



Log # 2024-0008061

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On October 28, 2024, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) received an initiation report from Lieutenant Tamara Margolis regarding Officer Davionta Morgan's use of force.² According to the initiation report, Officer Morgan struck [REDACTED] in the mouth, while holding his department issued handheld radio as he was attempting to place [REDACTED] into custody.³ Upon review of the evidence, COPA served Officer Morgan with two allegations; one for striking [REDACTED] with the radio and a second one for the language he used during the incident. Following its investigation, COPA reached sustained findings regarding both allegations.

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE⁴

On October 28, 2024, Officer Morgan was working with his partner Officer Granda.⁵ They were on routine patrol when they were dispatched to a call of an owner who had observed her stolen vehicle.⁶ When Officer Morgan and his partner arrived to the incident location, Officer Morgan spoke with two security guards on scene, while his partner spoke with the owners of the vehicle.⁷ Officer Morgan and the security guards spoke briefly about the vehicle and they subsequently led Officer Morgan into the building's parking lot to see the vehicle in question.⁸ As Officer Morgan and the security guards were walking back toward the vehicle, one of the security guards told Officer Morgan that somebody was inside the vehicle driving it.⁹ Officer Morgan called for his partner, while the security guards yelled for someone to lock the gate.¹⁰ [REDACTED] exited the stolen vehicle and Officer Morgan gave commands for [REDACTED] to stop.¹¹

¹ Appendix A includes case identifiers such as the date, time, and location of the incident, the involved parties and their demographics, and the applicable rules and policies.

² Att. 4.

³ One or more of these allegations fall within COPA's jurisdiction pursuant to Chicago Municipal Code § 2-78-120. Therefore, COPA determined it would be the primary investigative agency in this matter.

⁴ The following is a summary of what COPA finds most likely occurred during this incident. This summary utilized information from several different sources, including BWC footage, police reports, civilian interviews, and officer interviews.

⁵ Att. 48, pg. 7, lns. 6 to 14.

⁶ Att. 48, pg. 7, lns. 19 to 24; pg. 8, lns. 1 to 2.

⁷ Att. 2 at 2:00 to 4:23.

⁸ Att. 2 at 2:25 to 4:30.

⁹ Att. 2 at 4:30 to 4:52.

¹⁰ Att. 2 at 4:57 to 5:00.

¹¹ Att. 2 at 5:11 to 5:14.

█████ started fleeing from Officer Morgan and he gave chase.¹² During the pursuit, Officer Morgan made a comment to █████ that he was going to “fuck him up” when he gets him.¹³ Officer Morgan finally caught up with █████ on some stairs; while on the stairs, Officer Morgan told █████ to “sit the fuck down” and hit him numerous times in the mouth area with his department issued radio.¹⁴ Officer Morgan told █████ to “give him his fucking hands” while placing him into handcuffs, he also called for EMS.¹⁵ █████ also confirmed that Officer Morgan hit him in the mouth with his radio multiple times.¹⁶ According to █████ about four of his teeth were affected by Officer Morgan’s action, including some being completely broken and others chipped.¹⁷

Officer Morgan was also interviewed about this incident. According to Officer Morgan, as he and █████ were going up the stairs, █████ started kicking back at him. As they fell, Officer Morgan perceived █████ to throw his arm back to hit him to defeat the arrest.¹⁸ Officer Morgan also admitted to striking █████ three times with his department issued radio in the mouth.¹⁹ Officer Morgan stated that when he caught █████ he held him with his left hand to prevent him from running any further, and when █████ began to strike him, the only available hand was his right hand, where his radio was.²⁰ According to Officer Morgan, █████ kicked him twice and then he began his strikes.²¹ Officer Morgan considered █████ an assailant because he struck him and he tried to defeat the arrest by fleeing on foot, and as such Officer Morgan understood that department policy allowed him to use his radio as an improvised impact weapon.²² However, Officer Morgan did not intend to hit him in the mouth area with the radio.²³ Officer Morgan admitted that he stated words to the effect of “I’m going to fuck you up when I get you,” and/or “sit the fuck down,” and/or “give me your fucking hands”.²⁴ Officer Morgan stated that he used this language because in his experience, using vulgar language usually gets people to realize that you are serious and gets them to comply.²⁵ Officer Morgan also stated that he never intended to injure █████ and the striking only came after he was battered and █████ became an assailant.²⁶

¹² Att. 2 at 5:14 to 5:53.

¹³ Att. 2 at 5:44 to 5:46.

¹⁴ Att. 2 at 5:55 to 6:02.

¹⁵ Att. 2 at 6:18 to 6:50.

¹⁶ Att. 43, pg. 10, lns. 9 to 15.

¹⁷ Att. 43, pg. 12, lns. 1 to 18.

