



Log # 2025-1741

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 13, 2025, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) received an Initiation Report from Lieutenant (Lt.) Cory Junious, of the Chicago Police Department (CPD) 002nd District alleging misconduct by a CPD member. Lt. Junious alleged that on April 12, 2025, Officer Jorge Rivera used excessive force by pulling [REDACTED] hair without justification. Following its investigation, COPA reached a finding of exonerated regarding the allegation of excessive force.

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE²

April 12, 2025, Lt. Cory Junious, Sergeant (Sgt.) Gregory Bagnall, Sgt. Steven Sebek, Officer Jorge Rivera, Officer David Beltran and Officer Omar Moreno were detailed to a teen trend in Hyde Park and were detailed to 53rd and Kenwood. The responding officers were monitoring a group of young teenagers walking on the sidewalk on 53rd Street. The responding officers observed [REDACTED] running through traffic in a reckless manner and interfering with the movement of traffic. The responding officers advised [REDACTED] that he needed to remain on the sidewalk. [REDACTED] disregarded multiple verbal commands given by Officer Rivera. Officer Rivera attempted to guide [REDACTED] to walk north on 53rd Street by placing his hand on [REDACTED] back. [REDACTED] became aggressive and bladed his stance by pulling his pants up and balling his fist, directed at Officer Rivera.³

Sgt. Bagnall then attempted to place [REDACTED] into custody for assault, by performing an emergency takedown. While on the ground, [REDACTED] disregarded verbal commands to stop resisting and continued resisting by stiffening his body and arms.⁴ During this time, Officer Rivera observed [REDACTED] attempting to get close to [REDACTED] and Sgt. Bagnall. Officer Rivera intervened and pulled [REDACTED] away and down to the ground from his shoulders. [REDACTED] began resisting and Officer River attempted to detain [REDACTED]. Officer Rivera pulled [REDACTED] hair, [REDACTED] complied and Officer Rivera released [REDACTED] hair.⁵

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 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, police reports, evidence technician photos, medical records, and Officer [REDACTED] statement to COPA.

³ Att. 2, pg. 4; Att. 12, 2:15 to 2:22.

⁴ Att. 2, pg. 4

⁵ Att. 8, pg. 2; Att. 12, 2:23 to 2:53; Att. 13, 1:30 to 2:10.

██████████ was charged with assault, obstruction and resisting a peace officer. ██████████ was released without charges.⁶

In his statement to COPA, Lt. Junious related that he reviewed several body worn cameras while at the district and observed Officer Rivera pull ██████████ hair while on the ground. Lt. Junious described ██████████ as an active resister prior to being taken down to the ground but could not describe ██████████ actions.⁷ Lt. Junious related that he did not observe ██████████ actions while on the ground.⁸ Lt. Junious stated that based on the information he had at the time, he believed that Officer Rivera's actions were not in compliance with Department rules and regulations.⁹ Upon inquiry, Lt. Junious related that if ██████████ was resisting, it could be reasonable that ██████████ hair was pulled while he was being placed into custody.¹⁰ Upon inquiry, Lt. Junious explained that Electronic Training Bulletin (ETB) 1703 is related to the BWC policy. Lt. Junious related that Officer Rivera and Sgt. Bagnall had late BWC activation and he reviewed ETB-1703 with Officer Rivera and Sgt. Bagnall in lieu of a spar.¹¹

Officers Beltran and Moreno related that they did not observe Officer Rivera pull ██████████ hair.¹² Officer Beltran stated that he observed ██████████ ball his fist and take a fighting stance towards Officer Rivera.¹³ Officer Beltran, Sgt. Bagnall and an unidentified officer placed ██████████ into custody.¹⁴ Officer Beltran observed Officer Rivera on the ground with ██████████ and assisted him with handcuffing ██████████.¹⁵ Officer Beltran did not observe ██████████ actions prior to him being detained.¹⁶ Officer Moreno stated that he assisted with placing ██████████ into custody but did not observe nor assist with ██████████ being placed into custody.¹⁷

Sgt.'s Sebek and Bagnall stated that they did not observe Officer Rivera pull ██████████ hair.¹⁸ Sgt. Bagnall stated that he observed ██████████ ball up his fist and lunge at Officer Rivera.¹⁹ Sgt. Bagnall believed that ██████████ was going to strike Officer Rivera. Sgt. Bagnall responded by grabbing ██████████ arms to prevent him from moving. ██████████ pulled away from Sgt. Bagnall's grasp.²⁰ Sgt. Bagnall and several other Department members placed ██████████ in custody. Sgt. Bagnall related that he did not witness any interaction between ██████████ and Officer Rivera, as he was in the process of placing

⁶ COPA made multiple attempts to obtain a statement from ██████████ and ██████████ with negative results. Att. 23; CO-1436918, CO-1437204, CO-1465714, CO-1488989

⁷ Att., pg. 19, ln. 11 to 20.

⁸ Att., pg. 19, ln. 4 to 10.

⁹ Att., pg. 12, ln. 12 to 22.

¹⁰ Att., pg. 14, ln. 13 to 18.

¹¹ Att., pg. 6, ln. 10 to 24 and pg. 7, ln. 1 to 10.

¹² Att. 36, pg. 17, ln. 13 to 16; Att. 37, pg. 20, ln. 13 to 16.

¹³ Att. 36, pg. 11, ln. 6 to 7, pg. 13, ln. 12 to 19.

¹⁴ Att. 36, pg. 13, ln. 20 to 24, pg. 14, ln. 1 to 5.

¹⁵ Att. 36, pg. 14, ln. 6 to 24.

