



Log # 2024-0008629

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On December 2, 2024, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) received a referral complaint from the City of Chicago's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) from [REDACTED] reporting alleged misconduct by a member of the Chicago Police Department (CPD).² [REDACTED] alleged that on November 23, 2024, Sgt. Lonnie Young used excessive force and failed to use de-escalation techniques with members of the group Al Hub, who had been protesting at a library event.³ Upon review of the evidence, COPA served additional allegations against Sgt. Young for directing profanity at a civilian, failing to identify himself when requested by a civilian, and for failing to properly document his use of force in a Tactical Response Report (TRR).

COPA conducted a thorough investigation of this incident, which included interviews with the complainant, 10 Chicago Public Library (CPL) employees, a witness security guard, and two CPD members.⁴ COPA also obtained and reviewed local media coverage of the library event preceding the use of force incident, CPD radio transmissions, reports completed by CPD and library security staff, and body-worn camera (BWC) video from CPD and the University of Chicago Police Department (UCPD). Finally, COPA requested and obtained an Affidavit Override from CPD's Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) addressing allegations of misconduct against Sgt. Young that were not included in [REDACTED] initial complaint.⁵

Following its investigation, COPA reached sustained, not sustained, exonerated, and unfounded findings regarding the allegations.

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

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. 1 and 2.

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 COPA also attempted to interview the two civilians who were arrested during this incident by contacting their criminal defense attorneys. However, COPA's attempts to interview them were unsuccessful. *See also* CMS Notes CO-1433892, CO-1443424 CO-1444073; Att. 102, pg. 1 and Att. 129.

⁵ Atts. 103 and 105.

On November 23, 2024, CPL hosted a *Story Time with Tiffany Haddish* event in the children's library of the Blackstone branch, located at 4904 S. Lake Park Ave.⁶ [REDACTED] who was not present for this incident, reported that Al Hub⁷ planned to meet at the library after learning that Haddish was the guest storyteller at the event.⁸ Sgt. Young reported that he was assigned to report to the library after a group (Al Hub), convened at the library in protest of Haddish's presence.⁹

After Sgt. Young's arrival, a woman identified by [REDACTED] only as "[REDACTED]" approached Sgt. Young and attempted to provoke a debate regarding pedophilia allegations against Haddish.¹⁰ Sgt. Young did not engage and [REDACTED] complied when Sgt ordered her to walk away.¹¹ After [REDACTED] walked away, an unidentified male approached Sgt. Young and attempted to talk to him about Haddish.¹² Sgt. Young reported that the unidentified male became agitated, then he threatened to physically harm Sgt. Young.¹³ Sgt. Young reported that after receiving the threat, he called Sgt. James Beavers for assistance.¹⁴

Upon Sgt. Beavers' arrival at the library, he was met by [REDACTED] who reported to him that Haddish had spat on her. However, this claim was refuted by CPL Security Officer Bertha Johnson and a man who identified himself only as Haddish's security.¹⁵ As Sgt. Beavers investigated [REDACTED] claim, the unidentified male entered the children's library where Haddish was reading to guests, most of whom were children. As Haddish read to the guests, the unidentified male became vocally disruptive. In response, Sgt. Young escorted the unidentified male to the outside of the library.¹⁶ Sgt. Young then reentered library where he ordered [REDACTED] to leave.¹⁷ When [REDACTED] refused Sgt. Young's order, he escorted her to the library's entry doors.¹⁸ There, [REDACTED] threw a cup of hot coffee on Sgt. Young.¹⁹ Sgt. Young attempted to apprehend [REDACTED] however [REDACTED] and the unidentified male began to batter Sgt. Young,

⁶ Haddish had recently co-authored a children's book titled "Layla, the Last Black Unicorn", which she read to the children during the story time event. Haddish is also a well-known comedian and actress who has appeared in popular films.

⁷ According to their website, the Al Hub Forum is a grassroots initiative to uplift Palestinian and allied youth in Chicago. See <https://www.alhub.org>.

⁸ Att. 44, pg. 5, ln. 15 to pg. 6, ln. 12, pg. 6, ln. 23 to pg. 7, ln. 4, pg. 24, ln. 18 to pg. 25, ln. 6, and pg. 25, ln. 21 to ln. 23.

