



May 18, 2026

Mr. Max A. Caproni
Executive Director, Chicago Police Board
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1220
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Via Email

RE: Request for Review, Log #2021-0001096

Dear Mr. Caproni,

Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago Section 2-78-130 and Police Board Rules of Procedure Section VI, please consider this letter a Request for Review of a non-concurrence between the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) and the Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department (CPD) in Log # 2021-0001096.¹

As set forth in detail in COPA's Final Summary Report (FSR) dated June 27, 2024, there is a compelling legal and evidentiary basis to support COPA's disciplinary recommendation against Officer Charles White, Star #6422 (Officer White), for striking his girlfriend, [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] in the face with his hand, without justification.

I. BACKGROUND

A. Relevant Factual Background²

On March 27th, 2021, COPA received an initiation report signed by Sgt. Steven Haltek (Sgt. Haltek),³ which related that on that same date, Officer White was arrested for a domestic battery incident against his then-girlfriend, [REDACTED]. At 3 a.m. on that date, CPD received three 911 calls in succession all describing a domestic violence incident between a couple on 106th Street.⁴ The first caller reported that he saw a man hitting a woman in the street, and that the woman then stopped

¹ As required by the Police Board Rules of Procedure, enclosed are copies of COPA's final summary report, CPD's non-concurrence letter (Non-Concurrence), and the certificate of meeting.

² A more detailed factual summary can be found in the FSR.

³ Att. 2.

⁴ Atts. 26-28.

the caller in the middle of the street. The caller added that both parties were hitting each other. The man and woman were later identified as Officer White and [REDACTED]. During this call, Officer White can be heard coming up to the 911 caller, identifying himself as a cop and saying that [REDACTED] struck him.⁵ At the same time, [REDACTED] can also be heard yelling, “please don’t believe him.”⁶ A second caller indicated that as he drove past, he also saw a man hitting a woman, also later identified as Officer White and [REDACTED].⁷ A third caller related that a woman made an outcry that her boyfriend had hit her.⁸

CPD officers, including Officer Danielle Clifford (Officer Clifford) and Officer Erik Seija (Officer Seija), were then dispatched to the scene and encountered [REDACTED] barefoot and crying, next to a parked SUV.⁹ At this time, Officer White was further down the street. [REDACTED] related to responding officers that Officer White snatched her Apple Watch off her wrist, hit her in the face, and told her that no one would believe her because he is a cop. She explained that Officer White took her watch because he knew she would use it to call her mom for help. [REDACTED] purse and one of her shoes were eventually located in the gutter a few hundred yards away. [REDACTED] additionally admitted to the responding officers that she did also hit Officer White during the altercation. Meanwhile, Officer White immediately identified himself as a Chicago Police Officer to the responding officers and explained that [REDACTED] became “pissy” after they left a party, and that when she drinks alcohol, she becomes aggressive. When asked if he put his hands on [REDACTED] Officer White responded “I swear to God I did not.”¹⁰

An ambulance was called, and paramedics provided [REDACTED] with medical care. Officer White also sustained some minor injuries to the right side of his face during this altercation with [REDACTED] but declined medical care.¹¹ While [REDACTED] indicated that she wanted to go home and did not wish to press charges, she was transported to the 4th District to speak with a lieutenant before she went home. Responding officers all observed that [REDACTED] had a swollen and bruised left eye. Their body-worn camera recordings document [REDACTED] complaining about these injuries.¹² These officers also reported to COPA in their witness statements that [REDACTED] sustained facial swelling and injury following this incident.¹³ Specifically, Officer Ladarryl Walls (Officer Walls) described to COPA that the swelling on [REDACTED] face was consistent with being struck rather than related to something else, like crying.¹⁴ The women in the SUV who witnessed the initial incident additionally reported

⁵ Att. 26 at 00:30.

⁶ Att. 26 at 00:33.

⁷ Att. 27.

⁸ Att. 28.

⁹ The occupants of the SUV told responding officers that they saw [REDACTED] jump out of Officer White’s vehicle, so they stopped to help her. They additionally called 911 and remained with her while Officer White was further down the street talking to another bystander. See Att. #29 at 04:50.

¹⁰ Att. 4 at 06:50.

¹¹ Responding officers reported that Officer White had minor scratching on the right side of his face and the left side of his neck. See Att. 6. While Officer White reported to COPA that he had photos of his injuries taken by an evidence technician, COPA was unable to locate any such photos.

¹² Atts. 4, 9, 10, 20, 29, and 30.

¹³ Atts. 14 and 15.

