



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent

April 21, 2026

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

Re: Superintendent's Partial Concurrence with Findings and Concurrence with Penalty Recommendations
Complaint Log No. 2024-0006291
Police Officer Bryan Schied #18279
Police Officer Connor Riley #15766
Police Officer John Sambo #4657
Police Officer Joseph Gniadek #19762

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 Police Officer Bryan Schied #18279, Police Officer Connor Riley #15766, Police Officer John Sambo #4657, Police Officer Joseph Gniadek #19762.

Brief Summary:

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a (1 - 10) one-to-ten-day suspension for Officer Schied after concluding that he:

1. Engaging in unprofessional behavior by directing words toward [REDACTED] to the effect of, "Get out of the fucking car, and "When we tell you to get out of the car, you get out of the fucking car."
2. Failing to de-escalate
3. Searching [REDACTED] belongings, without justification.
4. Searching [REDACTED] vehicle, without justification.
5. Violating Uniform and Property Order, U04-01.

The Department concurs with sustained allegations 1-5 and recommends a penalty consistent with the recommendation of a three (2) day suspension.

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a (1 - 10) one-to-ten-day suspension for Officer Riley after concluding that he:

1. Engaging in unprofessional behavior by directing words toward [REDACTED] to the effect of, "Put it right at his fucking head. We'll fucking shoot you. Get the fuck up right now, get up you fucker."
2. Failing to de-escalate.
3. Searching [REDACTED] belongings, without justification.
4. Searching [REDACTED] vehicle, without justification.
5. Violating Uniform and Property Order, U04-01.
6. Making and/or adopting a false, misleading, incomplete, and/or inaccurate statement in the Traffic Stop Statistical Study related to this incident by reporting, "Search Conducted: Vehicle N, Driver N."

The Department concurs with sustained allegations 1-5 and recommends a penalty consistent with the recommendation of a three (3) day suspension. Regarding sustained allegation six, the Department agrees that the statement was inaccurate and requests that the allegations and rule violations not include statements that the conduct is false, misleading, and incomplete. The Department requests that this conduct, which was an unintentional clerical error, not be addressed in the log process as an allegation of misconduct. The Department does not concur that this clerical error deteriorates public trust. As such, a finding of not sustained and training in report writing is sufficient to address this clerical error.

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a reprimand for Officer Sambo after concluding that he:

1. Failing to timely activate his body-worn camera.
2. Searching [REDACTED] belongings, without justification.
3. Searching [REDACTED] vehicle, without justification.

The Department concurs with sustained allegations 1 and recommends a penalty consistent with the recommendation of a reprimand. The Department does not concur with the sustained allegations two and three. Officer Sambo did not participate in the search of the vehicle and remained with [REDACTED] On page 9 of the closing summary report under Section E, Police Officer Sambo is not included in the analysis section of this allegation, yet COPA sustained the allegation against Police Officer Sambo. Regarding sustained allegations two and three, the Department requests a finding of unfounded.

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a (1 - 10) one-to-ten-day suspension for Officer Gniadek after concluding that he:

1. Pointing a firearm at [REDACTED] without justification.
2. Engaging in unprofessional behavior by directing words toward [REDACTED] to the effect of "Get out of the fucking car," and "I'm going to fucking shoot you. Get the fuck up right now," and Get up, motherfucker."
3. Failing to de-escalate
4. Searching [REDACTED] belongings, without justification.
5. Searching [REDACTED] vehicle, without justification.
6. Violating Uniform and Property Order, U04-01.

The Department concurs with sustained allegations 1-6 and recommends a penalty consistent with the recommendation of a three (3) day suspension.

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,



Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent
Chicago Police Department