⁹ Att. 115, pg. 10, ln. 4 to pg. 11, ln. 10.

¹⁰ Att. 3 at 2:44 to 3:18; Att. 44, pg. 10, lns. 1 to 9, pg. 12, lns. 1 to 12, and pg. 14, ln. 23 to pg. 15, ln. 4.

¹¹ Att. 115, pg. 15, lns. 2 to 4.

¹² Note: The unidentified male protester was dressed in light-colored [REDACTED] a tan and navy hooded jacket, and a black and white bandana. See Att. 3 at 3:20 to 3:28 and Att. 115, pg. 15, lns. 5 to 7.

¹³ Att. 3 at 3:28 to 3:44; Att. 115, pg. 15, lns. 8 to 10; and Att. 116, pg. 6, lns. 6 to 10, pg. 8, lns. 20 to 23.

¹⁴ Att. 115, pg. 14, ln. 21 to pg. 15, ln. 11, and Att. 116, pg. 6, lns. 6 to 10, and pg. 8, lns. 20 to 23.

¹⁵ Note: [REDACTED] followed Sgt. Beavers into the library while he investigated her claim, while the unidentified man entered the library separately. See Att. 5 at 4:32 to 5:32; Att. 116, pg. 6, lns. 10 to 13; Att. 71, pg. 4, ln. 23 to pg. 5, ln. 3, and Att. 115, pg. 15, lns. 12 to 17.

¹⁶ Att. 4 at 3:19 to 3:50; Att. 5 at 3:56 to 4:04, and Att. 115, pg. 15, ln. 21 to pg. 16, ln. 2.

¹⁷ Att. 4 at 4:27 to 4:34.

¹⁸ Att. 4 at 4:30 to 4:42; Att. 44, pg. 10, lns. 1 to 9, and Att. 115, pg. 16, lns. 3 to 6.

¹⁹ Att. 4 at 4:42 to 4:52; Att. 115, pg. 16, lns. 3 to 11, and pg. 17, lns. 5 to 7.

causing him to lose physical control of [REDACTED] allowing her to flee from the library and escape the scene.²⁰

Sgt. Young reported that after [REDACTED] fled, he directed his attention to [REDACTED]²¹ Sgt. Young reported that as he attempted to place [REDACTED] into custody, she stiffened her body and pulled away from him.²² As [REDACTED] resisted Sgt. Young's attempt to apprehend her, [REDACTED] wrapped his arms around [REDACTED] to physically shield her from being arrested.²³ With the assistance of Sgt. Beavers, Sgt. Young was ultimately able to place [REDACTED] into custody.²⁴

After [REDACTED] was in custody, Sgt. Young approached [REDACTED] but did not immediately arrest him.²⁵ Sgt. Young explained that he had made the decision to arrest [REDACTED] as [REDACTED] was battering him; however, there was a lapse in time between when he was battered and when he arrested [REDACTED] because he needed to retrieve a second pair of handcuffs.²⁶ Initially, Sgt. Young could not explain why he did not ask Sgt. Beavers to take [REDACTED] into custody.²⁷ Then Sgt. Young explained that despite Sgt. Beavers' presence and them holding the same role, including the authority to make an arrest, he did not think to ask Sgt. Beavers to arrest [REDACTED] because he (Sgt. Young) was the person who had been battered, and it was his arrest, so he was going to take [REDACTED] into custody.²⁸

After retrieving the second pair handcuffs, Sgt. Young approached [REDACTED] to place him in custody.²⁹ As Sgt. Young advanced towards [REDACTED] backed away and attempted to flee as he yelled, "What I did do?"³⁰ Simultaneously, Sgt. Young extended his left hand and made contact with [REDACTED] throat for approximately two seconds, then performed a takedown, causing [REDACTED] to fall backwards as Sgt. Young landed on top of him.³¹ After Sgt. Young performed the takedown, he stated, "This motherfucker, he hit me too", referring to [REDACTED]³² In response, [REDACTED] denied Sgt. Young's claim.³³ With the assistance of Sgt. Beavers, Sgt. Young handcuffed [REDACTED] then escorted him to a nearby CPD vehicle.³⁴

²⁰ Att. 4 at 4:52 to 5:00; Att. 115, pg. 16, lns. 7 to 8, pg. 17, lns. 5 to 7, pg. 22, lns. 17 to 18, and pg. 64, lns. 11 to 22.

