



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent

May 1, 2024

Andrea Kersten
Chief Administrator
Civilian Office of Police Accountability
1615 West Chicago Avenue, 4th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60622

Re: Superintendent's Partial Non-Concurrence with Findings and Penalty Recommendations
Complaint Log No. 2020-0002888

Dear Chief Administrator Kersten:

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 with the penalty recommendations as they pertain to Officer Anna Hosepian, Star No. 2851, and to Officer Matthew Gozdal, Star No. 9220. Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Department provides the following comments.

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a 20 to 60-day suspension along with Anger Management and De-Escalation Training for Officer Hosepian after concluding that she:

1. Searched [REDACTED] vehicle without justification;
2. Struck [REDACTED] on or about his face with an open hand without justification;
3. Failed to complete a Tactical Response Report after detaining, striking and handcuffing [REDACTED] without justification;
4. Told [REDACTED] including but not limited to, stating words to the effect of "shut the fuck up!" and "are you fucking blind" on multiple occasions, without justification.

The COPA investigation also recommended a penalty of a suspension of up to 30 days along with De-Escalation training for Officer Gozdal after concluding that he:

1. Failed to intervene when Officer Anna Hosepian struck [REDACTED] on or about the fact with an open hand;
2. Failed to comply with S03-14 by failing to timely activate his body worn camera.

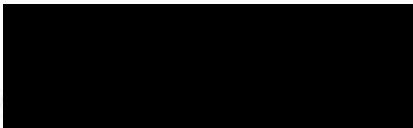
Regarding Officer Hosepian, the Department agrees with the four sustained allegations. But the Department believes that the penalty recommendation is excessive and recommends a 10-day suspension for Officer Hosepian. If the purpose of discipline is to correct errant behavior and modify future conduct, then this can be accomplished with this lesser suspension. A higher suspension would serve no purpose except to be punitive and therefore is not in this member's nor in the Department's best interest. This is particularly applicable to this case as the conduct occurred almost

four years ago. Since the date of the incident for this investigation up to the present date of this communication, Officer Hosepian has had no disciplinary actions of the same or similar conduct.

Regarding Officer Gozdal, the Department agrees with the sustained finding regarding the body worn camera violation. Further, the appropriate penalty for this violation is a 1-day suspension. However, the Department does not agree with the allegation that Officer Gozdal failed to intervene and the Department recommends a finding of Not Sustained. The investigator states that Officer Gozdal could have moved the arrestee away or told Officer Hosepian to stop engaging with Mr. [REDACTED]. However, the review of the video shows that no reasonable officer could have predicted that Officer Hosepian would strike Mr. [REDACTED]. It was approximately 2 seconds from the time Officer Hosepian turned in the direction of Mr. [REDACTED] to actually coming into contact with him. During the entire time, both Mr. [REDACTED] and Officer Hosepian were talking loudly to each other and Officer Gozdal would most likely be concentrating on Mr. [REDACTED] as the person in custody.

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

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Larry B. Snelling.

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent
Chicago Police Department