¹⁸ Att. 48, pg. 12, lns. 20 to 24.

¹⁹ Att. 48, pg. 13, lns. 1 to 15.

²⁰ Att. 48, pg. 14, lns. 23 to 24; pg. 15, lns. 1 to 6.

²¹ Att. 48, pg. 16, lns. 15 to 17.

²² Att. 48, pg. 21, lns. 1 to 7.

²³ Att. 48, pg. 23, lns. 4 to 17.

²⁴ Att. 48, pg. 17, lns. 8 to 11.

²⁵ Att. 48, pg. 17, lns. 12 to 17.

²⁶ Att. 48, pg. 25, lns. 18 to 24; pg. 26, lns. 7 to 8.

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer Davionta Morgan:

1. Struck [REDACTED] multiple times with a department issued radio in the mouth area, without justification.
 - Sustained, in violation of Rules 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10.
2. Directed profane to [REDACTED] by stating words to the effect of "I'm going to fuck you up when I get you" and/or "sit the fuck down" and/or "give me your fucking hands."
 - Sustained, in violation of Rules 2, 3, 8 and 9.

IV. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The credibility of an individual relies primarily on two factors: 1) the individual's truthfulness and 2) the reliability of the individual's account. The first factor addresses the honesty of the individual making the statement, while the second factor speaks to the individual's ability to accurately recall the event from memory. Here, Officer Morgan admitted to his actions and provided reasons why he took those actions. COPA does not find any untruthfulness in his answers. However, COPA questions the reliability of Officer Morgan's account. Officer Morgan stated that [REDACTED] kicked him, but BWC video does not support that assertion. COPA also does not doubt the creditability of [REDACTED] COPA finds all parties were being truthful when providing their respective statements.

V. ANALYSIS²⁷

COPA finds the allegation of Officer Morgan striking [REDACTED] with a department radio, without justification **Sustained**. Rule 9 prohibits officers from engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty. Here, Officer Morgan admitted to striking [REDACTED] multiple times in the mouth area with his department radio. According to Officer Morgan, he considered [REDACTED] an assailant because he struck him and he tried to defeat the arrest by fleeing on foot. Officer Morgan also stated that he was authorized to use his radio as an improvised impact weapon. While General Order G03-02-07 does allow for a radio to be used as an improvised impact weapon²⁸, it restricts members from using it to intentionally strike a person in the head or neck except when deadly force is justified.²⁹ This was not a deadly force incident and while Officer Morgan admitted to striking [REDACTED] in the face/mouth area because that was the only part of his body accessible to him, COPA does not agree with Officer Morgan's assessment. There were other parts of [REDACTED] body accessible to Officer Morgan besides [REDACTED]

²⁷ For a definition of COPA's findings and standards of proof, *see* Appendix B.

²⁸ Att. 49 G03-02-07(II)(E)(3).

²⁹ Att. 49 G03-02-07(II)(E)(1).

face/mouth that Officer Morgan could have struck. Also, BWC footage does not support Officer Morgan's assertion that [REDACTED] kicked him. Further, just minutes before Officer Morgan struck [REDACTED] with the radio, he told [REDACTED] that he was going to fuck him up when he caught him. As such, COPA finds this allegation sustained.

COPA finds the allegation of directing profane language to [REDACTED] against Officer Morgan, **Sustained**. Rule 8 prohibits disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty. Here, Officer Morgan admitted to stating words to the effect of "I'm going to fuck you up when I get you" and/or "sit the fuck down" and/or "give me your fucking hands" to [REDACTED]. Officer Morgan stated that he used this language because in his experience, using vulgar language usually gets people to realize that you are serious and it gets them to comply. COPA does not agree with the language Officer Morgan used and finds the language disrespectful to [REDACTED] and as such, COPA finds this allegation sustained.

VI. DISCIPLINARY RECOMMENDATION

a. Officer Davionta Morgan

i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History³⁰

As of November 7, 2025, Officer Morgan has received a total of 33 awards, including three Life Saving Award, one Department Commendation Award, one Joint Operations Award, one Democratic Convention Service Award (2024), and 26 Honorable Mention Certificate. In the last five years, Officer Morgan has no Sustained Complaints History. In the last five years, Officer Morgan has a Spar History showing four Sustained Findings for Indebtedness to the City, Current IL License Plates and/or City Vehicle Sticker, and Preventable Accident (2x) resulting in Reprimand (2x) and 1 Day Off (2x).

