



Log # 2024-0008774

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On December 9, 2024, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) was tagged on a video posted on the social media platform “X,” formerly known as Twitter.² The video depicted multiple officers surrounding a black 4-door vehicle in the middle of the street, with Officer Jose Estrada³ positioned in front, with his firearm drawn and pointed toward the vehicle.⁴ COPA later received an anonymous envelope with an enclosed USB drive depicting the same video.⁵ Preliminary investigation identified the driver of the vehicle as [REDACTED] though the other occupants remain unknown.⁶ COPA identified body worn camera (BWC) footage associated with the incident occurring near 630 W. Harrison, Chicago, IL. Upon review of the evidence, COPA sought and received approval for an Affidavit Override and Certification⁷ to proceed with the investigation against Officer Estrada, Sergeant (Sgt.) Alfred Robinson, and Sgt. Alfredo Rodriguez.⁸ COPA additionally served allegations against Officers Nicole Sufranski, Jamaal Haynes, and Angel Zagal.

Following its investigation, COPA reached Sustained findings against Officer Estrada for pointing his firearm at [REDACTED] without justification, making verbal threats of bodily harm, improper tactical positioning, and failing to record the entire incident on his BWC. COPA found the allegations against the other CPD members, which pertained to alleged failures in documenting the incident, were Exonerated, Unfounded, or Not Sustained.

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE⁹

Video footage¹⁰ from social media “X” depicted that at approximately 2:00 am, on December 8, 2024, four officers surrounded a four-door sedan positioned in the middle of the street

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 Att. 1, Email acknowledging the tag.

³ At the time of incident, Officer Estrada was a patrol officer. Shortly after this incident, he was promoted to field training officer (FTO).

⁴ Att. 3

⁵ Att. 13

⁶ Att. 4

⁷ Atts. 41 to 43

⁸ 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.

⁹ The following is a summary of what COPA finds most likely occurred during this incident. This summary utilized information from several different sources, including third party video, BWC footage, event queries, CPD reports, and CPD member interviews.

¹⁰ Att. 3

where there was a reported “street takeover.” The officers were later identified as Officers Estrada, Sufranski, Haynes, Zagal. Officer Estrada was captured standing in front of the vehicle, with his firearm pointed toward the vehicle, yelling words to the effect of, “I’ll light you up!”¹¹ The vehicle was occupied by the driver, [REDACTED] as well as three unknown Hispanic males.¹² BWC footage revealed the officers’ difficulties in obtaining [REDACTED] compliance to let his windows down and produce identification.¹³ The three other occupants also made attempts to persuade [REDACTED] to comply.¹⁴ Eventually, [REDACTED] produced an invalid identification card.¹⁵ While waiting for the name check, Officer Estrada observed a replica weapon through the driver’s side window.¹⁶ The occupants were asked to step out of the vehicle. [REDACTED] was arrested for traffic violations, possession of fireworks, and a replica weapon.¹⁷

During its investigation, COPA made attempts to obtain a statement from [REDACTED] but these efforts were unsuccessful.¹⁸ Additionally, as noted above, the identities of the other vehicle occupants remain unknown.

In their statements to COPA, Officers Zagal¹⁹ and Haynes²⁰ reported that they were assist units responding to a call regarding a “street takeover” near 630 W. Harrison Street. Officers Zagal and Haynes were two of the four officers who conducted the traffic stop of [REDACTED] vehicle. Upon their arrival, the officers described a chaotic scene with vehicles obstructing traffic, screeching tires, and high pedestrian foot traffic. Both officers observed and assisted with the traffic stop of [REDACTED] vehicle, effectuated by Officer Estrada. They recalled that [REDACTED] was issued multiple verbal commands to produce his driver’s license, but he appeared non-compliant.²¹ Officer Haynes reported that he was positioned near the rear driver’s side of the vehicle,²² while Officer Zagal was positioned closer to the front passenger side of the vehicle.²³ Officer Zagal stated that he took a more interactive approach and proceeded to engage with [REDACTED] by conversing with him in Spanish. He further stated that he conducted a name check once [REDACTED] finally provided his identification. However, the identification proved to be invalid. Other than trying to obtain assistance from the occupants to get Acosto-[REDACTED] to comply, Officer Zagal denied having any further contact with the occupants after they all exited the vehicle.²⁴ Officer Haynes denied having any interaction with the occupants in the vehicle.

¹¹ Att. 3

¹² Att. 4

¹³ Att. 8 to 12

¹⁴ Att. 9, BWC of PO Zagal and Att. 10, BWC of PO Sufranski, at 3:55 to 7:25

¹⁵ Atts. 9 and 10 at 10:00 to 14:30

¹⁶ Att. 10 at 9:50 to 10:15

¹⁷ Att. 4, 6

¹⁸ Att. 16; see CMS Note: CO-1424903.

