



Log # 2025-0000268

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 16, 2025, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) received a telephone complaint from [REDACTED] alleging misconduct by a Chicago Police Department (CPD) member. [REDACTED] alleged that on January 16, 2025, Officer Christopher Rubi used excessive force against her husband, [REDACTED] by pushing [REDACTED] face to the ground, causing him to be hospitalized.² COPA served additional allegations on Officer Rubi for using profanities and other unprofessional language. Following its investigation, COPA reached a not sustained finding regarding the alleged excessive force, but sustained findings for the verbal abuse allegations.

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE³

On January 16, 2025, Officers Paloma Flores and Christopher Rubi were driving a marked CPD vehicle on patrol. According to Officer Flores, while on patrol, they were traveling southbound on Stewart Ave., approaching 75th Street, when they observed [REDACTED] vehicle traveling westbound on 75th Street. [REDACTED] disregarded the stop sign, prompting Officer Flores to pull behind his vehicle and activate the emergency equipment lights on the CPD vehicle.⁴ [REDACTED] pulled over and waited for the officers to approach both the driver and passenger sides.

As Officer Flores approached the driver's side of [REDACTED] vehicle, he opened his door, explaining where he was going and that he only had an identification card because his driver's license was suspended.⁵ Officer Flores asked [REDACTED] to step out of his vehicle so that her partner, Officer Rubi, could temporarily detain him while she searched the immediate area of [REDACTED] vehicle. Officer Flores questioned [REDACTED] about the cannabis smell in his vehicle, and he admitted to having just finished smoking.⁶ Officer Rubi conducted a search of [REDACTED] to retrieve his identification from his wallet, and he also recovered several plastic baggies containing suspect

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 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.

³ The following is a summary of what COPA finds most likely occurred during this incident. This summary utilized information from several different sources, including BWC footage, POD footage, ICC footage, third-party video, police reports, civilian interviews, and officer interviews.

⁴ Att. 46, statement transcript of Officer Paloma Flores, pg. 8, lns. 6 to 12.

⁵ Att. 2, Officer Flores' BWC at 2:35.

⁶ Att. 2, Officer Flores' BWC at 2:50.

cannabis.⁷ Officer Flores returned to the police vehicle to conduct a name check. As Officer Flores conducted the name check, she asked Officer Rubi to place ██████ in the back of the police vehicle to await the search results.⁸

Officer Rubi explained to ██████ that he was going to be seated in the back of the police vehicle. ██████ immediately attempted to flee into oncoming traffic, causing Officer Rubi to fall to the ground while trying to stop ██████.⁹ As Officer Rubi fell to the ground, he grabbed hold of ██████ handcuffs and performed an emergency takedown to gain control of him.¹⁰ Officer Rubi's BWC footage shows him telling ██████ "fuck you," as he took control.¹¹ Officer Flores exited the police vehicle when she noticed Officer Rubi and ██████ were on the ground. Both officers attempted to help ██████ off the ground when Officer Flores noticed blood coming from the right side of ██████ head.

As Officer Rubi explained to ██████ the actions that led to the takedown, ██████ denied that he took off running, and Officer Rubi followed up with "then what the fuck were you doing?"¹² Officer Flores called for an ambulance and backup. ██████ continued pushing backward off the police vehicle while being handcuffed. Officers Rubi and Flores repeatedly asked him to stop, then said, "Stop pushing off. I know what you're trying to fucking do again."¹³ ██████ refused to stop pushing off the police vehicle, which prompted Officer Rubi to say, "Paloma, get your taser out, just in case you have to fucking tase this guy."¹⁴ ██████ alleged multiple times to Officer Rubi that he had busted his face open, and Officer Rubi responded that he did it to himself.¹⁵ ██████ denied that he had tried to flee, and Officer Rubi responded, "yes you did, you dumb shit."¹⁶ At one point, while the officers were holding ██████ phone started to ring. ██████ insisted the phone be answered, and Officer Rubi replied, "fuck your phone."¹⁷ Later, when assisting officers arrived at the scene, Officer Rubi made comments to them, including calling ██████ a "piece of shit,"¹⁸ "fucking idiot,"¹⁹ and stating, "fuck him."²⁰ Officer Rubi also told them that ██████ "was crying like a little bitch when I put him in handcuffs."²¹

An ambulance arrived on scene, and ██████ was transported to the hospital for further evaluation. According to the Chicago Fire Department's patient care report, the officers related

⁷ Att. 3, Officer Rubi's BWC at 3:00.

