



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent

May 23, 2024

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

Re: Superintendent's Non-Concurrence with Finding and Penalty Recommendation
Complaint Log No. 2021-0002130

Dear Chief Administrator Kersten:

After a careful review of the above referenced complaint log number investigation, the Chicago Police Department (Department) does not concur with the recommended sustained finding nor with the penalty recommendation as they pertain to Officer Larrick West, Star No. 17947. Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Department provides the following comments.

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a suspension of 10-30 days for Officer West after concluding that he:

1. Struck [REDACTED] a 13-year-old minor, in the face with his hand without justification.

The Department does not agree with the sustained finding and recommends a finding of Unfounded. In sustaining this allegation, COPA does not indicate what policy was violated. COPA cited Officer West with a Rule 2 violation (bringing discredit on the Department), a Rule 3 violation (Any failure to promote the department's efforts to achieve its policy or accomplish its goals), a Rule 8 violation (Disrespect/Maltreatment of any person) and a Rule 9 violation (Engaging in an unjustified verbal or physical altercation). But the only support they give is that Officer West was forthcoming about striking [REDACTED] and did not deny making physical contact with [REDACTED]. The Department disagrees with the alleged rule violations as this situation was a family matter that involved legal corporal punishment. It did not involve or relate to his police duties. This is supported by the fact that, as required, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) was notified of this incident and determined that the allegations of child abuse were unfounded. COPA states that when Officer West struck [REDACTED] it was most likely an expression of Officer West's anger and frustration and was therefore not reasonable corporal punishment. Yet if this were true and the corporal punishment was not reasonable, then the physical contact would be abuse. Also, COPA stresses that an aggravating factor was that the admitted physical contact with the son occurred while Officer West was driving and therefore exceptionally dangerous. However, although it is undisputed that Officer West was the driver of the vehicle at the time the physical contact was made, there is no evidence to indicate that the vehicle was in motion at the time. It would not be exceptionally dangerous if the vehicle was in a

parked, or even idle, position.

Further, this was not a complicated investigation. This complaint was filed on June 2, 2021. The [REDACTED] were interviewed within a week on June 8, 2021. The criminal investigation and the DCFS investigation were both concluded in August 2021. Yet the accused member was not interviewed until February 13, 2024. There was no reasonable explanation given for this investigation to take almost 34 months to complete.

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

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent
Chicago Police Department