¹⁹ PO Zagal Witness Interview, Att. 49 (Audio), 50 (Transcript); PO Zagal Accused Interview, Att. 51 (Audio), 52 (Transcript).

²⁰ PO Haynes Accused Interview, Att. 60 (Audio), 61 (Transcript)

²¹ Att. 50 at pgs. 10 to 11, Att. 60 at pgs. 10 to 11

²² Att. 61 at pg. 13, lns. 5 to 11

²³ Att. 50 at pg. 11, lns. 19 to 24

²⁴ Att. 52 at pgs. 10 to 14 and pg. 16

Both officers expressed safety concerns during the traffic stop, highlighting that there were four occupants in the vehicle. They recalled the occupants were fidgeting, reaching in their clothing, and [REDACTED] refused to lower his window or comply with other verbal commands, all while the officers did not know if there were weapons in the vehicle.²⁵ Officer Haynes already had his Taser drawn in a ready position when he initially arrived at the street takeover scene;²⁶ the only other officer who had a weapon drawn was Officer Estrada. Officers Haynes and Zagal observed Officer Estrada standing in front of [REDACTED] vehicle, pointing his firearm toward the vehicle. When asked about their CPD training pertaining to tactical positioning during traffic stops, Officer Haynes recalled that he was trained to avoid a “fatal funnel,”²⁷ such as standing exposed in front of a vehicle or vehicle window.²⁸ Officer Zagal confirmed that he was trained to “try to avoid things like that.”²⁹

As it relates to their responsibility to document the encounter with the other occupants in the vehicle, Officers Haynes and Zagal stated that the circumstances of this case did not necessitate completing an Investigatory Stop Report (ISR) or ISR receipt. Specifically, the officers pointed out that reasonable articulable suspicion (RAS) was not established for the occupants other than [REDACTED]. They further explained they never ran the occupants’ names or handcuffed them.³⁰

COPA also interviewed responding Sgts. Rodriguez and Robinson.³¹ BWC footage captured a brief conversation between Sgts. Rodriguez and Robinson and the vehicle occupants, centered on their safety and transportation from the scene.³² Both sergeants told COPA that they responded to the scene as assisting supervisors. Upon approach, they observed the active traffic stop of [REDACTED] vehicle. Sgt. Robinson explained he stepped in as the officers appeared to be having trouble obtaining [REDACTED] cooperation, and he observed Officer Estrada with a firearm in his hand.³³ However, neither sergeant was present at the time of the firearm pointing incident. After reviewing Officer Zagal’s BWC footage, both Sgt. Rodriguez and Sgt. Robinson agreed that Officer Estrada’s tactical positioning, i.e. standing in front of the vehicle, was not in accordance with CPD training.³⁴

Sgt. Robinson further stated that after he learned a replica weapon was found in the vehicle, he ordered everyone out of the vehicle.³⁵ Sgt. Rodriguez stated that his engagement with the occupants was casual after they exited the vehicle.³⁶ When asked about ISR procedures, both sergeants asserted the circumstances of this case did not warrant the preparation of an ISR for the

²⁵ Att. 50 at pg. 18, lns. 2 to 13; Att. 60 at pg. 14, lns. 3 to 9

²⁶ Att. 8 at 3:35

²⁷ Fatal funnel is a term used to refer to an area where individuals become highly exposed and vulnerable to incoming fire.

²⁸ Att. 61 at pg. 15, ln. 10 to pg. 19, ln. 2

²⁹ Att. 50 at pg. 20, ln. 8 to pg. 21, ln. 10

³⁰ Att. 52 at pgs. 11 to 13; Att. 60 at pgs. 22 to 23

³¹ Sgt. Rodriguez Accused Interview, Att. 62 (Audio), 63 (Transcript); Sgt. Robinson Accused Interview, Att. 55 and 56 (Audio), 57 (Transcript).

