



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent

October 16, 2025

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

Re: Superintendent's Non-Concurrence with Findings and with Penalty Recommendations
Complaint Log No. 2024-0007622
Officer Lucas Michaels # 13013

Dear Interim Chief Administrator White:

After a careful review of the above referenced complaint log number investigation, the Chicago Police Department (Department) does not concur with the recommended sustained finding nor with the penalty recommendation as they pertain to Officer Lucas Michaels.

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a Reprimand and training on handcuffing for Officer Michaels after concluding that he:

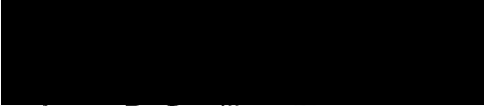
1. Handcuffed [REDACTED] without justification.

The Department does not concur with this sustained finding and recommends an alternate finding of Unfounded. The BWC footage shows the member stating to the citizen that he was being detained because his driver's license was suspended. Then in his statement to COPA, the member articulated the reasons he believed the citizen to be armed and dangerous and deciding to handcuff him.

Further, pursuant to Special Order S04-14-05 entitled "Traffic Violators, Name Checks, and Bonding," once it was determined that the citizen had a suspended driver's license, then the traffic violator could be arrested and required to post bond. In this particular case, the officer ultimately exercised his discretion to not make the arrest. But the fact is that once the suspended driver's license was verified, then the motorist is or could be place under custodial arrest and handcuffed. But as previously stated, the member did informed the motorist that he was being detained due to a suspended driver's license.

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