



Brandon Johnson
Mayor

Department of Police · City of Chicago
3510 S. Michigan Avenue · Chicago, Illinois 60653

Larry B. Snelling
Superintendent

March 6, 2024

Andrea Kersten
Chief Administrator
Civilian Office of Police Accountability
1615 West Chicago Avenue, 4th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60622

Re: Superintendent's Partial Non-Concurrence with Penalty Recommendations
Complaint Log No. 2020-0004479

Dear Chief Administrator Kersten:

After a careful review of the above referenced complaint log number investigation, the Chicago Police Department (Department) concurs with the recommended sustained findings but does not concur with the recommended penalties as they pertain to the Officer Darion Jackson, Star No. 11118, Officer Curtis Alequin, Star No. 10028 and Officer Khaled Hasan, Star No. 8454. Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Department provides the following comments.

The COPA investigation recommended a penalty of a 15-day suspension for Officer Jackson after concluding that he:

1. Employed a chokehold, or any lesser contact with the neck area, to prevent Dannie Bonds from ingesting suspected narcotics;
2. Failed to complete an investigatory stop report documenting the detention and handcuffing of an unknown black male.

The COPA investigation also recommended a penalty of a 3-day suspension for Officer Alequin after concluding that he:

1. Failed to complete an investigatory stop report documenting the detention and handcuffing of an unknown black male;
2. Failed to activate his Body Worn Camera to record the traffic stop and detention of Dannie Bonds and unknown black male.

The COPA investigation also recommended a penalty of a Reprimand for Officer Hasan after concluding that he:

1. Failed to complete an investigatory stop report documenting the detention and handcuffing of an unknown black male.

The Department agrees with the sustained findings for all three members as being supported by the evidence. The Department also agrees with the penalty recommendation for Officer Hasan. But the Department believes that the penalty recommendations for Officer Jackson and Officer Alequin are excessive. The Department recommends a 7-day suspension for Officer Jackson and a 1-day suspension for Officer Alequin. In addition, additional training will be provided for all three members on the Investigatory Stop System with Officer Jackson also receiving Use of Force training and Officer Alequin also receiving Body Worn Camera Policy and procedure training.

Regarding Officer Jackson, while the Department agrees with COPA that the member is obligated to know and follow the policy, the statements of Officer Jackson clearly demonstrate that he does not understand the policy. Officer Jackson admitted that he was attempting to prevent Bonds from swallowing the narcotics and that his hand came into contact with Bond's throat, although he states the contact was inadvertent. These statements by Jackson are essentially contradictory and support the recommendation for a lesser penalty with the additional training. COPA acknowledged that Bonds suffered no injury and that Officer Jackson was motivated by a desire to prevent Bonds from being harmed by the narcotics he appeared to be attempting to swallow.

If the purpose of discipline is to correct errant behavior and modify future conduct, then this can be accomplished with this lesser suspension along with the additional training. This is particularly applicable in this case as the date of incident is almost 3.5 years ago. A higher suspension would serve no purpose except to be punitive and therefore is not in this member's nor in the Department's best interest. And after reviewing the officer's acceptable complimentary history and his disciplinary history of three separate reprimands and a violation noted, the lesser penalty will also support the principal of progressive discipline.

Regarding Officer Alequin, the Department's position is that the typical penalty for these two violations standing alone is a reprimand to 1-day suspension, absent aggravating or mitigating circumstances. The Department considered this member's impressive complimentary history as mitigation evidence. And although progressive discipline may have justified a 3-day suspension based on his disciplinary history, the Department mitigates this with the fact that the date of incident is over 3.5 years ago and the member does not have any violations of this nature since.

The Department looks forward to discussing this matter with you pursuant to MCC 2-78-130(a)(iii).

Sincerely,



Larry D. Shelton
Superintendent
Chicago Police Department