



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

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

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent

February 19, 2026

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

Re: Superintendent's Partial Non-Concurrence with Findings and Concurrence with Penalty
Recommendations Complaint Log No. 2024-0005809
Police Officer Joseph Vecchio Employee # [REDACTED]

Dear Interim Chief Administrator White:

After a careful review of the above referenced complaint log number investigation, the Chicago Police Department ("Department") partially does not concur with the recommended sustained findings and concurs with the penalty recommendations as they pertain to Police Officer Joseph Vecchio Employee # [REDACTED]

Brief Summary:

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a (1 - 29) one - twenty-nine day suspension for Police Officer Vecchio after concluding that he:

1. It is alleged that on or about June 25th, 2024, at approximately 7:48 pm at or near 41 W. Illinois St, Officer Joseph Vecchio #14469 committed misconduct by: Yanking and/or pulling [REDACTED] hair without justification.
2. It is alleged that on or about June 25th, 2024, at approximately 7:48 pm at or near 41 W. Illinois St, Officer Joseph Vecchio #14469 committed misconduct by: Grabbing and/or squeezing [REDACTED] by the neck without justification
3. It is alleged that on or about June 25th, 2024, at approximately 7:48 pm at or near 41 W. Illinois St, Officer Joseph Vecchio #14469 committed misconduct by: Failing to document a reportable use of force against [REDACTED] without justification.

Sustained Allegation #1 – Excessive Force

The Department respectfully does not concur with COPA's finding related to Sustained Allegation #1 and finds the determination not legally sufficient. The Department maintains that the appropriate finding is **Not Sustained**.

The Body Worn Camera ("BWC") footage does not depict Officer Vecchio yanking or pulling [REDACTED] hair. Moreover, [REDACTED] was not interviewed to substantiate the allegation that his hair was yanked or pulled. Officer Vecchio does not recall pulling or yanking [REDACTED] hair; rather, he states that he was holding [REDACTED] hair in an effort to maintain control during the encounter.

The BWC footage reflects that [REDACTED] was actively resisting arrest by pulling away from officers. Under these circumstances, the contact described by Officer Vecchio occurred while attempting to gain control of an active resister. The COPA investigative summary does not sufficiently articulate how the officer's actions were unreasonable, disproportionate, or unnecessary under the Department's policy. Accordingly, the evidence does not meet the preponderance standard required to sustain the allegation.

Sustained Allegation #2 – Excessive Force

The Department respectfully does not concur with COPA's finding related to Sustained Allegation #2 and finds the determination not legally sufficient. The Department maintains that the appropriate finding is **Unfounded**.

Pursuant to General Order G03-01-01, Response to Resistance and Force Options, Section V(C):

"Unless the person continues to pose an imminent threat of death or great bodily harm to the Department member or any other person, Department members will not restrain a person above the shoulders, including the head or neck, in a position which interferes with the person's ability to breathe."

Officer Vecchio's actions did not violate this policy. The available evidence does not demonstrate that his conduct interfered with [REDACTED] ability to breathe. Officer Vecchio utilized a redirection technique, a recognized control method, while attempting to gain control of an active resister. He further states that his hands were moving as he attempted to secure compliance and that he ultimately repositioned his grasp to the shoulder area.

The evidence does not establish that Officer Vecchio restrained [REDACTED] in a manner that impeded breathing or constituted a prohibited neck restraint. Accordingly, the allegation of grabbing and/or squeezing the neck without justification is not supported by the evidence and should be classified as Unfounded.

Sustained Allegation #3 – Reports: Failure to Submit

The Department concurs with the sustained finding for Sustained Allegation #3.

Recommendation

The Department recommends a **fifteen (15) day suspension** for the sustained findings related to Allegations #3.

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

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Larry B. Shelling.

Larry B. Shelling
Superintendent
Chicago Police Department