²¹ Att. 115, pg. 16, ln. 17 to pg. 17, ln. 14.

²² Att. 115, pg. 17, lns. 14 to 16.

²³ Att. 4 at 5:16 to 6:07 and Att. 5 at 5:57 to 6:13.

²⁴ Att. 4 at 5:28 to 6:12; Att. 5 at 6:04 to 6:38; Att. 115, pg. 17, lns. 16 to 18; and Att. 116, pg. 13, lns. 13 to 22.

²⁵ Att. 4 at 6:25 to 6:27 and Att. 5 at 7:09 to 7:10.

²⁶ Att. 115, pg. 71, lns. 2 to 12 and Att. 4 at 6:30 to 7:04.

²⁷ Att. 115, pg. 48, lns. 10 to 15.

²⁸ Att. 115, pg. 49, lns. 1 to 7, pg. 70, lns. 2 to 17, and pg. 71, ln. 23 to pg. 72, ln. 22.

²⁹ Att. 115, pg. 17 lns. 19 to 23.

³⁰ Att. 115, pg. 26, lns. 13 to 23.

³¹ Att. 4 at 7:04 to 7:22, Att. 5 at 7:49 to 7:52, and Att. 115, pg. 26, ln. 24 to pg. 27, ln. 1.

³² Att. 4 at 7:26 to 7:29 and Att. 5 at 7:56 to 7:59.

³³ Att. 4, at 7:06 to 7:30 and Att. 5 at 7:45 to 8:01.

³⁴ Att. 4 at 7:28 to 7:46 and Att. 5 at 7:53 to 8:22.

After [REDACTED] was taken into custody, Sgt. Young walked the perimeter of the library in search of [REDACTED].³⁵ As Sgt. Young returned to the front of the library, an unidentified woman approached him and asked for his badge number.³⁶ In response, Sgt. Young said, "Move" as he walked past her without providing the requested information.³⁷ Sgt. Young explained that he did not see or hear the woman because he was focused on locating [REDACTED].³⁸

[REDACTED] was not arrested for battering Sgt. Young.³⁹ [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were transported to the 002nd District where they were charged with aggravated battery to a police officer and resisting or obstructing a peace officer.⁴⁰ They both pleaded guilty to one count of misdemeanor reckless conduct and received probation, while the remaining felony counts against them were dismissed.⁴¹

III. ALLEGATIONS

Sgt. Lonnie Young:

1. Performing a takedown of [REDACTED] without justification.
 - **Exonerated.**
2. Directing pressure to [REDACTED] throat, without justification.
 - **Not sustained.**
3. Failing to use de-escalation techniques to prevent or reduce the need for the use of force, without justification.
 - **Unfounded.**
4. Referring to [REDACTED] as "motherfucker".
 - **Sustained, in violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9.**
5. Failing to identify yourself when requested by a civilian.
 - **Not sustained.**
6. Failing to properly document your use of force in a Tactical Response Report (TRR).
 - **Not sustained.**

IV. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

³⁵ Att. 4 at 7:48 to 10:04 and Att. 115, pg. 61, ln. 17 to pg. 62, ln. 6.

³⁶ Att. 4 at 10:05 to 10:09.

³⁷ Att. 4 at 10:09 to 10:10.

³⁸ Att. 115, pg. 60, ln. 9 to pg. 61, ln. 6, pg. 62, lns. 1 to 14, and pg. 63, lns. 4 to 5.

³⁹ Att. 115, pg. 22, ln. 23 to pg. 23, ln. 1, pg. 63, ln. 15 to 17, and pg. 64, ln. 19 to 22.

⁴⁰ Atts. 98 to 100, 111 to 112, and 119.

⁴¹ Atts. 111 and 119.

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 perceive the event at the time of the incident and then accurately recall the event from memory.