¹⁴ Att. 16.

seeing [REDACTED] with facial injuries. Because [REDACTED] sustained injuries, Officer White was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery.¹⁵

COPA received an Initiation Report from the Commander of the 4th District, Commander Robert Rubio (Commander Rubio), on the same date of this incident, which was completed and signed by Sgt. Haltek.¹⁶ COPA later served allegations on Officer White related to his allegedly stopping [REDACTED] from calling for help, throwing her purse out of the car window, and striking her in the face.¹⁷

In his interview with COPA investigators,¹⁸ Officer White explained that on the date of this incident, he and [REDACTED] were at a party where they had been consuming alcohol.¹⁹ During the party, Officer White claimed that [REDACTED] had become aggressive with him²⁰ so he confronted her about it in the car on their way home. He described that she then became angry with him, and what started as a verbal argument escalated to physical, with her hitting and kicking him.²¹ Because he was still driving, he had to pull over. Officer White claimed he never struck her in the face but was just trying to block her punches and kicks. He further hypothesized that [REDACTED] facial injuries may have been caused by her own leg hitting herself in the face as he tried to block her kicks.²² Officer White recalled that when he finally exited the vehicle, [REDACTED] did as well and ran into the street, yelling and laying in the road to get cars to stop. He further recounted that he flagged down a passing car and told them that he was a police officer and his girlfriend was going crazy. While Officer White was aware that while someone eventually called 911,²³ he wasn't sure who, but that police eventually arrived. Officer White denied [REDACTED] claim that he prevented her from calling for help with her Apple Watch, instead insisting that she removed the watch herself and did not know what happened to it after that.²⁴ He also denied throwing her purse and stated he had no knowledge of what became of the purse.

[REDACTED] did not provide a statement to COPA related to this incident. However, COPA made multiple attempts to schedule an interview and/or speak with her.²⁵

¹⁵ Att. 6. These charges were dismissed on April 22, 2021. See Att. 17.

¹⁶ Att. 1.

¹⁷ Att. 23.

¹⁸ Att. 24.

¹⁹ Officer White stated that he brought a 6-pack of beer for himself, and [REDACTED] was drinking shots and liquor. See Att. 24, pg. 20, ln. 1.

²⁰ Att. 24, pgs. 13-14, ln. 23.

²¹ Att. 24, pg. 14, ln. 18

²² Att. 24, pg. 24, ln. 23 to pg. 25, ln. 4

²³ COPA attempted to reach out to the person that called 911, but the phone number was disconnected.

²⁴ Att. 24, pg. 39, lns. 10-19.

²⁵ CMS Notes show that [REDACTED] had a tentative phone interview set for March 31, 2021, but did not answer the phone. See CMS Note CO-0081713. The statement was rescheduled for April 8, 2021, on which [REDACTED] again was unable to speak to COPA. While [REDACTED] related to investigators that she would call to reschedule, she never did. See CMS Note CO-0082399. Follow up voicemails were left for [REDACTED] by COPA on April 16, 2021, and June 6, 2022. See CMS Notes CO-0088916, CO-0137264. Investigators additionally conducted two personal visits to [REDACTED] residence: on June 17, 2021, and June 9, 2022. See CMS Notes CO-0090368 and CO-0138045. All of these attempts yielded negative results.

Following the completion of its investigation, COPA reached sustained findings against Officer White regarding the allegation of striking ██████ in the face. COPA did not sustain the allegations related to Officer White allegedly stopping her from calling for help or of throwing her purse out the window.

B. Disputed Findings and Recommendations

The Superintendent disputes COPA's sustained finding related to Allegation #3 against Officer White related to his striking of ██████ in the face with his hand.²⁶

C. Applicable CPD Policy

COPA thoroughly addressed and analyzed the applicable CPD policies at issue in its FSR. The Superintendent bears the burden of overcoming the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline when he disagrees with that recommendation.²⁷ To prevail, the Superintendent must establish that his recommended disposition of the case is more reasonable than COPA's "based on the nature of the misconduct alleged and the information contained in the Request for Review file."²⁸

II. ARGUMENT

A. Contrary to the Superintendent's claim, COPA has met its burden in proving by a preponderance of the evidence that it is more likely than not that Officer White struck ██████ in the face with his hand.

The Department dissented with COPA's sustained finding regarding Officer White striking ██████ in the face for several reasons. Specifically highlighted in the Department's analysis is the fact that Officer White denied hitting ██████ in his interview, along with the fact that ██████ did not provide a statement to COPA. The Department further emphasized that ██████ injuries were not photographed but were instead merely "inferred" from eyewitness accounts. It was also claimed that regardless of the fact that ██████ stated numerous times on scene that Officer White struck her, as well as that there were multiple 911 callers reporting they saw a man hitting a woman, those accounts do not "carry the weight of an interview" in order to describe exactly what occurred and "in what sequence."

However, contrary to the Superintendent's claims that COPA has not met its burden in demonstrating that Officer White struck ██████ in the face with his hand, it is more likely than not that Officer White did so based on several factors: namely, the credibility of ██████ version of events and her heavily corroborated account (taken in contrast with Officer White's account, which is littered with inconsistencies and could not be corroborated); the extent of ██████ injuries, again

²⁶ The Superintendent concurs with COPA's not sustained Allegation #1 against Officer White related to stopping ██████ from calling for help, without justification; and Allegation #2 against Officer White related to throwing ██████ purse out the car window without justification.

