



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent

December 15, 2025

Lakenya White
Interim 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 Concurrence with Penalty
Recommendations Complaint Log No. 2024-0005614
Police Officer Adan Pedroza Jr. #9584

Dear Interim Chief Administrator White:

After a careful review of the above referenced complaint log number investigation, the Chicago Police Department (Department) partially concurs with the recommended sustained findings and concurs with the penalty recommendations as they pertain to Police Officer Adan Pedroza Jr. #9584.

Brief Summary:

On 14 June 2024 at approximately 2122 hours, Officer Pedroza and his partner, Police Officer Alexander David #16271 were dispatched to a call of a gang disturbance at the intersection of Cullerton Avenue and Rockwell Street where eight to ten masked gang members were outside throwing rocks at cars. Upon arrival, Officer Pedroza and Officer David encounter a group of masked individuals wearing dark clothing. Officer Pedroza approaches a masked male, identified as [REDACTED] and asks, "You got anything on you?" while extending his arms to Mr. [REDACTED] chest and pulling off his mask.

During this encounter with Mr. [REDACTED] and other unidentified masked individuals, Officer Pedroza is seen on his BWC extending his arm and lightly pushing Mr. [REDACTED] on the chest. This contact appears to result in Mr. [REDACTED] falling to the ground and quickly rising to his feet shortly thereafter. Additionally, an unidentified masked individual, not Mr. [REDACTED] does request an ISR receipt from Officer Pedroza, at which time Officer Pedroza responds, "Give me your name and I'll give you a receipt."

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a (1) one - (29) twenty nine day suspension for Police Officer Pedroza after concluding that he:

1. It is alleged by [REDACTED] that on or about June 14, 2024, at approximately 9:38 pm, at or near 2600 W. Cullerton Street, that you, Officer Adan Pedroza, committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions, by: Pulling [REDACTED] mask off, without justification.
2. It is alleged by [REDACTED] that on or about June 14, 2024, at approximately 9:38 pm, at or near

2600 W. Cullerton Street, that you, Officer Adan Pedroza, committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions, by: Pushing [REDACTED] to the ground, without justification.

3. It is alleged by COPA that on or about June 14, 2024, at approximately 9:38 pm, at or near 3000 W. Cullerton Street, that you, Officer Adan Pedroza, committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions, by: Failing to provide [REDACTED] with an Investigatory Stop Receipt.
4. It is alleged by COPA that on or about June 14, 2024, at approximately 9:38 pm, at or near 3000 W. Cullerton Street, that you, Officer Adan Pedroza, committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions, by: Failing to document the force used on [REDACTED] in a Tactical Response Report.
5. It is alleged by COPA that on or about June 14, 2024, at approximately 9:38 pm, at or near 3000 W. Cullerton Street, that you, Officer Adan Pedroza, committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions, by: Stating words to the effect of "what's up pussy, come on."

Sustained Allegation #1 – Excessive Force

The Department respectfully does not concur with COPA's finding related to Sustained Allegation #1 and finds the determination not legally sufficient. The Department maintains that the correct finding is **Not Sustained**.

Officer Pedroza was responding to a call for service involving a gang disturbance in which approximately eight to ten masked individuals were throwing rocks at passing vehicles. This conduct constitutes the offense of criminal damage to property. Officer Pedroza stated that the individual he stopped matched the description provided in the call for service.

COPA does not articulate how the removal of a mask during an investigative stop to identify a potential offender constitutes a use of force. Pursuant to G03-02, *De-Escalation, Response to Resistance, and Use of Force*, "force" is defined as any physical contact by a Department member, either directly or through the use of equipment, to compel a person's compliance. Officer Pedroza's removal of the mask was performed solely to identify the individual suspected of committing criminal damage to property and to determine whether the individual was a wanted offender with an outstanding warrant.

Additionally, Officer Pedroza noted that the incident occurred in June, with temperatures exceeding 90 degrees, in an area known for violent and deadly gang activity. Based on his training and experience, Officer Pedroza stated that gang members are known to conceal their identities and weapons under masks and clothing. Under these circumstances, the limited contact used to remove the mask was reasonable, necessary, and consistent with officer safety and investigative requirements.

Sustained Allegation #2 – Excessive Force

The Department respectfully does not concur with COPA's finding related to Sustained Allegation #2 and finds the determination not legally sufficient. The Department maintains that the correct finding is **Not Sustained**.

Body-Worn Camera (BWC) footage and Officer Pedroza's statement show that Officer Pedroza extended his arm and lightly pushed Mr. [REDACTED] in order to create distance for officer safety. This action was consistent with G03-02, *De-Escalation, Response to Resistance, and Use of Force*, though it should have been documented in a Tactical Response Report.

The BWC footage depicts Mr. [REDACTED] and another individual approaching Officer Pedroza closely while being verbally aggressive and wearing masks and all-black clothing. Officer Pedroza applied minimal force by slightly pushing Mr. [REDACTED] who fell to the ground, immediately stood back up, and continued to act in a verbally aggressive manner.

The Department finds that the slight push used to create distance was reasonable, necessary, and proportional to Mr. [REDACTED] actions, and was intended to safely bring a volatile gang-related disturbance under control.

Sustained Allegation #3 – Reports: Failure to Submit

The Department respectfully does not concur with COPA's finding related to Sustained Allegation #3 and finds the determination not legally sufficient. The Department maintains that the correct finding is **Not Sustained**.

Officer Pedroza stated that it was not safe or feasible at the time to complete and provide an Investigatory Stop Receipt (ISR) due to the ongoing need to disperse individuals involved in the disturbance. By the time it was safe and feasible to complete the ISR, the individuals involved had already left the scene.

Sustained Allegation #4 – Reports: Failure to Submit

The Department concurs with the sustained finding for Sustained Allegation #4.

Sustained Allegation #5 – Conduct Unbecoming: Profanity

The Department concurs with the sustained finding for Sustained Allegation #5.

Recommendation

The Department recommends a **three (3) day suspension** for the sustained findings related to Allegations #4 and #5.

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

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent
Chicago Police Department