⁸ Att. 2, Officer Flores' BWC at 6:10.

⁹ Att. 3, Officer Rubi's BWC at 6:20 to 6:30; Att. 9, POD video from 7500 S. Eggleston, at 5:55:06.

¹⁰ Att. 3, Officer Rubi's BWC at 6:33 to 6:40.

¹¹ Att. 3, Officer Rubi's BWC at 6:34. Officer Rubi also told ██████ "fuck you" later in the incident. Att. 3, at 9:10.

¹² Att. 3, Officer Rubi's BWC at 7:57.

¹³ Att. 3, Officer Rubi's BWC at 8:07 to 8:27.

¹⁴ Att. 3, Officer Rubi's BWC at 8:27.

¹⁵ Att. 3, Officer Rubi's BWC at 8:35 to 8:53.

¹⁶ Att. 3, Officer Rubi's BWC at 10:30.

¹⁷ Att. 3, Officer Rubi's BWC at 8:54 to 8:56.

¹⁸ Att. 3, Officer Rubi's BWC at 10:49 and 15:21.

¹⁹ Att. 3, Officer Rubi's BWC at 11:23.

²⁰ Att. 3, Officer Rubi's BWC at 11:11.

²¹ Att. 3, Officer Rubi's BWC at 11:47.

that [REDACTED] had hit his head during a takedown. Paramedics noted that [REDACTED] had a small laceration and was bleeding from the left side of his head.²² Once [REDACTED] was transferred to the ambulance, he became combative and began to spit and scream at the paramedics, and he refused to allow them to place a cervical collar or non-rebreather (NRB) mask on him, or to perform any treatment.²³ Medical records document that [REDACTED] was admitted to the University of Chicago Hospital for trauma and altered mental status after he reportedly struck his head during his arrest.²⁴ The records note that [REDACTED] had edema to his right jaw, a left brow laceration, and a small contusion to his right knee.²⁵ He also had an alcohol serum level of 169 mg/dl, which indicates a high level of intoxication.²⁶ [REDACTED] was intubated during his hospital visit for airway protection.²⁷ He was diagnosed with a fall, chest pain, head injury, trauma, and agitation, and was released from the hospital on January 19, 2025.

Following the incident, officers searched [REDACTED] vehicle and recovered an open liquor bottle and numerous plastic baggies containing suspect cannabis, ecstasy, crack cocaine, and heroin.²⁸ [REDACTED] was arrested for multiple felony counts of manufacturing/dealing a controlled substance and driving on a revoked license; however, all of the felony charges against him were subsequently dropped. On April 7, 2026, [REDACTED] pled guilty to a misdemeanor count of driving on a revoked license and was sentenced to two years of probation.²⁹

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer Christopher Rubi:

1. Pushing [REDACTED] face to the ground without justification.
 - **Not sustained**
2. Verbally abused [REDACTED] in that you directed the word “Fuck” at him numerous times.
 - **Sustained**, Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9
3. Behaved in an unprofessional manner in that you stated, “Yes you did, you dumb shit”.
 - **Sustained**, Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9
4. Behaved in an unprofessional manner in that you stated, “He was crying like a little bitch when I put him in handcuffs.”
 - **Sustained**, Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9

²² Att. 31, Chicago Fire Department Patient Care Report.

²³ Att. 31, Chicago Fire Department Patient Care Report.

²⁴ Att. 38, [REDACTED] Medical Records, pg. 1 and 80.

²⁵ Att. 38, [REDACTED] Medical Records, pg. 80.

²⁶ Att. 38, [REDACTED] Medical Records, pg. 117.

²⁷ Att. 38, [REDACTED] Medical Records, pg. 2 and 12.

²⁸ Att. 1, Arrest Report of [REDACTED]

²⁹ Atts. 57 and 58, [REDACTED] Criminal Court Records.