In her statement to COPA, ██████ stated that she was out of town when this incident occurred, only learning about it after her return.⁴² ██████ account of this incident is based on a review of videos recorded and shared with her by members of Al Hub.⁴³ ██████ explained that she was no longer in possession of the videos she reviewed, and she could not recall who recorded the videos or who shared the videos with her.⁴⁴ ██████ account of the incident was partially consistent with the available evidence, while other parts of her statement were incomplete and inconsistent. ██████ conceded to COPA that the videos she viewed did not capture the incident in its entirety.⁴⁵

For example, ██████ reported that ██████ was pulled from the library without warning and that she had to slip off her jacket to avoid Sgt. Young's aggression.⁴⁶ However, ██████ failed to mention, or did not know, that Sgt. Young had ordered ██████ to leave the library, and when she refused, she was escorted out and then threw hot coffee on Sgt. Young.⁴⁷ ██████ described Sgt. Young's behavior as aggressive, but also neglected to mention, or did not know, that multiple people battered Sgt. Young.⁴⁸ While ██████ correctly stated that Sgt. Young forced ██████ to the ground, she either failed to mention, or did not know, that ██████ had battered Sgt. Young not long before, and that ██████ attempted to flee as Sgt. Young closed the gap between them to arrest ██████.⁴⁹

While some of ██████ statement is corroborated by available evidence, she also provided an account of the incident that omitted relevant portions of her friends' actions while highlighting what she perceived as Sgt. Young's misconduct. Given these inaccuracies, and in light of the fact that was not present during the incident, COPA finds that her credibility is mixed.

Sgt. Young's statement to COPA was forthright and credible. Sgt. Young acknowledged performing a takedown and directing profanity at ██████.⁵⁰ Sgt. Young explained that he did not know why he used such language to reference ██████.⁵¹ Initially, Sgt. Young said that he

⁴² Att. 44, pg. 24, lns. 2 to 3.

⁴³ Att. 44, pg. 22, lns. 10 to 12.

⁴⁴ Att. 44, pg. 13, lns. 7 to 7 to 9, pg. 20, ln. 12 to pg. 21 ln. 5, pg. 22, lns. 10 to 14, pg. 48, lns. 19 to 20, and pg. 55, lns. 1 to 3.

⁴⁵ Att. 44, pg. 12, ln. 21 to pg. 13, ln. 6, and pg. 13 lns. 19 to 22.

⁴⁶ Att. 44, pg. 11, lns. 15 to 24.

⁴⁷ Att. 4 at 4:42 to 4:52

⁴⁸ Att. 4 at 4:52 to 5:00; Att. 115, pg. 16, lns. 7 to 8, pg. 17, ln. 7, pg. 22, lns. 17 to 18, and pg. 64, lns. 11 to 22.

⁴⁹ Att. 44, pg. 56, ln.10 to 12 and pg. 57, ln. 3 to 22

⁵⁰ Att. 115, pg. 17, lns. 22 to 23, pg. 26, ln. 24, and pg. 58, lns. 8 to 22. ⁵¹ Att. 115, pg. 57, ln. 5 to 14, pg. 58, lns. 8 to 24, and pg. 79, lns. 11 to 15.

⁵¹ Att. 115, pg. 57, ln. 5 to 14, pg. 58, lns. 8 to 24, and pg. 79, lns. 11 to 15.

did not recall placing his hand around [REDACTED] throat, but after reviewing BWC video of the incident he acknowledged his actions, but he denied applying pressure to [REDACTED] throat.⁵² Sgt. Young stated that he did not realize that he had placed his hand on [REDACTED] throat and that he drafted his TRR without the viewing BWC video.⁵³ Sgt. Young added that had he known, he would have documented his actions in his TRR.⁵⁴ Based on Sgt. Young's responses and behavior during his COPA interview, he seemed to recognize his conduct, and he appeared to be remorseful and drained, suggesting that this incident had taken a toll on him. Overall, COPA finds Sgt. Young credible.

Sgt. Beavers' statement did not reveal any evidence calling into question his credibility. Sgt. Beavers was forthcoming, and his account of the incident is consistent with other available evidence.

COPA interviewed 10 CPL employees and Security Officer Johnson.⁵⁵ Security Officer Johnson provided a statement that was consistent with Sgt. Young and Sgt. Beavers' account of the incident.⁵⁶ Security Officer Johnson's statement did not reveal any evidence calling into question her credibility. None of the library employees witnessed the misconduct as alleged. Their statements were materially consistent with the available evidence and COPA finds them credible.