²⁷ Chicago Mun. Code § 2-78-130 (a)(iii); Rules of Procedure, City of Chicago Police Board (VI) (February 18, 2021).

²⁸ Rules of Procedure, City of Chicago Police Board (VI) (E) (February 18, 2021).

supported by eyewitness accounts; and the credibility of those eyewitnesses, some of which include other CPD members.

First, [REDACTED] credibility versus Officer White's. The Department highlights in its dissent that Officer White's denials of hitting [REDACTED] in his COPA interview should bolster both his credibility and why this allegation should be Not Sustained. However, the Department does not elaborate on this assertion or explain why Officer White's denials automatically make him credible, while [REDACTED] repeated, unchanging, and corroborated account is not substantiated in the same way. It is important to note that while [REDACTED] declined to provide a statement of her own to COPA, her version of events (which involved a physical altercation with Officer White during which he hit her in the face) remained consistent throughout all of the captured body-worn camera footage of the responding officers on the date of this incident;²⁹ in the subsequent COPA interviews of those officers;³⁰ in the narrative of multiple 911 calls made by witnesses that observed the events firsthand;³¹ and lastly through the swollen, bruised eye that she sustained. Importantly, Officer Walls, a responding officer to the scene that night, specifically indicated to COPA that he believed the facial injuries [REDACTED] suffered were consistent with being struck in the face.³² The existence of these injuries is further corroborated by eyewitnesses and the other responding officers. In fact, responding officers believed [REDACTED] was injured enough that she required medical attention, calling an ambulance to provide treatment and an ice pack for her face.

On the other hand, Officer White's account, and specifically his assertion that he did not hit [REDACTED] is more difficult to credit. Officer White's version of events is not at all consistent or accurate when compared to the three separate 911 calls³³ that were placed by three different people, all relating that they observed a physical domestic altercation – specifically, that a man had hit a woman, and/or that a woman was saying her boyfriend hit her. In fact, Officer White's account is directly contradicted by the available eyewitness evidence, and no one has been able to fully corroborate his version of events. Further, OEMC audio³⁴ also disproves portions of Officer White's account. Specifically, Officer White's statement to COPA was not accurate when he related that he attempted to “flag down” passing vehicles to call 911. This is an inaccurate and misleading representation of what actually occurred, as evidence confirms that it was actually [REDACTED] that was attempting to obtain help. Similarly, Officer White's assertion that [REDACTED] *may* have possibly kned herself in the face during their fight is questionable and improbable, as it is unlikely that Officer White would not have seen or noticed that happening in the moment as they were facing each other in the vehicle. These inaccuracies and overall implausibility of Officer White's version of events are detrimental to his credibility overall.

The case that the Department cites for support is further distinguishable from the case at hand. In COPA Log No. 2021-0004747, COPA did not sustain allegations related to a physical altercation between Officer LaShawn Taylor (Officer Taylor) and her partner based on the partner's

²⁹ Atts. 4, 9, 10, 20, 29, and 30.

³⁰ Atts. 14-16.

³¹ Atts. 26-28.

³² Att. 16.

³³ Atts. 26-28.

³⁴ Att. 27.

unwillingness to cooperate with COPA, Officer Taylor's denial of the allegation, and the fact that there were no independent witnesses, all of which combined making it impossible for COPA to determine if these allegations did or did not occur as alleged. While the Department offers Log #2021-4747 as a similar case with a similar allegation that resulted in a Not Sustained, COPA disagrees with this comparison. Although there are some similarities, Log #2021-4747 is discernible most strongly because it does not contain any eyewitnesses or other independent witnesses to confirm or corroborate the allegations. This is completely opposite from the case at hand, in which there are three 911 callers that witnessed a man hitting a woman and/or a woman outcry that her boyfriend had hit her. Furthermore, there are multiple responding officers and paramedics that can confirm [REDACTED] unwavering account of events, even though they may not have witnessed the initial altercation. [REDACTED] also sustained clear, visible facial injuries from this altercation.

Thus, while the Department emphasizes Officer White's credibility solely based on his denials, it at the same time is discrediting the accounts of three civilian eyewitnesses, paramedics, and responding police officers, all of which support and corroborate [REDACTED] version of events. [REDACTED] decision not to provide a statement to COPA (while necessary to do a credibility assessment in its entirety) does not permanently damage her credibility when her account remained consistent on the date of this incident and is further supported by evidence. Meanwhile, the inconsistencies that can be found throughout Officer White's version of events make his reliability and overall credibility more difficult to uphold. When comparing Officer White's and [REDACTED] recollection of events, and also when factoring in the eyewitness accounts available, the only inconsistencies are the actions of Officer White.

III. CONCLUSION

For these reasons, COPA maintains that the Superintendent has failed to meet his affirmative burden of showing COPA's recommendations in this case are unreasonable. Accordingly, COPA respectfully requests that the Chicago Police Board reject the Superintendent's non-concurrence in this matter and accept COPA's findings and recommendations.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

LaKenya White
Chief Administrator
Civilian Office of Police Accountability