Log # 2025-1873

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT[1]

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 20, 2025, at approximately 3:30 am, the Chicago Police Department's (CPD) Crime Prevention and Information Center (CPIC) notified the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) of a vehicle pursuit resulting in fatalities. COPA later learned that Officers Jonnathan Tapia and Caitlyn Zbroszczyk were dispatched to a call for police service and activated their patrol vehicle's emergency equipment. Upon attempting to pass a vehicle on their way to the call, the vehicle sped up and began disregarding traffic signals. Officers Tapia and Zbroszczyk drove in the same direction as this vehicle for approximately five blocks and then turned to continue to their assignment while the fleeing vehicle continued straight. The fleeing vehicle continued driving for approximately one-quarter mile and was then involved in a traffic crash resulting in two deaths.[2] Following its investigation, COPA determined that Officers Tapia and Zbroszczyk complied with CPD policy, and no allegations related to this incident were served on them.

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE[3]

On April 20, 2025, at approximately 1:58 am, [redacted] [redacted] called 911 and reported a domestic assault involving knives at [redacted][4] Officers Cale Luciano and Anthony Tripoli were assigned to respond to the call at 2:01 am.[5] Also at 2:01 am, Cruz and another person made additional calls to 911 regarding the assault.[6] After receiving the additional calls, at 2:04 am the Office of Emergency Management and Communication (OEMC) assigned Officers Tapia and Zbroszczyk to respond as an assisting unit.[7]

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[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] Pursuant to § 2-78-120 of the Municipal Code of Chicago, COPA has a duty to investigate all incidents where a person dies or sustains a serious bodily injury while detained or in CPD custody, or as a result of police actions, such as during attempts to apprehend a suspect, and to investigate all incidents of an "officer-involved death," as that term is defined in 50 ILCS 727/1-5. Therefore, COPA determined it would be the primary administrative 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, ICC footage, third-party video, police reports, and officer interviews.
[4] Att. 15.
[5] Att. 3.
[6] Atts. 13 and 14.
[7] Att. 3 and Att. 148 at 2:31 to 2:49.

When they received the assignment, Officers Tapia and Zbroszczyk were driving south in the right lane on Central Ave.[8] They activated their emergency lights and siren when they crossed Wabansia Ave. at 2:04:35 am, and they began moving to the left lane to pass a black Chevrolet that was driving in front of them.[9] The Chevrolet increased its speed, preventing the officers from passing, and Officers Tapia and Zbroszczyk returned to the right lane and continued driving south behind the Chevrolet.[10] The Chevrolet and the officers traveled through a green light at North Ave. at 2:04:44 am.[11] After the Chevrolet disregarded a stop sign at Le Moyne St. at approximately 2:04:50 am, Officers Tapia and Zbroszczyk deactivated the siren, intending to signal to the driver of the Chevrolet that they were not pursing them.[12] Officer Zbroszczyk made a broadcast over the radio alerting other CPD members about the Chevrolet traveling at a high rate of speed and disregarding traffic signals at 2:05:07 am, as they were approaching Division St.[13] The Chevrolet continued south on Central Ave. from Division St., through a yellow traffic signal.[14] Officers Tapia and Zbroszczyk slowed as they approached Division St. and turned left (east) onto Division St. at 2:05:19 am.[15] Officers Tapia and Zbroszczyk continued to their assignment after turning onto Division St., arriving at 2:06:46 am.[16]

Meanwhile, at 2:05:18 am, approximately one-quarter mile past Division St., the Chevrolet continued south through the intersection of Central Ave. and Augusta Blvd. while disregarding a red light.[17] The Chevrolet struck another vehicle that was driving east on Augusta as the eastbound vehicle entered the intersection on a green light.[18] The vehicles' momentum carried them both south and east, out of the roadway and into the yards on the east side of Central Ave.[19] During the collision, an occupant in the Chevrolet, [redacted] was ejected from that vehicle and both occupants of the other vehicle, [redacted] and [redacted] were ejected from their vehicle.[20] Another occupant of the Chevrolet, later identified as [redacted] exited the vehicle and fled from the scene on foot.[21]

CPD and Chicago Fire Department (CFD) personnel responded to the scene of the crash. [redacted] and [redacted] were transported to John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital in critical