¹⁶ Att. 36, pg. 15, ln. 1 to 5.

¹⁷ Att. 37, pg. 19, ln. 7 to 12, pg. 20, ln. 5 to 12.

¹⁸ Att. 38, pg. 18, ln. 3 to 7; Att. 39, pg. 15, ln. 17 to 24.

¹⁹ Att. 38, pg. 10, ln. 10 to 15, pg. 14, ln. 3 to 7.

²⁰ Att. 38, pg. 14, ln. 17 to 20.

██████████ into custody.²¹ Sgt. Sebek related that he assisted with placing ██████████ into custody and did not recall observing who placed ██████████ into custody as he was focused on ██████████²²

In his statement to COPA, Officer Rivera related that he informed ██████████ that he had to leave the area. ██████████ stiffened his body, so Officer Rivera moved ██████████ with both hands. ██████████ turned around and balled up his fists and made a motion as if he ready to fight.²³ Sgt. Bagnall grabbed ██████████ approached the officers and Officer Rivera believed that ██████████ was going to cause distraction or intervene and stop the arrest of ██████████ Officer Rivera grabbed ██████████ and told him to stop and get on the ground. ██████████ did not comply and stiffened his body. After Officer Rivera took ██████████ down to the ground, ██████████ refused to give Officer Rivera his hands. Officer Rivera grabbed ██████████ by his head/ hair to prevent him from getting up from the ground. ██████████ complied after Officer Rivera grabbed his hair.²⁴ Officer Rivera added that grabbing ██████████ hair was intentional because he's a juvenile and he was attempting to use minimum force as possible, instead of punching or tasing ██████████²⁵

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer Jorge Rivera:

1. Pulling ██████████ hair without justification.
 - 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 fact 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 to accurately recall the event from memory.

██████████ and ██████████ failed to cooperate with the investigation.²⁶ The officers' statements regarding ██████████ are generally consistent and mutually corroborated. Officer Rivera, Sgt. Bagnall and Officer Beltran all reported that ██████████ disregarded verbal commands, balled his fists, and took an aggressive stance toward Officer Rivera, leading officers to place him into custody. Their accounts are detailed, consistent and supported by one another.

Regarding ██████████ Officer Rivera ██████████ that he intentionally pulled ██████████ hair while attempting to detain him. Lt. Junious confirmed observing the hair pull during his review

²¹ Att. 38, pg. 15, ln. 17 to 20, pg. 16, ln. 1 to 12.

²² Att. 39, pg. 14, ln. 4 to 18.

²³ Att. 40, pg. 10, ln. 15 to 24, pg. 14, ln. 1 to 14.

²⁴ Att. 40, pg. 11, ln. 6 to 17, pg. 16, ln. 18 to 23, pg. 17, ln. 3 to 6.

²⁵ Att. 40, pg. 17, ln. 17 to 19, pg. 18, ln. 2 to 22.

²⁶ See COPA notes: CO-1436336, 1436918, 1437204, 1465714, 1488989

of BWC. Officer Rivera stated that [REDACTED] approached the officers during [REDACTED] arrest, failed to comply with commands, resisted detention, and refused to provide his hands while on the ground. Rivera explained that he pulled [REDACTED] hair to gain compliance and believed it was a lesser use of force than striking him or using a Taser.

Overall, the evidence supports the fact that Officer Rivera pulled [REDACTED] hair. The officers accounts concerning [REDACTED] are credible and largely consistent.

V. ANALYSIS²⁷

COPA finds that Allegation #1 against Officer Rivera, that he pulled [REDACTED] hair without justification, is **exonerated**. Under CPD policy, members may only use force that is objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional under the totality of the circumstances, including using the minimum amount of force needed under the circumstances.²⁸ When a CPD member encounters a person who attempts to create distance from a member with an intent to avoid physical control and/or defeat arrest, that person is classified as an active resister.²⁹ CPD members may respond to active resistance with police presence, verbal directions, holding and compliance techniques, control instruments, stunning, takedowns, OC spray, Tasers, and canine use.³⁰

In this case, COPA finds [REDACTED] was an active resister who failed to comply with orders given by Officer Rivera to stop resisting and give Officer Rivera his hands. While on the ground, Officer Rivera directed [REDACTED] to give him his hands and [REDACTED] refused. CPD policy authorized Officer Rivera to use holding and compliance techniques, control instruments, and Tasers. Officer Rivera utilized a holding technique by holding [REDACTED] head/ hair to gain compliance. COPA finds that Officer Rivera's actions were in compliance with CPD's policy.

Approved:

[REDACTED]
 Joshua Hunt
 1st Deputy Chief [REDACTED]

27 July 2026

Date

²⁷ For a definition of COPA's findings and standards of proof, see Appendix B.

²⁸ See G03-02-01 (II)(C)(1), Response to Resistance and Force Options (effective June 28, 2023 to Present).

²⁹ G03-02-01 IV(B)(2).

³⁰ G03-02-01 IV(B)(2)(c).

Appendix A**Case Details**

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	April 12, 2025 / 8:41 pm / 5299 S. Kenwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60615.
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	April 13, 2025 / 6:52 pm.
Involved Officer #1:	Officer Jorge Rivera / Star #18429 / Employee ID # [REDACTED] / DOA: June 17, 2019 / Unit: 012/ DTL 079 / Male / 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.
- ☐ **Rule __:** *[Insert text of any additional rule(s) violated]*

Applicable Policies and Laws

- G03-02-01: Response to Resistance and Force Options (effective June 28, 2023 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.³¹ 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.”³²

³¹ 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).

³² *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