



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent

December 20, 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 Recommended Findings
Complaint Log No. 2023-0001294
Officer Gemera Brown, Star No. 13372
Officer Niyell Powell, Star No. 13594
Officer Donovan Foster, Star No. 9515

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 findings as they pertain to Officer Gemera Brown. Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Department provides the following comments.

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a suspension of five to fifteen days for Officer Gemera Brown after concluding that she:

1. Entered the apartment occupied by [REDACTED] without justification;
2. Entered the residence of [REDACTED] without a warrant.

The Department does not concur with these sustained findings and recommends an alternate finding of unfounded. As acknowledged by COPA in its summary report, Officer Brown had probable cause to make the arrest of [REDACTED]. When Officer Brown knocked on the door, she shouted out "Miss [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] responded. Officer Gemera directed [REDACTED] to come out twice and [REDACTED] refused to do so stating she was not dressed. Officer Gemera had exigent circumstances as it was unknown if [REDACTED] was attempting to flee out a back door or grabbing a weapon or doing anything else that could possibly harm herself or the officers. The officers were legally justified to enter a home without a warrant to arrest [REDACTED] and were not required to retreat due to [REDACTED] being on the other side of the threshold. Officer Gemera did not kick in the door but simply moved it aside after she knocked and the door fell.

The COPA investigation also recommended a penalty of a suspension of one to three days for Officer Niyell Powell, Star No. 13594, and for Officer Donovan Foster, Star No. 9515 after concluding that

they:

1. Failed to conduct a thorough investigation of the battery call between the tenant and the landlord.

Regarding these allegations, the Department requests that a separate log number investigation be initiated to address the conduct of these two officers. The incident that they are involved in occurred three days prior to the incident involving Officer Gemera. Simply because it involves the same two civilian citizens does not mean it should be incorporated into one investigation. It is a completely different set of circumstances that should be analyzed in a different investigation.

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

Sincerely,



Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent
Chicago Police Department