³² Atts. 13, 14

³³ Att. 57 at pg. 10 and pg. 12, lns. 14 to 24

³⁴ Att. 57 at pg. 19, ln. 18 to pg. 21, ln. 3; Att. 63 at pg. 24, ln. 18 to pg. 26, ln. 3

³⁵ Att. 57 at pg. 14

³⁶ Att. 63 at pgs. 12 to 19.

occupants other than [REDACTED] citing the lack of RAS, no request for identification, and that the occupants were not subject to a pat down, declaring that the CPD members' police business was with the driver only.³⁷

During her statement to COPA, Officer Sufranski³⁸ explained that she was partnered with Officer Estrada on the date of this incident. Although she initially engaged with [REDACTED] at his window to obtain his identification, she quickly noticed potential language barriers, because he appeared non-responsive to verbal commands issued in English. Ultimately, a Spanish speaking officer intervened, and she observed for the remainder of the incident.³⁹ When asked about Officer Estrada's tactical positioning in proximity to the vehicle, Officer Sufranski reported that his positioning was in opposition to her recollection of CPD training. She was trained to remain "offset from the driver and passengers just in case," and to avoid a "fatal funnel" position.⁴⁰ Officer Sufranski was also questioned about her interaction with the occupants of the vehicle, and she denied having any verbal or physical contact. She believed that the completion of ISRs and ISR receipts was not required for the occupants.⁴¹

Regarding the additional allegations concerning the encounter with [REDACTED] BWC footage shows Officers Sufranski and Estrada conducted this traffic stop approximately 10 minutes before responding to the "street takeover." BWC footage depicts Officers Sufranski and Estrada approaching [REDACTED] at a gas station after noticing his license plate was obstructed.⁴² Officer Sufranski confirmed that she obtained his driver's license and conducting a name check; however, Officer Sufranski described it as a "consensual encounter" that did not require an ISR or ISR receipt. She did not recall if she or her partner filled out a Traffic Stop Statistical Study card for the stop.⁴³

Officer Estrada's⁴⁴ statement to COPA was consistent with that of his peers. Upon his arrival at the scene, his attention was drawn to the vehicle in question because he observed the vehicle committing multiple traffic violations, and the driver was wearing a face mask. Although the vehicle was occupied by four individuals, Officer Estrada's attention was on the driver, [REDACTED]. Officer Estrada gave commands to [REDACTED] to produce identification, but he did not initially comply.⁴⁵ Officer Estrada also expressed safety concerns, highlighting that there was a great deal of movement inside of the vehicle, and he did not have a clear view of the occupants' hands.⁴⁶ These factors prompted Officer Estrada to point his firearm toward the vehicle.⁴⁷ When asked about the verbiage used during the incident, Officer Estrada acknowledged hearing himself on BWC stating words to the effect of, "I'll light you up!" He reported it as a "verbal slip," as he was trying to gain compliance. He admitted that the term could be taken as, "I'm going to shoot

³⁷ Att. 63 at pg. 19, ln. 11 to pg. 20, ln. 20; Att. 57 at pg. 17, ln. 21 to pg. 18, ln. 9

³⁸ PO Sufranski Accused Interview, Att. 53 (Audio), Att. 54 (Transcript)

³⁹ Att. 54 at pgs. 14 to 17 and pg. 18, lns. 11 to 19

⁴⁰ Att. 54 at pg. 27, ln. 8 to pg. 28, ln. 5

⁴¹ Att. 54 at pg. 30, lns. 17 to 23, pg. 34, and pgs. 36 to 37

⁴² Atts. 45 and 46

⁴³ Att. 54 at pgs. 39 to 41

⁴⁴ PO Estrada Accused Interview, Att. 58 (Audio), Att. 59 (Transcript)

⁴⁵ Att. 59, at pgs. 13 to 18

⁴⁶ Att. 59, at pg. 24, lns. 10 to 24

⁴⁷ Att. 59, at pg. 26, ln. 16 to pg. 29, ln. 1, and pg. 34, lns. 16 to 24

you,” but he said it also could have other meanings.⁴⁸ Regarding his tactical positioning, Officer Estrada confirmed that at least part of his body was in front of the vehicle, and he admitted it was not the smartest or safest position.⁴⁹ However, he found the position offered him a better opportunity to observe the driver.⁵⁰ Officer Estrada acknowledged that he could have been injured had the vehicle moved, but he could not recall receiving any training that covered the specific circumstances of this case.

Officer Estrada explained that [REDACTED] was one of two traffic stops that he initiated upon arrival at the scene. He explained that he deactivated and reactivated his BWC to establish two separate event queries for the two traffic stops that he simultaneously initiated.⁵¹ Additionally, Officer Estrada reported no interaction with the three other occupants of [REDACTED] vehicle, which is why he found it unnecessary to mention them in the arrest report or to prepare ISRs or ISR receipts for them.⁵² When addressing the allegations pertaining to [REDACTED] Officer Estrada acknowledged the interaction as an traffic stop, but he stated that the encounter did not require an ISR or ISR receipt because there was no need to explain probable cause, a pat down, or search of property.⁵³ Officer Estrada denied all of the allegations against him.