IV. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

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.

COPA questions [REDACTED] credibility based on his responses during a statement he gave at a neighborhood meeting with the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability (CCPSA) on January 24, 2025, and to COPA.³⁰ [REDACTED] told the CCPSA that he was "physically beaten unconscious by the police."³¹ Additionally, [REDACTED] told COPA that he was pushed against his vehicle, slung to the ground, his face was smashed into the ground, and he was hit in the back of the head. [REDACTED] recalled that he blacked out and woke up the next day handcuffed to a hospital bed.³² While COPA does not believe [REDACTED] was being purposely untruthful, COPA questions the reliability of [REDACTED] account due to his impairment during the traffic stop. This is based on his high alcohol serum level, his admission that he had just smoked marijuana, the narcotics recovered, and the significant amount of open alcohol that was found within arm's reach during the vehicle search.³³

COPA did not find any basis to question the credibility of any of the other parties, including Officers Rubi and Flores, who provided statements to COPA. Their accounts were generally consistent with each other and with the BWC footage and POD footage of the incident.

V. ANALYSIS³⁴

a. Excessive Force Allegation

COPA finds Allegation #1, that Officer Rubi pushed [REDACTED] face to the ground without justification, is Not Sustained. CPD's policy stated that the highest priority is the sanctity of human life. Under CPD policy, members are only authorized to use force that is objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional, under the totality of the circumstances, to provide for the safety of any person or CPD member, stop an attack, make an arrest, bring a person or situation safely under control, or prevent escape.³⁵ This means that CPD members may use only the amount of force

³⁰ Att. 25, Statement of [REDACTED] to CCPSA recorded on YouTube, at 9:54 to 14:00; Att. 23, Statement of Darry [REDACTED] to COPA.

³¹ Att. 25 Statement of [REDACTED] to CCPSA recorded on YouTube, at 10:28.

³² Att. 23, Statement of [REDACTED] to COPA at 3:06 to 3:38 and 7:10 to 8:16.

³³ Att. 38, [REDACTED] Medical Records, pg. 117; Att. 8, BWC of Officer Alex Almazan at 4:55 to 7:40. As previously noted, [REDACTED] medical records revealed that he had an alcohol serum level of 169 mg/dl when he arrived at the hospital.

³⁴ For a definition of COPA's findings and standards of proof, *see* Appendix B.

³⁵ Att. 55, G03-02 (III)(B), De-escalation, Response to Resistance, and Uses of Force (effective June 28, 2023, to present).

necessary to serve a lawful purpose. The amount and type of force used must be proportional to the threat, actions, and level of resistance a person offers.³⁶

Here, a POD camera located at 7500 South Eggleston captured the traffic stop, including Officer Rubi's use of force against [REDACTED].³⁷ The POD footage shows [REDACTED] who was handcuffed behind his back, abruptly attempting to flee into oncoming traffic, while dragging Officer Rubi on the ground.³⁸ Officer Rubi explained to COPA, "He began pulling me. I tried preventing him from running..., but our feet became tangled up where I got knocked down to the ground. As he was running, there was passing cars going by, which he was dragging me towards with himself. So I performed an emergency takedown as I was still holding onto his handcuffs and just pulled him to the ground."³⁹ Officer Rubi believed that [REDACTED] sustained the injury to his face from the takedown, when [REDACTED] landed on the pavement.⁴⁰ This is consistent with the video evidence, which confirms that [REDACTED] was handcuffed and could not use his hands to break his fall. However, the evidence also shows that [REDACTED] was an active resister, and CPD policy authorizes the use of emergency takedowns against active resisters.⁴¹

For these reasons, COPA finds Allegation #1 against Officer Rubi is **Not Sustained**.

b. Unprofessional Statements Made by Officer Rubi

COPA finds Allegations #2 – 4, that Officer Rubi verbally abused [REDACTED] by directing the word "fuck" at him numerous times, and that Officer Rubi behaved in an unprofessional manner by stating words to the effect of, "Yes you did, you dumb shit," and "He was crying like a little bitch when I put him in handcuffs," are all Sustained.

