



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent

July 24, 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. 2023-0005083
Sergeant Anthony Ceja # 1005
Officer Gerardo Silva # 19281
Officer Jordan Coil # 17440

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 findings nor with the penalty recommendations as they pertain to Sergeant Anthony Ceja # 1005, Officer Gerardo Silva # 19281 and Officer Jordan Coil # 17440.

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a 2 to 5-day suspension for Sergeant Anthony Ceja after concluding that he:

1. Forcefully pulled [REDACTED] from his vehicle without justification;
2. Stated words to the effect of "shut up" to [REDACTED];
3. Directed police officers under his supervision to use a Taser against [REDACTED];
4. Searched [REDACTED] vehicle without justification.

The COPA investigation also recommended a penalty of a Violation Noted for Officer Gerardo Silva and Officer Jordan Coil after concluding that they:

1. Searched [REDACTED] vehicle without justification.

Regarding Sergeant Ceja and the allegation of pulling [REDACTED] from the vehicle, the Department does not concur and recommends an alternate finding of Exonerated. [REDACTED] had reportedly suffered a seizure and struck a parked vehicle. However, upon arrival, all the officers knew was that he was the operator of a vehicle involved in a crash with airbag deployment. It remained their duty to determine whether any criminal elements contributed to the crash, including assessing impairment, recklessness, or refusal to cooperate. Rather than comply, [REDACTED] became combative, shouted aggressively, and showed clear disregard for lawful authority. COPA found that Sgt. Ceja failed to respond to [REDACTED] repeated statements that he would get out of the vehicle on his own. However,

the video evidence is clear that [REDACTED] did not have any intention of exiting the vehicle as he kept pulling away and attempted to put his leg as a brace to prevent the officers from pulling him out.

Regarding Sergeant Ceja and the allegation of stating words to the effect of "shut up," the Department does not concur and recommends an alternate finding of Exonerated. Sgt. Ceja told [REDACTED] to "shut up" after repeated outbursts and escalating behavior. COPA now seeks to sustain a policy violation based solely on that statement, citing CPD policy that requires officers to remain courteous, respectful, and professional. However, given the circumstances of an individual who was yelling aggressively and refusing lawful orders, Sgt. Ceja's response was proportionate and contextually justified.

Regarding Sergeant Ceja and the allegation of directing subordinate members to use their taser on [REDACTED] the Department does not concur and recommends an alternate finding of Exonerated. Based on the Chicago Police Department's Use of Force Model, [REDACTED] actions classified him as an active resister, which justifies the consideration of a Taser as a reasonable force option. Officer Silva pointed his Taser at [REDACTED] in an effort to gain voluntary compliance without deploying it. According to Officer Silva, he relied on his training and discretion, choosing not to use the Taser due to the presence of bystanders and his intent to de-escalate the situation through other means.

Regarding all three accused members and the allegation of searching the vehicle of [REDACTED] without justification, the Department does not concur and recommends an alternate finding of Exonerated. Sgt. Ceja explained that he searched [REDACTED] vehicle because he observed [REDACTED] reaching toward the passenger seat, where the contents were not visible. BWC footage corroborates that Sgt. Ceja instructed [REDACTED] to stop reaching. Despite repeated commands, [REDACTED] refused to exit the vehicle. Sgt. Ceja noted his concerns for officer safety and, based on his training and experience, recognized that items such as weapons, alcohol, or narcotics, which could all have contributed to the crash, might be present. His actions were reasonable when considered in light of the totality of the circumstances. Officer Silva and Officer Coil gave similar statements. COPA states that [REDACTED] "made no furtive movement other than reaching for his keys." But that itself is a furtive movement and it is unreasonable for COPA to imply that a person who makes a statement such as this is always telling the truth. The officers do not know what he is reaching for and if he is reaching for contraband, particularly a weapon, it is very unlikely that he would state that. COPA goes on to state that the officers were told that the traffic crash may have been caused by a medical condition. But that statement does not mean that it definitely was caused by a medical condition. The officers did not know what caused the traffic crash and it was just as likely to have been caused due to intoxication.

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

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent
Chicago Police Department