III. ALLEGATIONS

Sergeant Alfred Robinson:

1. Failed to activate their Body Worn Camera device.
 - UNFOUNDED
2. Failed to complete and/or ensure that an Investigatory Stop Report was prepared for the unknown occupants of the vehicle driven by [REDACTED]
 - NOT SUSTAINED
3. Failed to complete and/or ensure that Investigatory Stop receipts were issued and/or prepared for the unknown occupants of the vehicle driven by [REDACTED]
 - EXONERATED

Sergeant Alfredo Rodriguez:

1. Failed to complete and/or ensure that an Investigatory Stop Report was prepared for the unknown occupants of the vehicle driven by [REDACTED]
 - NOT SUSTAINED
2. Failed to complete and/or ensure that Investigatory Stop receipts were issued and/or prepared for the unknown occupants of the vehicle driven by [REDACTED]
 - EXONERATED

⁴⁸ Att. 59, at pgs. 41 to 42

⁴⁹ Att. 59, at pg. 31, lns. 15 to 16, and pg. 38, lns. 3 to 5.

⁵⁰ Att. 59, at pgs. 30 to 31, and pg. 38, lns. 3 to 10

⁵¹ Att. 59, at pg. 45, lns. 12 to 19, pg. 48, and pg. 60, ln. 17 to pg. 63, ln. 4

⁵² Att. 59, at pg. 45, lns. 12 to 19, and pg. 48

⁵³ Att. 59, at pgs. 50 to 53

Officer Jose Estrada:

1. Pointed a firearm at [REDACTED] without justification.
 - SUSTAINED, in Violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 38
2. Pointed a firearm at unknown occupants of a vehicle driven by [REDACTED] without justification.
 - NOT SUSTAINED
3. Threatened bodily harm toward one or more occupants of a vehicle when he used words to the effect of "I'll light you up."
 - SUSTAINED, in Violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 8
4. Used inadequate/improper tactical positioning by standing in front of a vehicle during a traffic stop.
 - SUSTAINED, in Violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, 10, and 11
5. Failed to accurately document and/or ensure the details of a traffic stop in the arrest report of [REDACTED]
 - UNFOUNDED
6. Failed to capture his involvement in a law enforcement related activity on his BWC device in its entirety, without justification.
 - SUSTAINED, in Violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10
7. Failed to complete an Investigatory Stop Report documenting the interaction with the unknown occupants of the vehicle driven by [REDACTED]
 - NOT SUSTAINED
8. Failed to provide the unknown occupants of the vehicle driven by [REDACTED] with an Investigatory Stop Receipt.
 - EXONERATED
9. Failed to complete an Investigatory Stop Report documenting the interaction with [REDACTED]
 - EXONERATED
10. Failed to provide [REDACTED] with an Investigatory Stop Receipt.
 - EXONERATED

Officer Nicole Sufranski

1. Failed to accurately document and/or ensure the details of a traffic stop in the arrest report of [REDACTED]
 - UNFOUNDED
2. Failed to complete an Investigatory Stop Report documenting the interaction with the unknown occupants of the vehicle driven by [REDACTED]

- NOT SUSTAINED
- 3. Failed to provide the unknown occupants of the vehicle driven by [REDACTED] with an Investigatory Stop Receipt.
 - EXONERATED
- 4. Failed to complete an Investigatory Stop Report documenting the interaction with [REDACTED]
 - EXONERATED
- 5. Failed to provide [REDACTED] with an Investigatory Stop Receipt.
 - EXONERATED

Officer Jamaal Haynes:

1. Failed to complete an Investigatory Stop Report for the unknown occupants of the vehicle driven by [REDACTED]
 - a. NOT SUSTAINED
2. Failed to issue an Investigatory Stop receipt for the unknown occupants of the vehicle driven by [REDACTED]
 - EXONERATED

Officer [REDACTED] Zagal:

1. Failed to complete an Investigatory Stop Report for the unknown occupants of the vehicle driven by [REDACTED]
 - a. NOT SUSTAINED
2. Failed to issue an Investigatory Stop receipt for the unknown occupants of the vehicle driven by [REDACTED]
 - EXONERATED

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. In contrast, 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.

The events described in this report were recorded on the BWCs of Officers Estrada, Sufranski, Haynes, and Zagal, as well as third-party video recordings, and the facts are not in material dispute. Instead, the issue is the appropriateness of the CPD members' conduct, specifically Officer Estrada's actions. Due to the anonymous nature of the complaint, COPA was unable to identify all of the parties in the related incident. Although COPA attempted to interview [REDACTED] to obtain his account, those efforts were unsuccessful. However, the details of the

events described by the CPD members to COPA during their statements appear consistent with the footage collected during the investigation. More importantly, Officer Estrada was forthcoming about his activities captured on video. Overall, this investigation did not reveal any evidence that caused COPA to question the credibility of any of the individuals who provided statements.