[8] Att. 3 and Att. 51 at 8:39.
[9] Att. 51 at 8:39 to 8:55.
[10] Att. 51 at 8:55; Att. 139, pg. 11, ln. 21, to pg. 12, ln. 9.
[11] Att. 51 at 8:59.
[12] Att. 51 at 9:04; Att. 139, pg. 12, lns. 10 to 15.
[13] Att. 51 at 9:18 to 9:54; Att. 138, pg. 11, lns. 17 to 22.
[14] Att. 51 at 9:19.
[15] Att. 51 at 9:26 to 9:39.
[16] Att. 38 at 2:12 to 2:23; Att. 39 at 2:11 to 2:26; Att. 51 at 10:57 to 11:12.
[17] Att. 10 at 0:03; Att. 51 at 9:34; Att. 61 at 2:05:18. The crash is visible in the far distance on the officers' ICC video recording, but COPA found no evidence to suggest that either of the officers perceived the crash before turning onto Division St. and continuing to their assigned call for service. The audio portion of the ICC recording captured the officers discussing how to describe the speeding vehicle in response to a question from the OEMC dispatcher as they slowed and made the turn from Central onto Division.
[18] Att. 10 at 0:03; Att. 183, pg. 14.
[19] Att. 8 at 0:04 to 0:12.
[20] Att. 48 at 2:28 to 4:03; Att. 183, pgs. 15 to 16.
[21] Att. 8 at 0:13 to 0:22.

condition.[22] [redacted] was transported to Mt. Sinai Hospital in critical condition.[23] [redacted] and [redacted] were both pronounced dead shortly after they were transported to the hospital.[24] The Cook County Medical Examiner determined the following day that both [redacted] and [redacted] died of injuries caused by the crash.[25] [redacted] sustained serious injuries, and she related that she had no memory of the crash when later interviewed by an assistant state's attorney.[26]

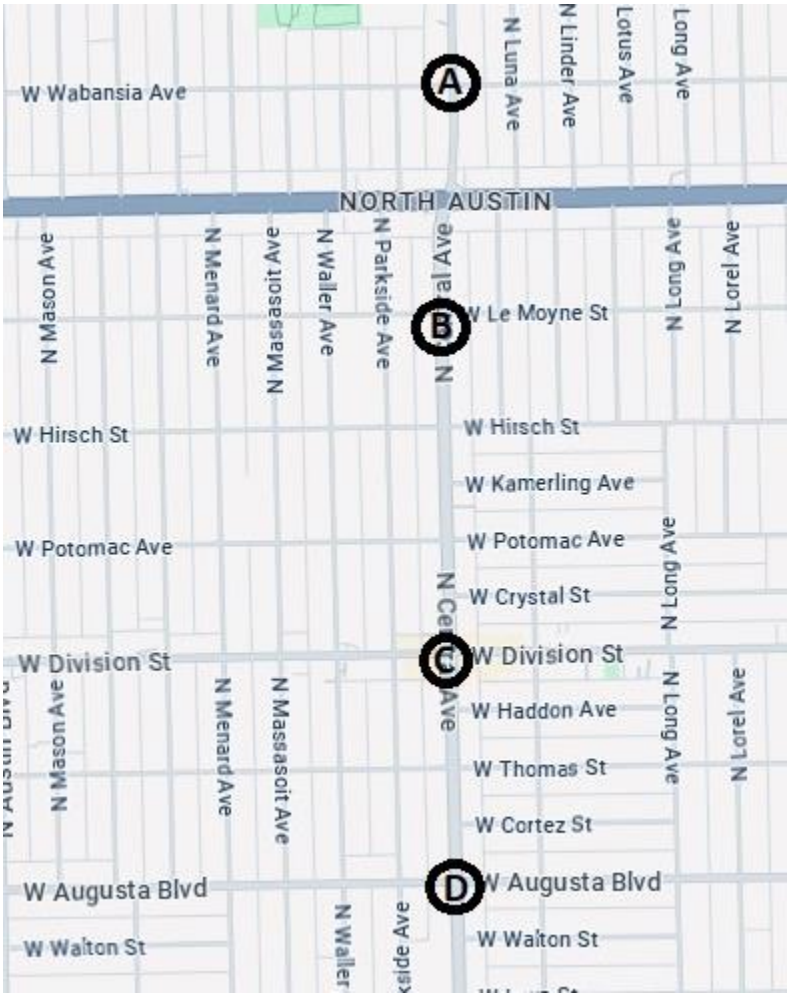


Figure 1: Google map snapshot marked to indicate (A) the approximate location where Officers Tapia and Zbroszczyk attempted to pass the Chevrolet, (B) the approximate location where the Chevrolet first disregarded a traffic signal, (C) the location where Officers Tapia and Zbroszczyk ceased traveling in the same direction as the Chevrolet, and (D) the location of the traffic crash involving the Chevrolet.

[22] Att. 35; Att. 120, pgs. 2 and 4.
[23] Att. 124, pgs. 2 and 5.
[24] Att. 157, pg. 3; Att. 160, pg. 3.
[25] Att. 158, pg. 5; Att. 162, pg. 10.
[26] Att. 188.

