



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent

May 14, 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 Non-Concurrence with Penalty
Recommendations Complaint Log No. 2024-0006641
Police Officer Jason Anderson Star No. 9054
Police Officer Kevin Rodriguez Star No. 14287

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 does not concur with the penalty recommendations as they pertain to Police Officer Jason Anderson, Star No. 9054 and Police Officer Kevin Rodriguez, Star No. 14287.

Brief Summary:

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a (30-89) thirty to eighty-nine day suspension for Police Officer Jason Anderson after concluding that he:

1. Conducted a pat down of [REDACTED] without justification.
2. Detained [REDACTED] without justification.
3. Providing a false, incomplete, inaccurate and/or misleading statement in Investigatory Stop Report that you observed [REDACTED] "smoking a tobacco filled blunt."
4. Providing a false, incomplete, inaccurate and/or misleading statement in Tactical Response Report by checking off "imminent threat of battery with weapon" when describing [REDACTED] actions.

The Department concurs with sustained allegations 1 and 2 and recommends a penalty of a five (5) day suspension.

Regarding sustained Allegation 3, there is no indication of intentional falsification or evidence that the officers acted in bad faith. Rather, the evidence reflects a mistaken observation, not a knowingly false statement. The

available evidence supports the conclusion that the officers acted in good faith and genuinely believed that Mr. [REDACTED] was smoking in violation of the municipal ordinance prohibiting smoking within 15 feet of a CTA bus stop, based on the observed hand motions and the possible presence of nearby smoke. Absent evidence to the contrary, the Department does not concur that this mistaken observation constitutes conduct that would erode public trust. Accordingly, a finding of not sustained is appropriate.

Regarding sustained Allegation 4, the officers selected the "immediate threat of battery with a weapon" designation on the TRR because Mr. [REDACTED] was armed with an illegal firearm and the officers believed that he was reaching toward his waistband as they attempted to seize the weapon. Under these circumstances, the presence of a firearm reasonably heightened the perceived threat level at the time of the encounter. It is also significant that the officers were not given an opportunity to clarify or explain their selection of the "immediate threat" designation. The TRR expressly instructs reporting officers that "[t]he involved member will not complete the narrative section for any firearm discharge incidents (with or without injury) or in any use of force incidents resulting in death."

Absent clear and convincing evidence of intentional falsification, and without additional context or an opportunity for the officers to explain the designation, the available facts do not support the conclusion that the officers included false, incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading statements in the TRR. Accordingly, a finding of not sustained is appropriate.

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a (30-89) one-to-ten-day suspension for Police Kevin Rodriguez after concluding that he:

1. Invertedly discharged a firearm in the possession of [REDACTED]
2. Detained [REDACTED] without justification.
3. Searching James Burks belongings, without justification.
4. Providing a false, incomplete, inaccurate and/or misleading statement in the Investigatory Stop Report that you observed [REDACTED] "smoking a tobacco-filled blunt."
5. Providing a false, incomplete, inaccurate and/or misleading statement in the Tactical Response Report by checking off "imminent threat of battery with weapon" when describing [REDACTED] actions.

The Department concurs with sustained Allegations 1 through 3 and recommends a fifteen-day suspension. It should be noted that Police Kevin Rodriguez is in inactive status.

Regarding sustained Allegation 4, there is no indication of intentional falsification or evidence that the officers acted in bad faith. Rather, the evidence reflects a mistaken observation, not a knowingly false statement. The available evidence supports the conclusion that the officers acted in good faith and genuinely believed that Mr. [REDACTED] was smoking in violation of the municipal ordinance prohibiting smoking within 15 feet of a CTA bus stop, based on the observed hand motions and the possible presence of nearby smoke. Absent evidence to the contrary, the Department does not concur that this mistaken observation constitutes conduct that would erode public trust. Accordingly, a finding of not sustained is appropriate.

Regarding sustained Allegation 5, the officers selected the "immediate threat of battery with a weapon" designation on the TRR because Mr. [REDACTED] was armed with an illegal firearm and the officers believed that he

was reaching toward his waistband as they attempted to seize the weapon. Under these circumstances, the presence of a firearm reasonably heightened the perceived threat level at the time of the encounter. It is also significant that the officers were not given an opportunity to clarify or explain their selection of the "immediate threat" designation. The TRR expressly instructs reporting officers that "[t]he involved member will not complete the narrative section for any firearm discharge incidents (with or without injury) or in any use of force incidents resulting in death."

Absent clear and convincing evidence of intentional falsification, and without additional context or an opportunity for the officers to explain the designation, the available facts do not support the conclusion that the officers included false, incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading statements in the TRR. Accordingly, a finding of not sustained is appropriate.

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,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Kelly A. Schnoor.

Kelly A. Schnoor
Department Advocate
Chicago Police Department