V. ANALYSIS⁵⁷

a. Sgt Young's Use of Force.

i. The Takedown.

COPA finds that **allegation #1** against Sgt. Young, that he performed a takedown of [REDACTED] without justification, is **exonerated**. CPD policy requires that Department members' use of force must objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional under the totality of the circumstances, including using the minimum amount of force needed under the circumstances.⁵⁸ In addition, CPD policy defines an active resister as a person who attempts to create distance between himself or herself and the member's reach with the intent to avoid physical control and/or defeat the arrest.⁵⁹ CPD defines a person who is using or threatening the use of force against another person or himself/herself which is likely to cause physical injury is an assailant. Assailants are divided into two categories, the first consisting of a person whose actions are aggressively offensive with or without a weapon, and the second consisting of a person whose actions constitute

⁵² Att. 115, pg. 29, lns. 17 to pg. 30, ln. 1, and pg. 49, ln. 10 to pg. 51 ln. 4.

⁵³ Att. 115, pg. 52, lns. 5 to 8.

⁵⁴ Att. 115, pg. 30, lns. 2 to 5, pg. 51, lns. 15 to pg. 52, ln. 7; and Att. 115, pg. 79, ln. 23 to pg. 80, ln. 217, lns. 19 to 23, pg. 58, lns. 8 to 24, pg. 79, lns. 11 to 15, and pg. 77, lns. 14 to 22.

⁵⁵ Atts. 54, 71, 72, 79, 101, and 122 to 127.

⁵⁶ Att. 71, pg. 4, ln. 23 to pg. 5, ln. 3.

⁵⁷ For a definition of COPA's findings and standards of proof, see Appendix B.

⁵⁸ Att. 120, G03-02-01(II)(C), Response to Resistance and Force Options (effective June 28, 2023, to present).

⁵⁹ Att. 120, G03-02-01(IV)(B)(2) .

an imminent threat of death or great bodily harm to a CPD member or another person.⁶⁰ CPD authorizes its members to employ stunning strikes, takedowns, canines, and tasers when responding to subjects whose level of resistance is that of an active resisters or an assailant.⁶¹ CPD defines a takedown as the act of physically directing an active resister to the ground to limit physical resistance, prevent escape, or increase the potential for controlling the individual.⁶²

Sgt. Young described [REDACTED] as an assailant because [REDACTED] had battered him.⁶³ Sgt. Young explained that from the moment he was battered, it was his intent to arrest [REDACTED] but he needed a pair of handcuffs to effect the arrest.⁶⁴ After Sgt. Young retrieved the second set of handcuffs, he walked towards [REDACTED] who created distance between himself and Sgt. Young, then attempted to flee, as he yelled “What I did do?”⁶⁵ [REDACTED] behavior demonstrated that he was aware that Sgt. Young was approaching him with the intent to handcuff and arrest him. As a result of [REDACTED] attempt to avoid physical control by fleeing, he became an active resister, which justified Sgt. Young using a takedown to prevent [REDACTED] from escaping.

Given that [REDACTED] was an active resister at the time Sgt. Young utilized the takedown, COPA finds that his use of force complies with CPD policy. Therefore, this allegation is **exonerated**.

ii. Directing Pressure to [REDACTED] Throat.

COPA finds that **allegation #2** against Sgt. Young, that he directed pressure to [REDACTED] throat without justification, is **not sustained**. CPD policy prohibits the application of a chokehold, carotid artery restraint, and the application of other restraints above the shoulders with risk of positional asphyxiation, with the sole exception being as an act of last resort or when necessary to protect against an imminent threat to life.⁶⁶ CPD also prohibits the application of carotid artery restraints, chokeholds, or other restraint above the shoulders with risk of positional asphyxiation as a takedown technique.⁶⁷

Here, BWC video established that Sgt. Young placed his hand onto [REDACTED] throat for approximately two seconds.⁶⁸ Sgt. Young acknowledged that he made contact with [REDACTED] throat.⁶⁹ Sgt. Young explained although he placed his hand onto [REDACTED] throat, it was not intentional.⁷⁰ Despite Sgt. Young making contact with [REDACTED] throat, there is no evidence to

⁶⁰ Att. 120, G03-02-01(IV)(C).