CPD detectives later identified [redacted] a cousin of [redacted] and the grandson of the Chevrolet's owner, as the likely driver of the Chevrolet based on witness interviews, surveillance video recordings, and DNA testing.[27] [redacted] was arrested on May 5, 2026, on charges of reckless homicide, reckless driving, aggravated unlawful possession of a firearm, and leaving the scene of an accident resulting in injury or death.[28] [redacted] the brother of [redacted] told detectives that he was with [redacted] and [redacted] before the crash, and he knew that [redacted] was driving the Chevrolet with [redacted] as his passenger.[29] [redacted] explained that he was driving behind [redacted] and the marked CPD vehicle, and he saw [redacted] drive at a high rate of speed after the CPD vehicle's lights and siren were activated.[30] [redacted] saw the CPD vehicle turn left at Division St., but [redacted] continued speeding and driving recklessly, and [redacted] attempted to call [redacted] to "tell him to calm down."[31] However, [redacted] denied witnessing the fatal crash.

III. ALLEGATIONS

Pursuant to section 2-78-120 of the Municipal Code of Chicago, COPA has a duty to investigate all incidents in which a person dies or suffers serious bodily injury while in CPD custody or as a result of CPD member actions. During its investigation of this incident, COPA did not find evidence to support allegations that [redacted] and [redacted] deaths or [redacted] injuries were the result of Officer Tapia's or Officer Zbroszczyk's actions.

IV. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

This investigation did not reveal any evidence that caused COPA to doubt the credibility of any of the individuals who provided statements. In particular, COPA found Officer Tapia to be credible in his statement. He did not have difficulty remembering details of the incident, and his account was consistent with the available video evidence. Officer Tapia accurately recounted encountering the Chevrolet, the Chevrolet failing to yield when Officer Tapia activated his vehicle's emergency lights and siren, and deactivating the siren and slowing after observing the Chevrolet disregard traffic control devices, consistent with the available audio and video recordings of the event.[32]

V. ANALYSIS[33]

CPD policy defines a motor vehicle pursuit as "[a]n active attempt by a sworn member operating an authorized emergency vehicle to apprehend any driver or operator of a motor vehicle

[27] Atts. 6, 11, 12, 37, 129 to 133, 135, 140 to 145, and 182 to 187.
[28] Att. 187. [redacted] was held in custody for an unrelated offense while the Cook County State's Attorney's Office requested additional DNA testing. *See* Att. 186, pgs. 9 to 12.
[29] Att. 184, pg. 10.
[30] Att. 184, pg. 10.
[31] Att. 184, pg. 10.
[32] Att. 139, pg. 12, ln. 21, to pg. 13, ln. 15; Att. 51 at 8:41 to 9:28.
[33] For a definition of COPA's findings and standards of proof, *see* Appendix B.

who, having been given a visual and audible signal by the officer [to] stop, fails or refuses to obey such direction, increases or maintains his or her speed, extinguishes his or her lights, or otherwise flees or attempts to elude the officer."[34]

CPD policy restricts members' ability to engage in motor vehicle pursuits. Specifically, it provides that a CPD member will only engage in a motor vehicle pursuit when (1) the pursuit complies with the balancing test; (2) the pursuing vehicle has its emergency-roof lights and siren activated; and (3) OEMC has been notified regarding the facts concerning the pursuit.[35] Members are required to terminate any pursuit that does not conform to CPD pursuit policy.[36]

To ensure compliance of the motor vehicle pursuit with the balancing test, CPD members must determine that "[t]he necessity to immediately apprehend the fleeing suspect outweighs the level of inherent danger created by a motor vehicle pursuit."[37] The balancing test applies to the initiation, continuation, and supervisory authorization of the motor vehicle pursuit.[38]

CPD policy prohibits members from engaging in a motor vehicle pursuit when the most serious offense wanted for is (1) a traffic offense, other than driving under the influence of drugs/alcohol or (2) theft (including possession of a stolen vehicle).[39]

CPD policy also clarifies that if a CPD member "states that he or she is following a vehicle whose driver has refused to pull over after being signaled to do so, the incident will automatically be classified as a pursuit," but no pursuit occurs when a CPD member "deactivates all emergency equipment and stops following the other vehicle immediately after its driver refuses to pull over and flees."[40]

CPD members are required to respond to the location of an assignment immediately.[41] CPD members are permitted special driving privileges such as disregarding traffic signals and exceeding the speed limit.[42] To utilize these special privileges, CPD members must be responding to an emergency call in a readily identifiable emergency vehicle with the lights and siren activated.[43]