ii. Recommended Discipline

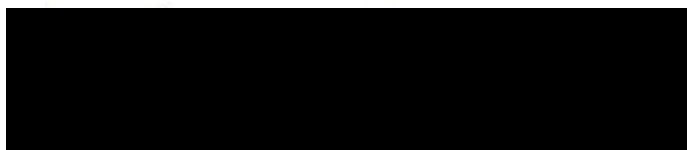
COPA has found that Officer Morgan violated Rules 2, 3, 8, 9, and 10 when he struck [REDACTED] multiple times with a department issued radio in the mouth area, without justification, and directed profane or abusive language to [REDACTED] by stating words to the effect of "I'm going to fuck you up when I get you" and/or "sit the fuck down" and/or "give me your fucking hands." In aggravation, [REDACTED] is a juvenile, struck by an improvised impact weapon (Officer Morgan's radio) in or near the mouth area. BWC does not support Officer Morgan's statements that [REDACTED] was an assailant and therefore, the improvised impact weapon (radio) was acceptable. In mitigation, the events were quickly occurring, [REDACTED] actively attempted to defeat his arrest, and it is within reasonableness that Officer Morgan may have believed [REDACTED] attempted to kick him.

Based on the above, COPA recommends **30 – 89 Days Suspension**.

³⁰ Att. 51.

In addition to the recommended penalty range, COPA recommends that CPD consider the presence of aggravating and mitigating factors to determine how discipline should be applied consistently and fairly across all involved members.

Approved:



11-28-2025

Angela Hearts-Glass
Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

Date

Appendix A**Case Details**

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	October 28, 2024/ 4:35 pm/ 4611 S. Drexel Blvd.
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	October 28, 2024/ 9:35pm
Involved Member #1:	Davionta Morgan star# 3196, employee ID# [REDACTED] Date of Appointment: August 31, 2022, 002, Male, Black
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] Male, Black

Applicable Rules

- ☒ **Rule 2:** Any action or conduct which impedes the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.
- ☒ **Rule 3:** Any failure to promote the Department's efforts to implement its policy or accomplish its goals.
- ☒ **Rule 8:** Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty.
- ☒ **Rule 9:** Engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.
- ☒ **Rule 10:** Inattention to duty.

Applicable Policies and Laws

- General Order G03-02-01: Response to Resistance and Force Options (effective June 28, 2023 to present)
- General Order G03-02-07: Baton Use Incidents (effective June 28, 2023 to present)

Appendix B

Definition of COPA's Findings and Standards of Proof

For each Allegation, COPA must make one of the following findings:

1. Sustained – where it is determined the allegation is supported by a preponderance of the evidence;
2. Not Sustained – where it is determined there is insufficient evidence to prove the allegations by a preponderance of the evidence;
3. Unfounded – where it is determined by clear and convincing evidence that an allegation is false or not factual; or
4. Exonerated – where it is determined by clear and convincing evidence that the conduct described in the allegation occurred, but it is lawful and proper.

A **preponderance of evidence** can be described as evidence indicating that it is **more likely than not** that a proposition is proved.³¹ For example, if the evidence gathered in an investigation establishes that it is more likely that the conduct complied with CPD policy than that it did not, even if by a narrow margin, then the preponderance of the evidence standard is met.

Clear and convincing evidence is a higher standard than a preponderance of the evidence but lower than the “beyond-a-reasonable doubt” standard required to convict a person of a criminal offense. Clear and convincing can be defined as a “degree of proof, which, considering all the evidence in the case, produces the firm and abiding belief that it is highly probable that the proposition . . . is true.”³²

³¹ See *Avery v. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co.*, 216 Ill. 2d 100, 191 (2005) (a proposition is proved by a preponderance of the evidence when it is found to be more probably true than not).

³² *People v. Coan*, 2016 IL App (2d) 151036, ¶ 28 (quoting Illinois Pattern Jury Instructions, Criminal, No. 4.19 (4th ed. 2000)).

Appendix C

Transparency and Publication Categories

Check all that apply:

- ☐ Abuse of Authority
- ☐ Body Worn Camera Violation
- ☐ Coercion
- ☐ Death or Serious Bodily Injury in Custody
- ☐ Domestic Violence
- ☒ Excessive Force
- ☐ Failure to Report Misconduct
- ☐ False Statement
- ☐ Firearm Discharge
- ☐ Firearm Discharge – Animal
- ☐ Firearm Discharge – Suicide
- ☐ Firearm Discharge – Unintentional
- ☐ First Amendment
- ☐ Improper Search and Seizure – Fourth Amendment Violation
- ☐ Incidents in Lockup
- ☐ Motor Vehicle Incidents
- ☐ OC Spray Discharge
- ☐ Search Warrants
- ☐ Sexual Misconduct
- ☐ Taser Discharge
- ☐ Unlawful Denial of Access to Counsel
- ☐ Unnecessary Display of a Weapon
- ☐ Use of Deadly Force – other
- ☒ Verbal Abuse
- ☐ Other Investigation