CPD General Order G01-01 lists CPD's core values as professionalism, integrity, courage, dedication, and respect.⁴² CPD policy requires its members to "interact with all members of the public in an unbiased, fair, and respectful manner,"⁴³ "treat all persons with the courtesy and dignity which is inherently due to every person as a human being,"⁴⁴ and "act, speak, and conduct themselves in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner."⁴⁵ The policy also states that officers will "not exhibit a condescending attitude or direct any derogatory terms towards any

³⁶ Att. 55, G03-02 (III)(B)(3).

³⁷ Att. 39, POD video at 5:50:27 to 6:15:00.

³⁸ Att. 39, POD video at 5:55:04; *see also* Att. 3, Officer Rubi's BWC at 6:29.

³⁹ Att. 50, Statement transcript of Officer Rubi, pg. 9, lns. 5 to 15.

⁴⁰ Att. 50, Statement transcript of Officer Rubi, pg. 16, lns. 2 to 23.

⁴¹ Att. 59, G03-02-01 (IV)(B)(2), Response to Resistance and Force Options (effective June 28, 2023 to present). An active resister is a person who attempts to create distance between himself and herself and the member's reach with the intent to avoid physical control and or/defeat arrest.

⁴² Att. 53, G01-01 (IV)(A) (1 to 5), Vision, Mission Statement, and Core Values (effective May 21, 2019, to present).

⁴³ Att. 51, G02-01(III)(B)(1), Protection of Human Rights (effective June 30, 2022, to April 29, 2026).

⁴⁴ Att. 51, G02-01(III)(B)(2).

⁴⁵ Att. 51, G02-01(III)(B)(3).

person in any manner and will not use language or take action intended to taunt or denigrate an individual, including racist or derogatory language.”⁴⁶

The CPD Rules of Conduct further stress the requirement that CPD members treat all individuals in a respectful manner. CPD Rule 2 prohibits any action or conduct which impedes CPD’s policy and goals or brings discredit upon CPD, and it expressly applies to both the professional and private conduct of all CPD members.⁴⁷ Rule 3 prohibits actions that fail to promote CPD’s efforts to implement its policy or accomplish its goals.⁴⁸ Rule 8 prohibits any disrespect or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty.⁴⁹ Finally, Rule 9 prohibits CPD members from engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.⁵⁰

Here, BWC captured Officer Rubi repeatedly direct profanities at [REDACTED] including telling [REDACTED] “fuck you,”⁵¹ “then what the fuck were you doing,”⁵² “I know what you’re trying to fucking do,”⁵³ “fuck your phone,”⁵⁴ and calling [REDACTED] a “dumb shit.”⁵⁵ Additionally, when assisting officers arrived at the scene, Officer Rubi used unprofessional language with them, referring to [REDACTED] as a “piece of shit,”⁵⁶ “fucking idiot,”⁵⁷ and stating, “fuck him.”⁵⁸ Officer Rubi also told another officer that [REDACTED] “was crying like a little bitch when I put him in handcuffs.”⁵⁹

Officer Rubi admitted to all three allegations regarding his profanity use and lack of professionalism. He stated that, when he returned to the 007th District after the incident, his lieutenant admonished him about his unprofessional language, and he acknowledged he needed to work on it.⁶⁰ COPA also questioned Officer Rubi’s knowledge of the General Order, G02-01, Protection of Human Rights.⁶¹ Officer Rubi gave his understanding of the specific order. He admitted that he did not adhere to the policy throughout the incident, stating, “I let stress get to me.”⁶²

Based on the BWC footage and Officer Rubi’s admissions, COPA finds Allegations #2 - 4 are **Sustained** in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9.

⁴⁶ Att. 51, G02-01(III)(B)(4).

⁴⁷ Att. 52, Rule 2, Rules and Regulations of the Chicago Police Department (effective April 16, 2015, to present).

⁴⁸ Att. 52, Rule 3.

⁴⁹ Att. 52, Rule 8.

⁵⁰ Att. 52, Rule 9.

⁵¹ Att. 3, Officer Rubi’s BWC at 6:34 and 9:10.

⁵² Att. 3, Officer Rubi’s BWC at 7:57.