V. ANALYSIS⁵⁴

a. Firearm Pointing, Verbal Threats, and Improper Tactical Positioning

COPA finds Allegations #1, #3, and #4 against Officer Estrada, that he pointed a firearm at [REDACTED] without justification, verbally threatened [REDACTED] by stating words to the effect of “I’ll light you up,” and used inadequate/improper tactical positioning by standing in front of a vehicle during the traffic stop, are all **Sustained**. However, Allegation #2 against Officer Estrada, that he pointed a firearm at the other occupants of [REDACTED] vehicle, is **Not Sustained**.

Under CPD directives, CPD “members may only point a firearm at a person when it is objectively reasonable to do so under the totality of circumstances faced by the member on the scene. While reasonableness is not capable of precise definition, [CPD] members may consider factors that include, but are not limited to, the nature of the incident, the risk of harm to the member or others, and the level of threat or resistance presented or maintained by the person (e.g., possession or access to weapons).”⁵⁵

The evidence show that Officer Estrada stopped [REDACTED] vehicle because it had a cover concealing the rear license plate.⁵⁶ Officer Estrada then stood in front of the vehicle and pointed his firearm directly at [REDACTED] at least three times.⁵⁷ Officer Estrada explained that he did this due to safety concerns, as [REDACTED] was wearing a face mask, was non-responsive to verbal commands in English, and his hands were not always in sight. However, the video evidence shows that [REDACTED] never behaved in an aggressive manner towards the officers; he did not make any verbal threats, brandish a weapon, rev his engine, or attempt to drive away. Officer Estrada’s rationalization for pointing his weapon at [REDACTED] in a highly populated area, yelling words to the effect of, “I’ll light you up,” was objectively unreasonable. Additionally, Officer Estrada admitted that his language could have been interpreted to mean, “I’m going to shoot you.”⁵⁸ His verbiage unnecessarily escalated the situation and heightened the safety risk to all of the involved parties. Finally, COPA highlights that Officer Estrada was the only CPD member to unholster his firearm throughout the ordeal. This shows that a reasonable officer facing the same circumstances would not have acted in the manner that Officer Estrada did. The fact remains, Officer Estrada did not see a weapon in the hands of anyone in the vehicle, and his actions were not objectively reasonable under the totality of the circumstances.

In addition, COPA finds Officer Estrada’s tactical positioning was inadequate and improper. As pointed out previously, during their statements to COPA, the CPD members reported

⁵⁴ For a definition of COPA’s findings and standards of proof, *see* Appendix B.

⁵⁵ Att. 83, D19-01(II)(E), Firearm Pointing Incidents (effective November 1, 2019, to April 15, 2025).

⁵⁶ Att. 6.

⁵⁷ Att. 12 at 1:05, 1:30, and 1:39 to 2:03.

⁵⁸ Att. 59 at pg. 42, lns 20 to 21.

they were trained to avoid positioning themselves in a vehicle's path. This is consistent with CPD policy, which states that "members should make advantageous use of positioning, distance, and cover by isolating and containing a person, creating distance between the member and a potential threat, or utilizing barriers or cover. Members will continuously evaluate the member's positioning..."⁵⁹ Additionally, in discussing the prohibition against firing at or into a moving vehicle, CPD policy notes, "When a vehicle is the only force used against a member, the member will not place themselves in the path of the moving vehicle and will make every effort to move out of the path of the vehicle."⁶⁰

Although Officer Estrada stressed the importance of safety, he failed to consider the risk of the vehicle being used as a deadly weapon against him. In fact, BWC footage revealed the vehicle was still running while he was standing in front of it.⁶¹ Officer Estrada admitted that his decision to stand directly in front of the vehicle was not "the smartest"⁶² or "the safest."⁶³ Additionally, Sgt. Rodriguez, Sgt. Robinson, and the other CPD members whom COPA interviewed all stated that Officer Estrada's tactical positioning, i.e., standing in front of the vehicle, was inconsistent with their CPD training.

Therefore, COPA finds by a preponderance of evidence that Allegation #1 against Officer Estrada is **Sustained** in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 38, Allegation #3 is **Sustained** in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 8, and Allegation #4 is **Sustained** in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, 10, and 11.

