

**BEFORE A MEMBER OF THE POLICE BOARD
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

IN THE MATTER OF THE	)	
RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE OF	)	
POLICE OFFICER JOSEPH VECCHIO,	)	Case No. 26 RR 38
STAR No. 14469, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE,	)	
CITY OF CHICAGO.	)	(CR No. 2024-5809)

REQUEST FOR REVIEW

On June 10, 2026, the Executive Director of the Police Board of the City of Chicago received from the Chief Administrator of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) a request for review of the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline of Police Officer Joseph Vecchio, Star No. 14469, arising out of the investigation of Complaint Register No. 2024-5809 ("Request for Review"). The Request for Review included the following material: the Final Summary Report of COPA's investigation that sets forth the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline, the Superintendent of Police's written response to this recommendation, the Chief Administrator's written objections to the Superintendent's response, and a Certificate of Meeting and Service.

The investigation stems from an incident on June 25, 2024. According to the Final Summary Report of COPA's investigation, Police Officers Richard Rodriquez Jr. and Vecchio were on routine patrol when they observed [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] obstructing the roadway near 41 West Illinois Street in Chicago. The officers observed an alleged hand-to-hand transaction and then exited the vehicle and

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conducted an investigatory stop on both individuals. Officer Rodriquez observed [REDACTED] holding a clear bag with a white powdery substance. As Officer Vecchio handcuffed [REDACTED] appeared to open his right hand and throw a white powdery substance into the air. Officer Rodriquez ordered [REDACTED] to drop the bag on the ground, and after multiple verbal commands, [REDACTED] dropped the clear knotted bag and attempted to step on it. Officer Rodriquez radioed for more officers to assist. Soon after, Officers attempted to handcuff [REDACTED] who appeared increasingly uncooperative and resistant. Eventually, Officers succeeded in placing [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] into custody and transported them to the 018th District for processing. Narcotics were recovered from both individuals.

Following the conclusion of COPA's investigation, the Chief Administrator recommended that the following allegations against Officer Vecchio be *Sustained*:

1. Yanking and/or pulling [REDACTED] hair without justification;
2. Grabbing and/or squeezing [REDACTED] by the neck without justification; and
3. Failing to document a reportable use of force against [REDACTED] without justification.

The Chief Administrator recommended that Officer Vecchio be suspended without pay for 1 - 29 days.

The Superintendent disagreed with the Chief Administrator's recommendation of *Sustained* for Allegation Nos. 1 and 2 and proposed findings of *Not Sustained* for Allegation No. 1 and *Unfounded* for Allegation No. 2. The Superintendent agreed with

the finding of *Sustained* for Allegation No. 3 and recommended that Officer Vecchio be suspended without pay for 15 days.

According to the Certificate submitted by the Chief Administrator: (1) the Chief Administrator issued the recommendation for discipline on November 28, 2025; (2) the Chief Administrator received the Superintendent's written response on February 19, 2026; (3) the Chief Administrator's designees met with the Superintendent's designees and concluded their discussion of this matter on June 9, 2026; and (4) the Request for Review was sent via email to the Executive Director of the Police Board on June 10, 2026.

The Executive Director of the Police Board forwarded the Request for Review material to Tyler Hall, the member of the Police Board who was selected on a random basis, pursuant to Article VI of the Police Board's Rules of Procedure ("Reviewing Member"). The Reviewing Member reviewed the Request for Review pursuant to Section 2-78-130(a)(iii) of the Municipal Code of Chicago and Article VI of the Police Board's Rules of Procedure. Following his initial review of this matter on June 23, 2026, the Reviewing Member requested, received and reviewed body-worn camera video recordings from the investigation file.

OPINION

Following a thorough review of the Request for Review material and the additional items noted above, it is my opinion that the Superintendent met the burden

of overcoming the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline as to Allegation Nos. 1 and 2.

As to Allegation No. 1, the contact captured on the body-worn camera footage is not readily characterized as a yank or a pull. Immediately before the contact, Mr. [REDACTED] threatened to strike the officers, which made him an assailant under Department policy at a time when he was not yet secured. Officer Vecchio's contact was a brief hold used to reposition and control Mr. [REDACTED] head, and it was proportional to the threat presented. On this record, the Superintendent's proposed finding of *Not Sustained* is the more reasonable of the two dispositions.

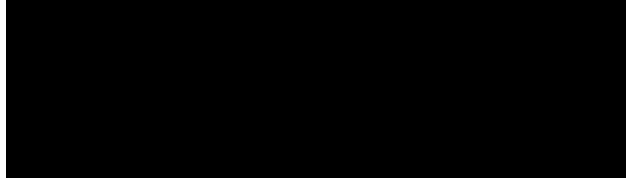
As to Allegation No. 2, the body-worn camera footage suggests that Officer Vecchio's hand was placed below the jaw and not extended around Mr. [REDACTED] neck. It does not depict significant pressure to the throat or neck, and the hand was repositioned to the shoulder within a short interval. The record does not support a finding that a prohibited restraint above the shoulders occurred. On this record, the Superintendent's proposed finding of *Unfounded* is the more reasonable of the two dispositions.

As to Allegation No. 3, the Chief Administrator and the Superintendent agree that the allegation should be *Sustained*. Officer Vecchio acknowledged that he viewed Mr. [REDACTED] as an active resister, which required the completion of a Tactical Response Report under Department policy, and he did not complete one. The Superintendent's recommended penalty of a suspension without pay for 15 days is reasonable.

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Therefore, pursuant to Section 2-78-130(a)(iii) of the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Superintendent's response to the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline of Police Officer Joseph Vecchio, Star No. 14469, shall be implemented.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 19th DAY OF AUGUST 2026.



TYLER HALL
Member
Police Board

Attested by:



MAX A. CAPRONI
Executive Director
Police Board