



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent

July 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. 2023-0002433
Sergeant Anthony Ceja #1005
Officer Jamaul Jenkins # 8917

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 Sergeant Anthony Ceja #1005 and Officer Jamaul Jenkins # 8917.

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a violation noted for Sergeant Anthony Ceja #1005 after concluding that he:

1. Failing to comply with S04-20 by not using de-escalation techniques such as time as a tactic, containment. Or calm and controlled communication when responding to an individual in crisis.
2. Using profane language in the direction of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
3. Failing to comply with G03-02-04 by failing to give verbal commands and warning prior to, during, and after the discharge of the taser.

Sustained Allegation #1 – Failure to De-escalate

The Department respectfully does not concur with COPA's finding related to the first sustained allegation. The Department finds the determination not legally sufficient, and maintains that the correct finding is Unfounded.

Sgt. Ceja entered the apartment based on credible information that a juvenile female posed an immediate threat to herself and potentially to others. The nature of the emergency, as relayed in the call for service and confirmed through direct conversation with the caller, created exigent circumstances that limited the opportunity for extended negotiation. COPA cited a violation of General Order S04-20 (a)(2), which refers to *"using time as a tactic when*

there is time to negotiate, de-escalate, and request additional resources to ensure the safety of all persons involved." However, COPA appears to have selectively applied this standard by omitting the critical qualifying clause, *"when there is time to negotiate."* In this case, based on the totality of the circumstances, that time did not exist.

Upon arrival, Sgt. Ceja conducted himself professionally, quickly identified the presence of a deaf individual in the apartment, and appropriately requested an American Sign Language interpreter. He made efforts to peacefully and verbally engage with [REDACTED] in an attempt to remove her from the bedroom. When those efforts were unsuccessful and the situation escalated with individuals in the room becoming increasingly irate and exhibiting out-of-control behavior, including assault and battery to a police officer. Sgt. Ceja appropriately requested additional assistance and acted within Department policy.

Sustained Allegation #3 – Verbal Commands

The Department does not concur with the finding related to the third sustained allegation. The Department asserts that the finding is not legally sufficient, and the correct finding is Unfounded.

Sgt. Ceja unholstered his taser and pointed it at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] approximately 90 seconds prior to deployment. During this period, [REDACTED] was actively resisting arrest, thereby justifying the use of the taser under Department use-of-force policies. While the verbal warning was coupled with profanity, a clear taser warning was given. Furthermore, Sgt. Ceja directed individuals nearby to step back for safety purposes and appropriately issued the "Taser! Taser! Taser!" warning during and after deployment.

The Department concurs with the sustained findings and the recommended penalty concerning Officer Jenkins.

However, the Department notes a procedural fairness concern regarding the disparity in how COPA assessed language-based allegations. While Sgt. Ceja received a single sustained allegation for profane language, COPA issued three separate sustained allegations against Officer Jenkins for individual statements falling under the same category codes verbal abuse, profanity. This discrepancy raises questions regarding consistency and equitable treatment in the investigative process.

On behalf of Superintendent Larry B. Snelling, The Department looks forward to discussing this matter with you pursuant to MCC 2-78-130(a)(iii).

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Kelly A. Schnoor
Department Advocate
Bureau of Internal Affairs