However, COPA finds Allegation #2 against Officer Estrada, that he pointed a firearm at the other occupants of [REDACTED] vehicle, is **Not Sustained**. Officer Estrada told COPA that he was focused solely on [REDACTED] and he denied pointing his firearm at the three other vehicle occupants. The video evidence appears to corroborate Officer Estrada's account, as it only shows the officer pointing his firearm at [REDACTED]. However, due to the close proximity of the individuals in the vehicle, COPA lacks clear and convincing evidence to unfound this allegation. Therefore, it is Not Sustained.

b. BWC Allegations

COPA finds Allegation #1 against Sergeant Robinson, that he failed to activate his BWC, is **Unfounded**. Prior to serving this allegation, COPA was unable to locate Sgt. Robinson's BWC footage related to this incident. However, upon his arrival at his COPA interview, Sgt. Robinson retrieved the related footage from Evidence.com. At that time, COPA reviewed and downloaded the video footage. Therefore, COPA finds by clear and convincing evidence that the allegation is false or not factual, as the evidence proves that Sgt. Robinson activated his BWC.

COPA finds Allegation #6 against Officer Estrada, that he failed to capture his involvement in a law enforcement related activity on his BWC device in its entirety, is **Sustained**. CPD policy

⁵⁹ Att. 85, G03-02-01 (III)(B)(1), Response to Resistance and Force Options (effective June 28, 2023 to present).

⁶⁰ Att. 87, G03-02-02 (II)(E)(6), Firearm Discharge Incidents - Authorized Use and Post-Discharge Administrative Procedures (effective June 28, 2023 to present).

⁶¹ Att. 10 at 7:50

⁶² Att. 59, at pg. 31, lns. 15 to 16.

⁶³ Att. 59, pg. 38, lns. 3 to 5.

requires all law-enforcement-related activities to be electronically recorded.⁶⁴ Law-enforcement-related activities include, but are not limited to, investigatory stops, traffic stops, traffic control, foot and vehicle pursuits, arrests, emergency vehicle responses where fleeing suspects or vehicles may be captured on video leaving the crime scene, high risk situations, and any other instances when enforcing the law.⁶⁵ The decision to record is mandatory, not discretionary.⁶⁶ Officers conducting investigatory stops must activate their BWCs “when approaching the member of the public to initiate the stop.”⁶⁷ For traffic stops, officers must activate their cameras “when activating the Department vehicle’s emergency equipment to initiate the traffic stop.”⁶⁸ Additionally, BWCs may not be deactivated unless “the entire incident has been recorded and the member is no longer engaged in a law-enforcement-related activity.”⁶⁹

As mentioned earlier, Officer Estrada reported he initiated two traffic stops simultaneously and deactivated his BWC to allow for proper record keeping, as the other traffic stop was documented under a separate event number. However, this explanation is inconsistent with the video evidence. The BWC footage shows that Officer Estrada deactivated his BWC at 2:00:08 am, after briefly interacting with the driver of a white Dodge Charger.⁷⁰ He then waited until 2:01:56 am to reactivate his camera.⁷¹ By that time, Officer Estrada was already standing in front of [REDACTED] vehicle with his firearm pointed at [REDACTED]. Officer Estrada did not reactivate his BWC until nearly a minute into the stop of [REDACTED] vehicle. This was a clear violation of CPD policy.

Accordingly, Allegation #6 against Officer Estrada is **Sustained** as a violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10.

c. Paperwork/Reporting Allegations

i. Arrest Report

COPA finds Allegation #5 against Officer Estrada and Allegation #1 against Officer Sufranski, that they failed to accurately document the details of a traffic stop in the arrest report of [REDACTED] are **Unfounded**. Under CPD policy, arresting officers are responsible for “clearly and concisely documenting sufficient information in the CLEAR Automated Arrest System narrative to substantiate all charges placed against an arrestee (e.g., elements of the offense, probable cause to arrest).”⁷² Additionally, Officer Estrada told COPA that he was trained to prepare an arrest report to detail the probable cause for an arrest.

⁶⁴ Att. 81, S03-14(V)(A)(1), Body Worn Cameras (effective August 8, 2024 to February 27, 2026).

⁶⁵ Att. 81, S03-14(II)(I).

⁶⁶ Att. 81, S03-14(V)(A)(1).

⁶⁷ Att. 81, S03-14(V)(A)(2)(b).

⁶⁸ Att. 81, S03-14(V)(A)(2)(c).

⁶⁹ Att. 81, S03-14(V)(C)(1)(a).

⁷⁰ Att. 11.

⁷¹ Att. 12.

⁷² Att. 86, S06-01 (II)(A)(3), Processing Persons Under Department Control (effective January 28, 2022 to present).

In this case, [REDACTED] was arrested for driving without a valid license or insurance, operating a vehicle with the license plate covered, possession of fireworks, and possession of a replica firearm.⁷³ Officer Estrada credibly explained that when he completed the arrest report for [REDACTED] he did not reference the other occupants of the vehicle because they were not co-arrestees or the subject of the investigation.⁷⁴ This is consistent with CPD policy, as the occupants' involvement was not relevant to the probable cause for [REDACTED] arrest.