⁶¹ Att. 120, G03-02-01(IV)(B)(2)(c) and G03-02-01(IV)(C)(2).

⁶² Att. 120, G03-02-01(IV)(B)(2)(c)(3)

⁶³ Att. 115, pg. 44, ln. 22 to pg. 45, ln. 9.

⁶⁴ Att. 115, pg. 37, lns. 11 to 14, and pg. 71, lns. 4 to 5.

⁶⁵ Att. 115, pg. 26, lns. 13 to 23.

⁶⁶ Att. 117, G03-02(IV)(D)(2-3) De-escalation, Response to Resistance, and Use of Force (effective June 28, 2023 to present).

⁶⁷ Att. 117, G03-02(IV)(D)(4).

⁶⁸ Att. 5 at 7:51 to 7:53.

⁶⁹ Att. 115, pg. 49, ln. 10 to pg. 50 ln. 24.

⁷⁰ Att. 115, pg. 53, lns. 4 to 15 and pg. 55, ln. 19 to pg. 56, ln. 2.

prove that Sgt. Young applied direct pressure to [REDACTED] throat, windpipe or airway, or restricted [REDACTED] ability to breathe. During the incident, [REDACTED] did not claim to be choked and he did not give any indication that he could not breathe, nor did he give any verbal or non-verbal indications to suggest that he had been. COPA attempted to speak with [REDACTED] however, COPA's attempt were unsuccessful.⁷¹ Without additional evidence to establish that Sgt. Young applied direct pressure to [REDACTED] throat, airway or restrained his carotid artery, such as testimony from [REDACTED] COPA is unable to prove this allegation by a preponderance of the evidence; therefore, this allegation is **not sustained**.

iii. De-escalation Techniques.

COPA finds allegation #3, that Sgt. Young failed to utilize de-escalation techniques to prevent or reduce the need for the use of force, is **unfounded**. CPD requires its members to use de-escalation techniques to prevent or reduce the need for force, unless doing so would place a person or a Department member in immediate risk of harm, or de-escalation techniques would be ineffective under the current circumstance.⁷² This includes continually assessing the situation, and modifying the use of force as circumstances change and in ways that are consistent with officer safety.⁷³ Another authorized de-escalation technique is requesting additional personnel to respond.⁷⁴ Here, BWC video depicted Sgt. Young using communication skills to de-escalate [REDACTED] and the unidentified male's deliberate attempts to provoke a debate with him.⁷⁵ Sgt. Young reported, and Sgt. Beavers corroborated, that he called for backup after the unidentified male threatened to batter him.⁷⁶ Additionally, Sgt. Young gave verbal commands to the unidentified man and [REDACTED] before escorting both from the library after they refused to leave.⁷⁷ Despite Sgt. Young's efforts, the situation escalated after [REDACTED] threw hot coffee on Sgt. Young, followed by the other civilians battering him.⁷⁸ After battering Sgt. Young, [REDACTED] created distance between himself and Sgt. Young to avoid arrest.⁷⁹ Ultimately, Sgt. Young closed the gap between them, then conducted a takedown.⁸⁰

Contrary to [REDACTED] allegation, the evidence indicates that Sgt. Young made multiple good faith attempts to de-escalate the incident. While CPD policy mandates its members to use de-escalation techniques, it does not require those de-escalation techniques to be successful. The necessity for use of force is not an indication that Sgt. Young failed to use de-escalation techniques. A review of available evidence shows Sgt. Young made reasonable attempts to de-escalate the

⁷¹ CMS Note: CO-1433892.

⁷² Att. 117, G03-02 (II)(D).

⁷³ Att. 117, G03-02(II) (D)(1-2).

⁷⁴ Att. 117, G03-02(II)(D)(2)(c).

⁷⁵ Att. 3 at 2:46 to 3:45.

⁷⁶ Att. 115, pg. 15, lns. 5 to 11; Att. 116, pg. 6, lns. 6 to 10, and pg. 8, lns. 20 to 23.

⁷⁷ Att. 115, pg. 15, ln. 21 to pg. 16, ln. 6 and pg. 20, lns. 7 to 17.

⁷⁸ Att. 4 at 4:42 to 4:52 and Att. 4 at 4:52 to 5:00.

