



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent of Police

January 28, 2026

Lakenya White
Interim Chief Administrator
Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA)
1615 W. Chicago Ave., 4th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60622

Re: Superintendent's Non-Concurrence with COPA's Findings and Penalty
Recommendation
Complaint Log. 2023-0005126
Officer Dana Hillard Star #10880

Dear Interim Chief Administrator White:

After a careful review of the above referenced complaint log number, the Chicago Police Department (Department) does not concur with the recommended sustained finding nor with the penalty recommendation, as it pertains to Officer Dana Hillard, Star No. 10880. Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Department provides the following comments:

The COPA investigation recommended a suspension of 1-29 days for Officer Dana Hillard after concluding that he:

1. Engaging in an unjustified verbal altercation.
2. Failing to utilize de-escalation tactics.

The Department does not concur with allegation one or two for Officer Hillard and recommends a finding of Exonerated. The investigative file establishes that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] refused multiple lawful orders to leave the 002nd District after becoming disruptive in the lobby. Attachment #42 at pg 1. Both individuals subsequently battered officers. Attachment #42 at pg 1-2. Under these circumstances, the verbal exchange that occurred between Officer Hillard and the [REDACTED] was a reasonable response to an escalating and volatile situation.

Even if Officer Hillard issued firm directives or instructions to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] during this exchange, such commands were appropriate and necessary to restore order and maintain officer safety. COPA noted that Officer Hillard used some profane language during the encounter; however, the use of profanity does not render the verbal altercation unjustified, particularly in the context of managing two aggressive and noncompliant individuals.

Officer Hillard issued clear verbal commands and initially escorted out of the police station one of the offenders, who disobeyed the order, re-entered the station, and subsequently battered Officer Hillard. Later, while in the processing room, another verbal exchange occurred between the offenders and the

officers. It is important to note that officers should only leave a processing area once they are confident that the scene is secure. When Officer Hillard eventually exited the room, he allowed other personnel to maintain control of the situation. For the foregoing reasons, the Department does not concur with allegation one and two.

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

Sincerely,



Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent of Police
Chicago Police Department