Therefore, COPA finds Allegation #5 against Officer Estrada and Allegation #1 against Officer Sufranski are **Unfounded**.

ii. Failure to Complete ISRs and Issue ISR Receipts to The Occupants of [REDACTED] Vehicle

COPA finds the allegation that the accused CPD members failed to complete an ISR for the unknown occupants of [REDACTED] vehicle, is **Not Sustained**. The related allegation for failing to issue an ISR receipt to the unknown occupants of the vehicle, is **Exonerated**.

Before February 2026, Special Order S04-13-09 listed requirements for investigatory stops and probable cause stops when no other documents captured the reason for the detention. Under that order, CPD members were required to submit an ISR following an investigatory stop, probable cause stop, or protective pat down or other search in a public place.⁷⁵ The order required CPD members to document “[a]ll the factors” supporting reasonable articulable suspicion to temporarily detain an individual for investigation, and if applicable, to perform a protective pat down, in the narrative portion of the ISR.⁷⁶ Additionally, CPD members were required to provide the subject of an investigatory stop with a completed Investigatory Stop Receipt, if the stop involved a protective pat down or any other search.⁷⁷

This investigation determined that Officers Estrada and Sufranski initiated a valid traffic stop of [REDACTED] vehicle. Officers Haynes and Zagal were identified as assisting officers, and the sergeants who arrived midway through the stop shared supervisory responsibilities. Although BWC evidence revealed the vehicle was also occupied by three additional occupants, it is clear that [REDACTED] was the focus of the traffic stop. The officers were presented with difficulty trying to obtain compliance from [REDACTED] and the occupants were only asked to exit the vehicle once officers discovered a replica weapon inside. However, it should be noted that officers may routinely order occupants – including drivers and passengers – out of a vehicle during a valid traffic stop.⁷⁸

⁷³ Att. 4.

⁷⁴ Att. 59 at pg. 58, ln. 12 to pg. 60, ln. 4

⁷⁵ Att. 82, S04-13-09 (VIII)(A)(1), Investigatory Stop System (effective July 10, 2017 to February 2, 2026).

⁷⁶ Att. 82, S04-13-09 (VIII)(A)(1).

⁷⁷ Att. 82, S04-13-09 (VIII)(3). The ISR receipt included the event number, the reason for the stop, and the officer's name and star number.

⁷⁸ See *Pennsylvania v. Mimms* 434, U.S. 106 (1977) (holding officers may remove a driver during a lawful traffic stop); see also *Maryland v. Wilson*, 519 U.S. 106 (1997) (holding officers may remove passengers during a lawful traffic stop, even without reasonable articulable suspicion the passengers were involved in a crime).

Notably, during all their statements to COPA, the CPD members asserted they had little to no interaction with the occupants. BWC supports their accounts, showing that none of the three occupants were subject to a name check or protective pat down. However, it is not clear that the occupants would have reasonably believed they were free to leave. As mentioned, [REDACTED] was the only person arrested.⁷⁹ For these reasons, COPA finds Allegation #7 for Officer Estrada, Allegation #2 for Officer Sufranski and Sergeant Robinson, and Allegation #1 for Sergeant Rodriguez, Officer Haynes, and Officer Zagel, are all **Not Sustained**.

Additionally, because the three occupants were not subjected to a protective pat down or other search, CPD policy did not require that they be provided with an ISR receipt. Therefore, COPA finds Allegation #8 for Officer Estrada, Allegation #3 for Officer Sufranski and Sergeant Robinson, and Allegation #2 for Sergeant Rodriguez, Officer Haynes, and Officer Zagel, are all **Exonerated**.

iii. Failure to Complete an ISR and Issue an ISR Receipt to [REDACTED]

COPA finds Allegations #9 and #10 against Officer Estrada and Allegations #4 and #5 against Officer Sufranski, that they failed to complete an ISR and ISR receipt documenting their interaction with [REDACTED] are **Exonerated**. During this investigation, COPA learned of an unrelated incident involving the traffic stop of [REDACTED] which occurred approximately ten minutes before the officers responded to the “street takeover.” BWC footage captured Officers Estrada and Sufranski stopping [REDACTED] at a gas station located near 38 E. Roosevelt, Chicago, IL.⁸⁰ The footage showed the officers approaching [REDACTED] at a gas pump to address a traffic-related violation, and ordering [REDACTED] to produce his license. Upon receiving [REDACTED] identification, the officers conducted a name check, which returned clear. The officers then released [REDACTED] without issuing him any citations. They did not conduct a protective pat down of [REDACTED] search his vehicle or belongings, or detain him for any additional reason other than the traffic violation. Under CPD policy, no ISR or ISR receipt was required for this stop.⁸¹

Therefore, COPA finds that Allegations #9 and #10 against Officers Estrada and Allegations # 4 and #5 against Officer Sufranski are **Exonerated**.