⁷⁹ Att. 4 at 7:18 to 7:21 and Att. 115, pg. 26, lns. 13 to 23.

⁸⁰ Att. 4 at 7:21 to 7:22.

incident in accordance with CPD policy. COPA therefore finds this allegation is **unfounded** by clear and convincing evidence.

b. Verbal Abuse.

COPA finds **allegation #4**, that Sgt. Young referred to [REDACTED] as a “motherfucker”, is **sustained**. Pursuant to CPD policy, members must treat all persons with the courtesy and dignity which is inherently due every person as a human being, and members will “act, speak, and conduct themselves in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner, recognizing their obligation to safeguard life and property, and maintain a courteous, professional attitude.”⁸¹ Rule 2 of the Rules and Regulations of the Chicago Police Department prohibits officers from engaging in any action or conduct which impedes the Department’s efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.⁸² Additionally, Rule 8 prohibits disrespect or maltreatment of any person, and Rule 9 prohibits verbal maltreatment of any citizen. CPD officers are required to conduct themselves in a professional manner.⁸³

Here, BWC video established and Sgt. Young acknowledged referring to [REDACTED] as a “motherfucker”.⁸⁴ Sgt. Young stated that he did not know why he used such language to refer to [REDACTED].⁸⁵ Sgt. Young added that he was feeling a range of emotions, including feeling attacked, during this incident.⁸⁶ COPA understands that by its very nature, policing is a very stressful profession, and that many situations that officers engage in elicit a mix of emotions. However, that is not a valid nor acceptable justification for Sgt. Young to refer to [REDACTED] in such a derogatory manner. Doing so did not serve a procedural purpose, and it violated CPD rules and policies. Therefore, allegation # 4 against Sgt. Young is **sustained** as a violation of Rules 2, 3 6, 8, and 9.

c. Failure to Identify.

COPA finds **allegation #5**, that Sgt. Young failed to identify himself at the request of a civilian, is **not sustained**. Rule 37 of CPD ‘s Rules and Regulations requires CPD members to correctly identify themselves by providing their name, rank and star number when so requested by other members of the Department or by a private citizen.⁸⁷

Here, an unidentified woman asked Sgt. Young for his badge number.⁸⁸ Sgt. Young testified that, despite saying “Move” to the woman, he was not responding to her inquiry. Sgt.

⁸¹ Att. 128, G02-01(III)(B)(2 to 3), Protection of Human Rights (effective June 30, 2022, to present).

⁸² Att. 121, Rules and Regulation of the Chicago Police Department (V) Rules of Conduct, pg. 8, Rule 2. (effective April 16, 2015, to present).

⁸³ Att. 121, pg. 8, Rule 8.

⁸⁴ Att. 4 at 7:26 to 7:29, Att. 5 at 7:56 to 7:59, Att. 115, pg. 57, ln. 5 to 14, pg. 58, lns. 8 to 21, and pg. 79, lns. 11 to 15.

⁸⁵ Att. 115, pg. 58, lns. 23 to 24.

⁸⁶ Att. 115, pg. 59, lns. 4 to. 7.

⁸⁷ Att. 121, pg. 10, Rule 37.

⁸⁸ Att. 4 at 10:05 to 10:10.

Young explained that he was concentrating on locating the woman who had thrown coffee on him and he did not pay attention to the woman who asked for his name, claiming he did not see her.⁸⁹ Sgt. Young added that had he heard the woman's request, he would have acknowledged her.⁹⁰ On one hand, the video evidence, and the fact that Sgt. Young told the unidentified woman to "move", establishes that she did in fact ask for his badge number and he was at least peripherally aware of her presence. On the other hand, Sgt. Young had just been battered and was in the process of apprehending the people who had assailed him. Given the totality of these circumstances, COPA finds there is insufficient evidence to prove this allegation by a preponderance of the evidence. Therefore, COPA finds that allegation #5 against Sgt. Young is **not sustained**.

d. Failure to Properly Document Use of Force in a TRR.

