the effect of “what’s up pussy,” – which even in the heat of the moment – is a violation of CPD policy.

Therefore, COPA recommends Officer Pedroza receive a minimum **one (1) to twenty-nine (29) day suspension** and **retraining** on the Department’s Use of Force policy.

Approved:



9-23-2025

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Angela Hearts-Glass  
*Deputy Chief Investigator*

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Date

**Appendix A**

**Case Details**

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	June 14, 2024 / 9:41 p.m. / 2600 W. Cullerton Street
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	June 15, 2024 / 01:12 a.m.
Involved Member #1:	Adan Pedroza, Star #9584, Employee ID [REDACTED], DOA: December 17, 2024, Unit: 214/005, Male, WWH.
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] Male, Hispanic

**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.
- Rule \_\_:**

**Applicable Policies and Laws**

- G02-01, Human Rights and Resources (effective June 30, 2022 to present).
- G03-02 De-escalation, Response to Resistance and Use of Force (effective June 28, 2023, to present).
- G03-02-01 Response to Resistance and Force Options (effective June 28, 2023, to present).
- G03-02-02, Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report (effective June, 28, 2023, to Present).
- S04-13-09 Investigatory Stop System (effective July 17, 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.<sup>41</sup> 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.”<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> 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).

<sup>42</sup> *People v. Coan*, 2016 IL App (2d) 151036, ¶ 28 (quoting Illinois Pattern Jury Instructions, Criminal, No. 4.19 (4<sup>th</sup> 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