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[34] Att.190, General Order G03-03(II) and (III)(A), Emergency Use of Department Vehicles (effective March 18, 2022, to present).
[35] Att. 191, General Order G03-03-01(VII)(A), Emergency Vehicle Operations – Eluding and Pursuing (effective August 15, 2020, to present).
[36] Att. 191, G03-03-01(VI)(I).
[37] Att. 191, G03-03-01(IV)(A) (emphasis omitted).
[38] Att. 191, G03-03-01(IV)(A).
[39] Att. 191, G03-03-01(V)(A). Illinois Supreme Court Rule 501(f) defines a traffic offense as "[a]ny case which charges a violation of any statute, ordinance or regulation relating to the operation or use of motor vehicles, the use of streets and highways by pedestrians or the operation of any other wheeled or tracked vehicle."
[40] Att. 191, G03-03-01(III)(B)-(C).
[41] Att. 192, General Order G04-01(III)(A), Preliminary Investigations (effective December 30, 2020, to June 30, 2025).
[42] Att. 190, G03-03(C)(3).
[43] Att. 190, G03-03(C)(2).

During their statements to COPA, Officers Tapia and Zbroszczyk explained that they activated their emergency lights and sirens to travel to their assigned service call.[44] They attempted to overtake the Chevrolet, but it increased its speed.[45] Because the officers continued to follow the Chevrolet after it failed to yield to their lights and siren, this incident was initially classified as a vehicle pursuit. However, the officers never made an activate attempt to apprehend the driver of the Chevrolet after the driver disregarded the patrol vehicle's lights and siren, increased his or her speed, and fled. Rather, Officer Tapia explained that he deactivated the siren and slowed to indicate to the driver of the Chevrolet that he was not pursuing them.[46] After the siren was deactivated, the distance between the officers' vehicle and the Chevrolet quickly grew, although the officers continued driving behind the Chevrolet with their emergency lights activated.[47] However, the officers then turned onto Division St. and continued to their assigned service call, and they were no longer following behind the Chevrolet.[48] At the time of the fatal crash at Central Ave. and Augusta Blvd., Officers Tapia and Zbroszczyk were not following the Chevrolet and were not involved in a pursuit. Based on a totality of the circumstances, COPA finds by a preponderance of the evidence that Officers Tapia and Zbroszczyk complied with CPD policy.

Approved:

[redacted]

Joshua T. Hunt
First Deputy Chief Administrator

8/25/26

Date

Appendix A

Case Details

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	April 20, 2025 / 2:07 am / 1000 N Central Ave., Chicago, IL 60651
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	April 20, 2025 / 3:39 am
Involved Member #1:	Police Officer Jonnathan Tapia, Star #19868, Employee ID #[redacted] Date of Appointment: June 1, 2022, Unit of Assignment: 025, Male, White Hispanic

[44] Att. 138, pg. 10, ln 23, to pg. 11, ln. 1; Att. 139, pg. 11, lns. 17 to 24.
[45] Att. 138, pg. 11, lns. 1 to 9; Att. 139, pg. 12, lns. 1 to 6.
[46] Att. 139, pg. 12, lns. 13 to 15, and pg. 32, lns. 18 to 20.
[47] Att. 51 at 9:05 to 9:30.
[48] Att. 51 at 9:30 to 9:39.

Involved Member #2:	Police Officer Caitlyn Zbroszczyk, Star #18071, Employee ID # [redacted] Date of Appointment: August 7, 2023, Unit of Assignment: 025, Female, White
Involved Individual #1:	[redacted] Male, Black
Involved Individual #2:	[redacted] Male, Black
Involved Individual #3:	[redacted] Male, Black
Involved Individual #4:	[redacted] Female, 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

- G03-01: Emergency Use of Department Vehicles (effective March 18, 2022, to present)
- G03-03-01: Emergency Vehicle Operations – Eluding and Pursuing (effective August 15, 2020, to present)
- G04-01: Preliminary Investigations (effective December 30, 2020, to June 30, 2025)

Appendix B

Definition of COPA's Standard of Proof

COPA applies a preponderance of the evidence standard to determine whether allegations related to a vehicle pursuit are warranted or well-founded.[49] A **preponderance of evidence** is evidence indicating that it is more likely than not that a proposition is proved.[50] For example, if the evidence COPA gathers in an investigation establishes that it is more likely than not that misconduct occurred, even if by a narrow margin, then the preponderance of the evidence standard is met.

[49] *See* Municipal Code of Chicago, Ch. 2-78-110.
[50] *See Avery v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 216 Ill. 2d 100, 191 (2005) ("A proposition proved by a preponderance of the evidence is one that has been found to be more probably true than not true.").

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