COPA finds allegation #6, that Sgt. Young failed to properly document his use of force in a TRR, is **not sustained**. CPD policy requires that members must truthfully and completely report the facts and circumstances concerning their use of force, and CPD members are required to complete a TRR for all level 3 uses of force.⁹¹ A level 3 reportable use of force includes using a chokehold (applying any direct pressure to the throat, windpipe, or airway of another), the application of carotid artery restraints techniques that compress the blood vessels in the neck to inhibit or restrict blood flow to carotid arteries.⁹²

Sgt. Young completed a TRR which documented that he performed an emergency takedown on [REDACTED]⁹³ However, he did not document that he made contact with [REDACTED] neck or throat. As addressed above, there is insufficient evidence to prove or disprove that Sgt. Young applied direct pressure to [REDACTED] windpipe or restricted [REDACTED] ability to breathe. Had such evidence existed, Sgt. Young would have been required to include in his TRR that he had made contact with [REDACTED] neck or throat. Because it is unclear whether Sgt. Young used such force, it is also unclear whether he was required to include that information in his TRR. Therefore, COPA finds that allegation #6 against Sgt. Young is **not sustained**.

VI. DISCIPLINARY RECOMMENDATION

a. Sgt. Lonnie Young

i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History⁹⁴

Sgt. Young has been employed by CPD since September 2, 1997. He has received 62 awards, the highlights of which include two Life Saving Awards, one Unit Meritorious

⁸⁹ Att. 4 at 4:42 to 4:52; Att. 115, pg. 60, ln. 15 to pg. 61, ln. 6, and pg. 79, lns. 16 to 22.

⁹⁰ Att. 115, pg. 60, ln. 9 to pg. 61, ln. 6, pg. 62, lns. 1 to 14, and pg. 63, lns. 4 to 5.

⁹¹ Att. 118, General Order G03-02-02 (II)(B)(2) and (III)(A)(3)(c) Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report (effective June 28, 2023, to present).

⁹² G03-02-02 (III)(c)(1)(c)(d).

⁹³ Att. 13.

⁹⁴ Atts. 130 and 131.

Performance Award, three Department Commendation Awards, two Complimentary Letters and one Career Service Award. He has no SPAR history and one prior sustained complaint:

- A 5-day suspension for deploying a Taser at a handcuffed arrestee, without justification. (2024-0003275)

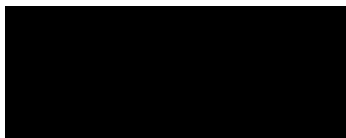
ii. Recommended Discipline

COPA has found that Sgt. Young violated Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9 when he directed profanity at [REDACTED] during his arrest. In aggravation, Sgt. Young brought discredit upon the Department and behaved unprofessionally in front of a crowd of people when he called a civilian a profane name. Moreover, Sgt. Young had been a CPD member for over 25 years at the time of this incident, so his misconduct cannot be attributed to a lack of training or experience.

In mitigation, COPA begins by acknowledging that Sgt. Young was battered by at least three civilians during this incident, including having hot coffee thrown at him. He was also working with only one other Department member at a crowded children's event with hostile protestors, creating a particularly stressful environment. Finally, COPA notes that Sgt. Young was forthcoming in his statement and expressed remorse for his misconduct.

In light of these aggravating and mitigating circumstances, COPA recommends that Sgt. Young receive a **reprimand** and **retraining** on professionalism.

Approved:



Jessica Ciacco
Director of Investigations

May 25, 2026

Date

Appendix A**Case Details**

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	November 23, 2024 / 12:00 pm / 4904 S. Lake Park Ave.
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	December 2, 2024 / 9:16 am
Involved Member #1:	Sgt. Lonnie Young / Star #2687 / Employee ID # [REDACTED] / Date of Appointment: September 2, 1997 / Unit of Assignment: 002 / Male / Black
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] / Female
Involved Individual #2:	[REDACTED] / Male
Involved Individual #3:	[REDACTED] / Female
Involved Individual #4:	[REDACTED] (last name unknown)

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 6:** Disobedience of an order or directive, whether written or oral.
- ☒ **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

Applicable Policies and Laws

- G02-01: Protection of Human Rights (effective June 30, 2022, to present).
- G03-02: De-escalation, response to Resistance, and Use of Force (effective June 28, 2023 to present).
- G03-02-01: Response to Resistance and Force Options (effective June 28, 2023, to present).
- G03-02-02: Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report (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.⁹⁵ 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.”⁹⁶

⁹⁵ 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).

⁹⁶ *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