⁵³ Att. 3, Officer Rubi’s BWC at 8:11.

⁵⁴ Att. 3, Officer Rubi’s BWC at 8:54.

⁵⁵ Att. 3, Officer Rubi’s BWC at 10:30.

⁵⁶ Att. 3, Officer Rubi’s BWC at 10:49 and 15:21.

⁵⁷ Att. 3, Officer Rubi’s BWC at 11:23.

⁵⁸ Att. 3, Officer Rubi’s BWC at 11:11.

⁵⁹ Att. 3, Officer Rubi’s BWC at 11:47.

⁶⁰ Att. 50, Statement transcript of Officer Rubi, pgs. 19 to 21.

⁶¹ See Att. 51, G02-01.

⁶² Att. 50, Statement transcript of Officer Rubi, pg. 20, lns. 19 to 24 and pg. 21, lns. 1 to 19.

VI. DISCIPLINARY RECOMMENDATION

a. Officer Rubi's Complimentary and Disciplinary History⁶³

Officer Rubi has been employed by CPD since October 26, 2015. He has received 86 awards, including three Complimentary Letters, one Crime Reduction Award, four Department Commendation Awards, and 69 Honorable Mention Certificates. Officer Rubi has no recent SPARs; however, he has two prior sustained complaints, which are summarized below:

- A violation noted for referring to an individual as a “motherfucker,” and stating, “fuck you,” (2023-0004339); and
- A 30-Day Suspension for willfully damaging two civilians’ motorcycles, improperly taking and failing to inventory the civilians’ motorcycle helmets, early BWC deactivation, and failing to notify the Zone. (2024-0006476).

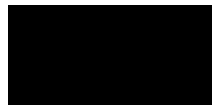
b. Recommended Discipline

COPA has found that Officer Rubi violated Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9, and 10 when he repeatedly directed the word “fuck” at ██████ told ██████ he was a “dumb shit,” and stated that ██████ “was crying like a little bitch when I put him in handcuffs.” In aggravation, Officer Rubi treated ██████ in a highly disrespectful manner, bringing discredit to CPD and damaging the relationship between officers and members of the public. Additionally, this is Officer Rubi’s third sustained complaint. Both of his prior cases involved disrespectful treatment of members of the public, and one of the cases specifically involved his use of profanities.

In mitigation, COPA notes that Officer Rubi initially handled the traffic stop with great professionalism, often speaking respectfully to ██████ Officer Rubi’s language only deteriorated after ██████ attempted to flee the scene. Additionally, Officer Rubi admitted that his actions and language were unprofessional, and that the stress of the situation got to him. COPA has also considered Officer Rubi’s complimentary history in mitigation.

For these reasons, and based on the principles of progressive discipline, COPA recommends Officer Rubi receive a **1 to 10 day Suspension** and **Retraining** on professionalism (G02-01).

Approved:



Steffany Hreno
Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

5/30/2026

Date

⁶³ Att. 56.

Appendix A**Case Details**

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	January 16, 2025/ 5:57 pm/ 428 W 75 th Street, Chicago IL
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	January 18, 2025/ 6:36 pm
Accused Member #1:	Christopher Rubi, star #15920, employee ID# [REDACTED] Date of Appointment: October 26, 2015, Unit of Assignment: 007, Male, White Hispanic
Involved Member #2:	Paloma Flores, star #16307, employee ID# [REDACTED] Date of Appointment: August 16, 2019, Unit of Assignment: 007, Female, White Hispanic
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] Male, Black

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 5:** Failure to perform any duty.
- ☒ **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 on or off duty.
- ☐ **Rule 10:** Inattention to duty.
- ☐ **Rule 14:** Making a false report, written or oral.
- ☐ **Rule 38:** Unlawful or unnecessary use or display of a weapon.

Applicable Policies and Laws

- G01-01, Vision, Mission Statement, and Core Values (effective May 21, 2019, to present)
- G02-01, Protection of Human Rights (effective June 22, 2022, to April 29, 2026)
- 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).
- Rules and Regulations of the Chicago Police Department (effective April 16, 2015, 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.⁶⁴ 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.”⁶⁵

⁶⁴ 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).

⁶⁵ *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