VI. DISCIPLINARY RECOMMENDATION

a. Officer Estrada

i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History⁸²

Officer Estrada has been employed by CPD since December 15, 2017. He has received a total of 53 Awards, including one Life Saving Award, three Department Commendation Awards,

⁷⁹ Att. 4.

⁸⁰ Atts. 45 and 46.

⁸¹ See Att. 82, S04-13-09 (VIII)(A)(4)(d) (providing an analogous example, where an officer conducts a traffic stop and issues the driver a verbal warning for running a stop sign. In that situation, the policy states that “[a]n Investigatory Stop Report will not be completed.”).

⁸² Atts. 75, 78, 79.

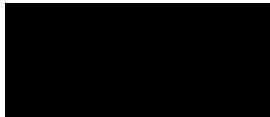
one Traffic Stop of the Month Award, and 45 Honorable Mention Certificates. In the last five years, Officer Estrada has had one prior sustained complaint, for failing to timely activate his BWC. (Log 2022-0003484.) He received a Reprimand as a result of that incident. He has also received two recent SPARs, for a preventable accident and inattention to duty, both of which resulted in 1-day off.

ii. Recommended Discipline

COPA has found that Officer Estrada violated Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 38 when he pointed a firearm at [REDACTED] without justification, used words to the effect of “I’ll light you up,” used improper tactical positioning by standing in front of [REDACTED] vehicle, and failed to record the entire incident on his BWC. In mitigation, COPA has considered Officer Estrada’s considerable award history. He also acknowledged his missteps during his COPA statement, particularly relating to his tactical positioning and language. In aggravation, Officer Estrada’s actions were captured on a video posted to social media, bringing considerable discredit to CPD. Additionally, his firearm pointing and verbal threat unnecessarily escalated the situation and created a safety risk. Finally, COPA notes that Officer Estrada has previously been disciplined for late BWC activation, which is misconduct he repeated during this incident.

For these reasons, and consistent with the principles of progressive discipline, COPA recommends that Officer Estrada receive a **1 – 10 Day Suspension** and **Retraining** on firearm pointing (S03-22), BWC activation (S03-14), and the CPD training module “Vehicle Stops and Occupant Control.”

Approved:



Steffany Hreno
Deputy Chief Administrator

6/8/2026

Date

Appendix A**Case Details**

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	December 8, 2024 / 2:00 am / 630 W. Harrison Street, Chicago, IL 60607.
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	December 10, 2024 / 8:48 am.
Involved Officer #1:	Officer Jose Estrada / Star#5965 / Employee ID [REDACTED] / DOA: December 15, 2017 / Unit 001/ Male / White Hispanic.
Involved Officer #2:	Officer Angel Zagal / Star #9922 / Employee ID # [REDACTED] / DOA: November 13, 2023 / Unit: 044/001 / Male / White Hispanic.
Involved Officer #3:	Officer Jamaal Haynes / Star #11648 / Employee ID # [REDACTED] / DOA: December 2, 2022 / Unit: 001 / Male / Black.
Involved Officer #4:	Officer Nicole Sufranski / Star # 11314 / Employee ID # [REDACTED] / DOA: November 13, 2023 / Unit: 044/010 / Female / White
Involved Officer #5:	Sergeant Alfred Robinson / Star # 2151 / Employee ID # [REDACTED] / DOA: November 29, 1999 / Unit: 001 / Male / Black
Involved Officer #6:	Sergeant Alfredo Rodriguez / Star # 1373 / Employee ID # [REDACTED] / DOA: March 15, 2013 / Unit: 001/216 / Male / White Hispanic.
Involved Individual #1:	Anonymous Complainant

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 10:** Inattention to duty.
- ☒ **Rule 11:** Incompetency or inefficiency in the performance of duty.
- ☒ **Rule 38:** Unlawful or unnecessary use or display of a weapon.

Applicable Policies and Laws

- Rules and Regulations of the Chicago Police Department, April 16, 2015.
- 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)
- S03-14, Body Worn Cameras (effective August 8, 2024, to February 27, 2026).
- S04-13-09, Investigatory Stop System (effective July 10, 2017, to February 2, 2026)
- S06-01, Processing Persons Under Department Control (effective January 28, 2022 to present).
- D19-01, Firearm Pointing Incidents (effective November 1, 2019, to April 15, 2025).

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.⁸³ 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.”⁸⁴

⁸³ 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).

⁸⁴ *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 Information

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: