



Log # 2022-1884

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On May 9, 2022, Lieutenant Leonard Shoshi (Lt. Shoshi) notified the Chicago Police Department's (CPD) Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) of an incident of alleged misconduct.² BIA initiated this log number and notified COPA the same day. In his complaint, Lt. Shoshi alleged that on May 9, 2022, Sergeant Cedric Taylor (Sgt. Taylor)³ used excessive force during the detention and subsequent arrest of ██████████ (██████████⁴ Upon review of the evidence, COPA served allegations against Sgt. Taylor for forcefully stepping on ██████████ leg; forcefully kicking ██████████ mistreating ██████████ by poking him on or about the chest with a radio antenna; acting in a disrespectful and/or unprofessional manner; directing verbally abusive statements to ██████████ and discouraging and/or providing false or misleading information to ██████████ about filing a complaint. COPA served additional allegations against Officer Pierre Meeks (Officer Meeks) and Officer Lucy Matusiak (Officer Matusiak). Following its investigation, COPA reached **sustained** findings regarding all allegations.

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE⁵

On May 9, 2022, Officer Meeks was on-duty and partnered with Sgt. Taylor and Officer Elena Bilyarska.⁶ After observing ██████████ driving erratically on a three-wheeled motorcycle, the CPD members conducted a traffic stop. All three members activated their body-worn cameras (BWC) as they exited their vehicle and approached ██████████ who remained seated on the motorcycle. As Officer Meeks approached ██████████ he stated to ██████████ "Are you stupid or something?"⁷ Officer Meeks told ██████████ to get off the motorcycle, but ██████████ hesitated to step off the seat. After Officer Meeks warned ██████████ that he was going to put him in handcuffs, ██████████ began to stand up and then informed Officer Meeks that he did not have a driver's license. ██████████ eventually got off the motorcycle and handed an identification card to Officer Meeks. ██████████ then jogged away from the scene of the traffic stop, running around the corner onto 29th Street, but he returned a short time later and began to act erratically by jumping and flailing his

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.

³ On May 9, 2022, Sgt. Taylor's rank was that of a police officer. He was promoted to sergeant on December 16, 2022. Sgt. Taylor will be referred to by his current rank throughout this report.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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, and officer interviews.

⁶ Officer Bilyarska passed away in December 2022. See Att. 52.

⁷ Att. 4 at 2:01 to 2:04.

arms.⁸ Officer Meeks handcuffed ██████████ and guided him to sit on the ground next to a vehicle that was parked along the curb on S. Michigan Avenue.⁹

As Officer Meeks entered the squad car and began to run ██████████ information on the police data terminal (PDT), his partners stayed with ██████████ Sgt. Taylor, who was seated on the motorcycle, began conversing with ██████████ During this conversation, Sgt. Taylor said to ██████████ “That’s the problem with us,” as he tapped his left wrist, “We don’t listen.”¹⁰

The Office of Emergency Management & Communications (OEMC) alerted Officer Meeks and his partners that a citizen saw ██████████ throw a firearm under a vehicle when ██████████ had run from the officers onto 29th Street.¹¹ ██████████ hearing this information, exclaimed that he did not throw a gun. He then stood from a seated position, while still handcuffed, and fled down 29th Street before turning onto S. Wabash Avenue.¹² Sgt. Taylor and Officer Bilyarska pursued ██████████ on foot while Officer Meeks pursued in the squad car. Officer Meeks caught up to ██████████ where he was seated on the sidewalk in front of 2850 S. Wabash Avenue.¹³ After Officer Meeks exited the squad car, he was joined by his partners, and he advised them that he was going to look for the firearm.

As Officer Bilyarska stood next to the now-compliant ██████████ Sgt. Taylor walked up to them. Sgt. Taylor immediately used his left foot to step and stand on ██████████ right leg.¹⁴ ██████████ moved his leg out from under Sgt. Taylor, causing Sgt. Taylor to momentarily lose his footing.¹⁵ Then, Sgt. Taylor kicked ██████████ in the groin area with his right leg.¹⁶ Officer Bilyarska attempted to intervene by grabbing Sgt. Taylor’s arm, shaking it, and pushing him away from ██████████¹⁷ ██████████ objected, stating repeatedly, “He just kicked me!”¹⁸

Sgt. Taylor then stepped closer to ██████████ and used the antenna of his radio to poke ██████████ in the chest as Sgt. Taylor said, “Listen to what I’m saying, you’re fucked.”¹⁹ ██████████ replied, “And you guys kicked me, too, show me the video.” Sgt. Taylor responded, “I don’t have to show you shit,”²⁰ and he denied that he had kicked ██████████ As Sgt. Taylor continued to poke ██████████ with the antenna, ██████████ repeatedly asked him to “get that out of my chest.”²¹ Sgt. Taylor responded six times, “What are you going to do if I don’t?”²² Sgt. Taylor finally removed

⁸ Att. 4 at 3:09 to 3:35.

⁹ Att. 4 at 3:50 to 4:05.

¹⁰ Att. 3 at 4:47 to 4:50; Att. 2 at 4:35 to 4:40. Note: both ██████████ and Sgt. Taylor are black males.

¹¹ Att. 4 at 6:11 to 6:13.

¹² Att. 4 at 6:13 to 6:20.

¹³ Att. 4 at 6:20 to 7:00.

¹⁴ Att. 3 at 7:27 to 7:29.

¹⁵ Att. 3 at 7:29 to 7:30.

¹⁶ Att. 3 at 7:30 to 7:32.

¹⁷ Att. 3 at 7:34 to 7:45.

¹⁸ Att. 3 at 7:48 to 7:53.

¹⁹ Att. 2 at 8:26 to 8:30 and Att. 3 at 8:37 to 8:48.

²⁰ Att. 2 at 9:57 to 10:00.

²¹ Att. 2 at 10:02 to 10:10.

²² Att. 2 at 10:06 to 10:10.

the antenna after ██████ said “please.” Sgt. Taylor then said to ██████ “Boy are you stupid.” ██████ replied, “I’m not stupid,” and Sgt. Taylor responded, “You’re stupid as fuck.”²³

Additional CPD members arrived on scene and ██████ was escorted into the back of a marked CPD vehicle. Officer Matusiak then opened the rear door of the squad car and Sgt. Taylor asked ██████ to exit the vehicle so he could be searched. ██████ told Sgt. Taylor that he did not want Sgt. Taylor to search him.²⁴ Officer Matusiak told ██████ that she would search him, and ██████ exited the vehicle.²⁵ At this point, there were three male officers standing near Officer Matusiak.²⁶ A male officer searched ██████ above his waist, removed items from ██████ pockets, and handed them to another male officer. Officer Matusiak searched ██████ from behind and below his waist.²⁷ Officer Matusiak’s BWC was not activated during any of these law-enforcement-related activities. ██████ was then placed into the CPD vehicle and subsequently transported to the 1st District by Officer Matusiak and her partner.²⁸

In the narrative portion of his Tactical Response Report (TRR),²⁹ Sgt. Taylor stated that he saw Officer Bilyarska still struggling with ██████ so he applied pressure to ██████ shin to stop ██████ attempt to defeat the arrest by fleeing. He added that he released ██████ leg because ██████ appeared to be “calm at that moment.” Sgt. Taylor recounted that ██████ then “began to flail his legs again,” which Sgt. Taylor interpreted as another attempt to defeat the arrest. Sgt. Taylor positioned both of his legs between ██████ legs, with his right leg forward, and “closed the distance to ensure (█████ could not flee...” Sgt. Taylor stated that the stem of his radio antenna made contact with ██████ chest, adding that he stopped once he “realized this action was occurring.” Upon review of Sgt. Taylor’s TRR, Lieutenant Steven Konow (Lt. Konow) determined that Sgt. Taylor’s use of force was not in compliance with CPD policy and directives.³⁰

In his statement to COPA, Sgt. Taylor stated that when he approached ██████ on S. Wabash Avenue, he saw ██████ struggling with Officer Bilyarska and trying to get away.³¹ Sgt. Taylor stepped on ██████ leg to stop him from getting back up and fleeing again.³² Sgt. Taylor explained that he put both of his legs between ██████ legs to stop ██████ from getting up, at which point ██████ began flailing his legs again.³³ Sgt. Taylor then moved his right leg into the middle of ██████ body to stop him from attempting to flee.³⁴ Sgt. Taylor clarified that he did not kick ██████ between the legs; rather, Sgt. Taylor raised his leg towards ██████ chest to make sure he did not get up again.³⁵ Sgt. Taylor freely admitted that he “pointed (his) radio into

²³ Att. 2 at 10:52.

²⁴ Att. 2 at 13:35.

²⁵ Att. 2 at 13:36.

²⁶ Att. 2 at 13:37.

²⁷ Att. 2 at 13:58.

²⁸ According to Arrest Report, CPD recommended that ██████ be criminally charged with multiple criminal offenses, including Unlawful Use of a Weapon, Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Resisting Arrest. See Att. 7.

²⁹ Att. 23, pg. 2.

³⁰ Att. 23, pg. 3.

³¹ Att. 46 at 32:12 to 32:40.

³² Att. 46 at 8:35 to 8:43.

³³ Att. 46 at 8:48 to 8:56.

³⁴ Att. 46 at 8:57 to 9:02.

³⁵ Att. 46 at 17:25 to 17:46 and 35:46 to 35:52.

(████████ chest” repeatedly, to indicate to ██████████ that the incident was over.³⁶ Because ██████████ denied that he had a gun and insisted he only had drugs, Sgt. Taylor pointed at ██████████ with the tip of his radio and told ██████████ he was “fucked.”³⁷ Regarding his comment to ██████████ about, “that’s the problem with us...,” Sgt. Taylor explained that when he said “us,” he was referring to “most humans.”³⁸ Sgt. Taylor denied that his comment was intended to be racial.³⁹ As for pointing to his own skin when making that statement, Sgt. Taylor explained that he thought there was a bug on him.⁴⁰ Sgt. Taylor denied kicking ██████████ stating that is why he told ██████████ that he (Sgt. Taylor) had not kicked him.⁴¹

Officers Meeks and Matusiak provided substantially similar accounts during their respective statements to COPA.⁴² Officer Meeks conceded that he called ██████████ “stupid,” offering that he was making a comment on ██████████ behavior and was likely speaking his thoughts out loud.⁴³ Officer Matusiak explained that she searched ██████████ because she was required to by CPD policy.⁴⁴ She stated that because she was assigned to the vehicle transporting ██████████ she was responsible for any arrestee placed in her vehicle.⁴⁵ She added that when she arrived on scene, ██████████ was agitated with the other male officers, and she offered to search ██████████ to deescalate the situation.⁴⁶ Her search was limited to a basic pat down for weapons.⁴⁷ Officer Matusiak stated that she believed she activated her BWC when she arrived on scene.⁴⁸ She offered that, because she was driving and because they were responding to an active scene, she may have overlooked activating it.⁴⁹

COPA contacted ██████████ attorney in an attempt to take his statement regarding this incident; however, COPA did not speak with ██████████⁵⁰

III. ALLEGATIONS

Sgt. Cedric Taylor:

1. Forcefully stepping on ██████████ leg, without justification.
 - **Sustained**, Violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9.
2. Forcefully kicking ██████████ on or about the groin area, without justification.
 - **Sustained**, Violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9.

³⁶ Att. 46 at 18:57 to 19:20.

³⁷ Att. 46 at 9:07 to 9:40.

³⁸ Att. 46 at 13:19

³⁹ Att. 46 at 31:14 to 31:28.

⁴⁰ Att. 46 at 13:26 to 13:32.

⁴¹ Att. 46 at 27:14 to 27:46.

⁴² Atts. 44 and 45.

⁴³ Att. 45 at 10:00 to 10:12.

⁴⁴ Att. 44 at 7:10 to 7:16.

⁴⁵ Att. 44 at 7:17 to 7:30.

⁴⁶ Att. 44 at 7:42 to 7:56.

⁴⁷ Att. 44 at 7:57 to 8:10.

⁴⁸ Att. 44 at 9:22 to 9:30.

⁴⁹ Att. 44 at 10:26 to 10:35.

⁵⁰ Att. 10.

3. Mistreating [REDACTED] by poking him on or about the chest with a radio antenna, without justification.
 - **Sustained**, Violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9.
4. Acting in a disrespectful and/or unprofessional manner by stating words to the effect of, "That's the problem with us. We don't listen."
 - **Sustained**, Violation of Rules 2, 3, and 8.
5. Directing verbally abusive statements to [REDACTED]
 - **Sustained**, Violation of Rules 2, 3, 8, and 9.
6. Discouraging and/or providing false or misleading information to [REDACTED] about filing a complaint in violation of General Order G08-01.
 - **Sustained**, Violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 22.

Police Officer Pierre Meeks:

1. Directing verbally abusive statements to [REDACTED] to the effect of, "You stupid? Are you stupid or something?"
 - **Sustained**, violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9.

Police Officer Lucy Matusiak:

1. Searching a person of the opposite gender in violation of General Order G06-01-02
 - **Sustained**, Violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 10.
2. Failing to comply with Special Order S03-14 by failing to activate her body worn camera.
 - **Sustained**, Violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10.

IV. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

COPA did not find Sgt. Taylor's statement to be credible. Based on the totality of the circumstances, COPA finds Sgt. Taylor's assertion that he did not kick [REDACTED] in the groin, but instead used his legs as a means of preventing [REDACTED] from fleeing, was unreasonable. These circumstances include the fact that Officer Bilyarska's BWC video showed [REDACTED] was in handcuffs, seated on the ground, and out of breath while Officer Bilyarska held onto his shoulder, when Sgt. Taylor approached them. Sgt. Taylor immediately stepped on [REDACTED] leg, lost his balance, and then used his foot to direct a blow to [REDACTED] groin area. Sgt. Taylor's assertion that [REDACTED] was struggling with Officer Bilyarska, which justified his use of force, is not supported by the video. Further, the video captured Officer Bilyarska grabbing Sgt. Taylor's arm and pulling him away after he struck [REDACTED] which strongly suggests that she was attempting to intervene.

In addition, the footage showed that Sgt. Taylor poked [REDACTED] in the chest with his radio antenna numerous times, seemingly to taunt [REDACTED]. In his TRR, Sgt. Taylor stated that he stopped poking [REDACTED] as soon as he realized what he was doing. Yet, in the BWC footage, [REDACTED] was depicted repeatedly asking Sgt. Taylor to stop poking him in the chest. Sgt. Taylor did not stop poking [REDACTED] until [REDACTED] said, "please." All of these incongruous details were a factor in COPA's assessment of Sgt. Taylor's credibility.

V. ANALYSIS⁵¹

Sgt. Taylor

Allegation #1 – Sgt. Taylor Forcefully Stepped on ██████ Leg Without Justification.

COPA finds Allegation #1, that Sgt. Taylor forcefully stepped on ██████ leg without justification, is sustained. CPD policy states, “Department members’ use of force must be objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional to the threat, actions, and level of resistance offered by a person, under the totality of circumstances.”⁵² In his TRR, Sgt. Taylor stated that he observed Officer Bilyarska struggling with ██████ Sgt. Taylor related that he believed that ██████ was still attempting to defeat the arrest by fleeing, so he walked over and applied pressure to the shin area of ██████ left leg with his own foot.⁵³ The BWC video, however, refutes Sgt. Taylor’s claims that ██████ was still struggling with Officer Bilyarska and attempting to defeat the arrest by fleeing.⁵⁴ Sgt. Taylor’s action of stepping on ██████ leg because he fled from a traffic stop cannot be considered reasonable, necessary, or proportional. Rather, it was excessive, disrespectful, and demonstrated Sgt. Taylor’s maltreatment of ██████ Accordingly, **Allegation #1** against Sgt. Taylor is **sustained** in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9.

Allegation 2 – Sgt. Taylor Forcefully Kicked ██████ on or About the Groin Area Without Justification.

COPA finds Allegation #2, that Sgt. Taylor forcefully kicked ██████ on or about the groin area without justification, is sustained. Rule 8 of CPD’s Rules of Conduct states that members may not engage in any behavior that disrespects or maltreats any person, and Rule 9 prohibits members from engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person.⁵⁵ In addition, CPD members may only use direct mechanical techniques, such as a kick, against assailants.⁵⁶ CPD defines an assailant as “a person who is using or threatening the use of force against another person or himself/herself which is likely to cause physical injury.”⁵⁷

Here, the BWC video footage clearly shows that ██████ was not an assailant when Sgt. Taylor kicked him in the groin. ██████ was handcuffed, seated on the ground with his legs splayed in front of him, and under Officer Bilyarska’s control when Sgt. Taylor approached.⁵⁸ ██████ was not using or threatening to use force that was likely to cause physical injury in the moments prior to Sgt. Taylor’s kick to his groin. Sgt. Taylor’s explanation that he placed his own

⁵¹ For a definition of COPA’s findings and standards of proof, *see* Appendix B.

⁵² Att. 27, General Order G03-02 (III)(B).

⁵³ Att. 10, pg. 2.

⁵⁴ Att. 2 at 7:12 to 7:30 and Att. 3 at 7:25 to 7:40.

⁵⁵ Att. 50.

⁵⁶ Direct mechanical techniques are defined as a “forceful, concentrated striking movement such as punching and kicking...” See Att. 54, General Order G03-02-01(IV)(C)(a)(1).

⁵⁷ Att. 54, General Order G03-02-01(C).

⁵⁸ Att. 3 at 7:25 – 7:33.

legs between ██████ legs to stop him from fleeing,⁵⁹ is refuted by the BWC video. Because Sgt. Taylor used a direct mechanical strike against a subject who was not an assailant, COPA finds Allegation #2 is **sustained**, in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, 8 and 9.

Allegation 3 – Sgt. Taylor Mistreated ██████ by Poking Him on or About the Chest with a Radio Antenna.

COPA finds Allegation #3, that Sgt. Taylor mistreated ██████ by poking him on or about the chest with a radio antenna, is sustained. Rule 8 of CPD’s Rules of Conduct states that CPD members may not engage in any behavior that disrespects or maltreats any person.⁶⁰ In Sgt. Taylor’s TRR, he documented that he made contact with ██████ with the stem of his radio.⁶¹ BWC footage also captured Sgt. Taylor poking ██████ multiple times. After ██████ repeatedly told Sgt. Taylor to stop poking him with the antenna, Sgt. Taylor asked ██████ “What are you going to do if I don’t?”⁶² It was not until ██████ said “please” that Sgt. Taylor stopped.⁶³ Although poking ██████ in the chest with a radio antenna likely did not rise to the level of a use of force, it was still unnecessary and disrespectful, and it certainly rose to the level of maltreatment. Accordingly, **Allegation #3** against Sgt. Taylor is **sustained** in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9.

Allegation 4 – Sgt. Taylor Acted in a Disrespectful and/or Unprofessional Manner by Stating Words to the Effect of, “That’s the problem with us. We Don’t Listen.”

COPA finds Allegation #4 against Sgt. Taylor, that he acted in a disrespectful and/or unprofessional manner by stating words to the effect of, “That’s the problem with us. We don’t listen,” is sustained. BWC video clearly captured Sgt. Taylor making this statement as he tapped his wrist at the exact same time. Sgt. Taylor told COPA he was referring to “most humans” when he made this statement, and he touched his skin because he thought there was a bug on or near his wrist.⁶⁴ However, the BWC footage shows that Sgt. Taylor tapped the top of his hand at the same time he made the comment.⁶⁵ While there appeared to be an insect on Sgt. Taylor’s forearm before and after he made the comment, the insect was not on his hand when he tapped it, nor did he brush away the insect or smack it again.⁶⁶ In fact, the insect stayed on his forearm for almost another full minute after Sgt. Taylor allegedly brushed it away, but he only ever tapped his skin in tandem with his comment to ██████ COPA notes that both Sgt. Taylor and ██████ are black men, not merely humans. When taking all these factors into account, the evidence supports the conclusion that Sgt. Taylor was making a racial comment. However, even if COPA disregards the possible racial nature of this comment, Sgt. Taylor’s statement to ██████ was negative, disrespectful, and added nothing of value to the interaction. As such, COPA finds that Sgt. Taylor was disrespectful and/or unprofessional towards ██████ **Allegation #4** is therefore **sustained**, in violation of Rules 2, 3, and 8.

⁵⁹ Att. 10, pg. 2.

⁶⁰ Att. 50.

⁶¹ Att. 10, pg. 2.

⁶² Att. 3 at 10:10 to 10:26.

⁶³ Att. 3 at 10:10.

⁶⁴ Att. 46 at 13:19.

⁶⁵ Att. 3 at 4:45 to 4:50.

⁶⁶ Att. 2 at 4:30 to 5:41.

Allegation 5 – Sgt. Taylor Directed Verbally Abusive Statements to ██████████

COPA finds Allegation #5, that Sgt. Taylor directed verbally abusive statements to ██████████ is sustained. Rule 8 of the CPD’s Rules of Conduct prohibits members from engaging in any behavior that disrespects or maltreats any person, while Rule 9 prohibits unjustified verbal altercations.⁶⁷ The evidence demonstrating Sgt. Taylor’s verbally abusive statements is unrefuted. The BWC footage captured Sgt. Taylor calling ██████████ “stupid” and “stupid as fuck.”⁶⁸ Sgt. Taylor’s behavior while speaking with ██████████ constituted both disrespect and maltreatment of ██████████ therefore, **Allegation #5** is **sustained** in violation of Rules 2, 3, 8, and 9.

Allegation 6 – Sgt. Taylor Discouraged and/or Provided False or Misleading Information to ██████████ About Filing a Complaint.

COPA finds Allegation #6, that Sgt. Taylor discouraged and/or provided false or misleading information to ██████████ about filing a complaint, is sustained. CPD General Order G08-01 states that all members will comply with CPD’s Rules and Regulations, directives, and orders.⁶⁹ The policy further provides that members “will not refuse to accept, discourage reporting, or provide false or misleading information about filing a complaint.”⁷⁰ Additionally, CPD General Order G03-02 states that “any Department member who observes misconduct or becomes aware of information alleging misconduct, including an identified excessive use of force, a reportable use of force incident that was not reported, or a use of force that is otherwise in violation of this directive, will immediately notify his or her supervisor.”⁷¹ Sgt. Taylor told COPA that, when ██████████ complained about being kicked, the sergeant’s response was not an attempt to discourage ██████████ from filing a complaint. Instead, Sgt. Taylor stated that he told ██████████ he did not kick him because he believed the BWC would clearly show that ██████████ had not been kicked.⁷² Regardless of Sgt. Taylor’s protestations that he did not kick ██████████ Sgt. Taylor did receive information alleging misconduct. Instead of notifying his supervisor of ██████████ allegation, as required by CPD policy, Sgt. Taylor dismissed ██████████ complaint outright by denying that it occurred. Accordingly, **Allegation #6** against Sgt. Taylor is **sustained** in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 22.

Officer Meeks

Allegation #1 – Officer Meeks Directed Verbally Abusive Statements to ██████████ to the Effect of “You stupid? Are you stupid or something?”

COPA finds Allegation #1 against Officer Meeks, that he directed verbally abusive statements to ██████████ is sustained. As discussed above, Rule 8 prohibits CPD members from engaging in any behavior that disrespects or maltreats any person, while Rule 9 prohibits

⁶⁷ Att. 50.

⁶⁸ Att. 2 at 10:52 – 11:05.

⁶⁹ General Order G08-01 (IV)(C).

⁷⁰ General Order G08-01 (IV)(D)(3).

⁷¹ Att. 27, G03-02 VII(A)(2).

⁷² Att. 46 at 27:14 to 27:46.

unjustified verbal altercations.⁷³ Here, Officer Meeks' BWC video shows that after he exited the CPD vehicle and approached ██████ he asked ██████ "You stupid? Are you stupid or something?"⁷⁴ Officer Meeks admitted that he made those statements to ██████ explaining that ██████ behavior was erratic, and he was saying his own thoughts out loud. In light of the BWC footage and Officer Meeks' admission, COPA finds that **Allegation #1** against Officer Meeks is **sustained** in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9.

Officer Matusiak

Allegation #1 – Officer Matusiak Searched a Person of the Opposite Gender in Violation of CPD Policy.

COPA finds Allegation #1 against Officer Matusiak, that she searched a person of the opposite gender in violation of CPD policy, is sustained. General Order G06-01-02 states that custodial searches will be conducted by a CPD member who is the same gender as the arrestee; however, if a member of the same gender is not immediately available and officer or citizen safety would be compromised absent an immediate search, members will not endanger themselves or the public to comply with this requirement.⁷⁵ Here, the BWC footage captured ██████ seated inside of Officer Matusiak's vehicle. Officer Matusiak asked ██████ to exit the vehicle, and she began to perform a search of his lower body despite the fact that multiple male officers were standing a few feet away.⁷⁶ Officer Matusiak told COPA that she and her partner were the transport officers assigned to take ██████ to the police station, so she was required to search him.⁷⁷ Officer Matusiak also stated that, when she arrived on scene, she observed ██████ to be very agitated with the male officers who were present, and she offered to search ██████ to deescalate the situation.⁷⁸ While COPA credits Officer Matusiak's intentions, there were male officers other than Sgt. Taylor who were available to conduct the search. Accordingly, **Allegation #1** against Officer Matusiak is **sustained** in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 10.

Allegation #2 – Officer Matusiak Failed to Activate her BWC.

COPA finds Allegation #2 against Officer Matusiak, that she failed to timely activate her BWC, is sustained. Special Order S03-14 requires CPD members to activate their BWCs to event mode at the beginning of an incident and record the entire incident for all law-enforcement-related activities.⁷⁹ COPA was unable to locate any BWC video recorded by Officer Matusiak during her interaction with ██████ at the scene. Officer Matusiak told COPA that she believed she activated her BWC at the time of the incident, but she may have overlooked it.⁸⁰ Accordingly, **Allegation #2** against Officer Matusiak is **sustained** in violation of Rules 2, 3, 6, and 10.

⁷³ Att. 50.

⁷⁴ Att. 4 at 2:00 to 2:02.

⁷⁵ Att. 26, General Order G06-01-02 IV(C).

⁷⁶ Att. 2 at 13:36 to 15:00

⁷⁷ Att. 44 at 7:15 to 7:18.

⁷⁸ Att. 44 at 7:40 to 8:13.

⁷⁹ Att. 51, Special Order S03-14(III)(A)(2).

⁸⁰ Att. 44 at 9:22 to 9:30 and 10:26 to 10:35.

VI. DISCIPLINARY RECOMMENDATION

a. Sgt. Cedric Taylor

i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History⁸¹

Sgt. Taylor's complimentary history is comprised of 154 awards, the highlights of which include one Superintendent's Honorable Mention, one Special Commendation, one Problem Solving Award, and 14 Department Commendations. His disciplinary history includes a 2023 SPAR for a preventable accident, resulting in a reprimand, and a sustained finding for a 2018 complaint of excessive force, resulting in a reprimand.⁸²

ii. Recommended Discipline

COPA has found that Sgt. Taylor violated Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, and 22 when he used excessive force against ██████ directed verbally abusive and racially charged comments at ██████ and dismissed ██████ complaint of being kicked. In recommending discipline, COPA notes there are substantial aggravating factors in this case. Sgt. Taylor not only stepped on ██████ leg and kicked him in the groin area without justification; he did so while ██████ was in handcuffs and compliant. When ██████ complained about being kicked, Sgt. Taylor responded by falsely telling ██████ he had not kicked him. Sgt. Taylor then proceeded to taunt ██████ by poking him with a radio antenna and calling him stupid. Additionally, as discussed above, COPA found Sgt. Taylor's statement to be self-serving and lacking in credibility. Sgt. Taylor not only failed to take responsibility for his misconduct; he offered justifications for his actions that were flatly refuted by the BWC footage.

Sgt. Taylor's actions constituted a flagrant violation of CPD policy and brought substantial discredit to the Department. His conduct was even more inexcusable for a CPD member with 29 years of experience at the time of the incident. Finally, COPA notes that Sgt. Taylor has a prior sustained complaint of excessive force, and the penalty imposed in that case did not deter Sgt. Taylor from using excessive force in this instance. It is for these reasons that, despite Sgt. Taylor's extensive complimentary history, COPA recommends he receive a **minimum 29-day suspension** as well as **retraining** regarding CPD's use of force and professionalism policies.

b. Officer Pierre Meeks

i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History⁸³

⁸¹ Att. 47.

⁸² COPA investigated the 2018 excessive force complaint against Sgt. Taylor under Log 1091843. In that case, COPA recommended that Sgt. Taylor receive a 180-day suspension, but CPD determined a 10-day suspension was appropriate. After a one-member panel of the Police Board agreed with CPD's determination, Sgt. Taylor filed a grievance regarding the matter. An arbitrator ultimately upheld the finding that Sgt. Taylor had struck an individual "around or about the shoulders with handcuffs in hand without justification," but he reduced the penalty from a 10-day suspension to a reprimand. See Log 1091843, Att. 102.

⁸³ Att. 48.

Officer Meeks' complimentary history includes 65 awards, the highlights of which include one Problem Solving Award, one Traffic Stop of the Month Award, and two Department Commendations. He has no recent disciplinary history.

ii. Recommended Discipline

COPA has found that Officer Meeks violated Rules 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9 when he directed verbally abusive statements to ██████ to the effect of, "You stupid? Are you stupid or something?" Officer Meeks' comments to ██████ were disrespectful and unprofessional; however, during his COPA statement, he accepted responsibility for his actions and provided context for his behavior. It is for these reasons, combined with Officer Meeks' complimentary history and lack of disciplinary history, that COPA recommends he receive a **reprimand and retraining** regarding CPD's standards of professionalism.

c. Officer Lucy Matusiak

i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History⁸⁴

Officer Matusiak's complimentary history is comprised of 40 awards, the highlights of which include one Life Saving Award and 36 Honorable Mentions. Her recent disciplinary history includes a 2022 SPAR for preventable accident, resulting in a reprimand.

ii. Recommended Discipline

COPA has found that Officer Matusiak violated Rules 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10 when she failed to activate her BWC and searched ██████ a male arrestee, in violation of CPD policy. In aggravation, COPA notes that Officer Matusiak was not simply late in activating her camera; she did not activate it at all during her on-scene interaction with ██████. In mitigation, COPA recognizes that Officer Matusiak was relatively inexperienced at the time of the incident, with only 3 ½ year as a police officer. Additionally, her decision to search ██████ appears to have been well-meaning. ██████ had repeatedly protested being searched by Sgt. Taylor, and Officer Matusiak volunteered to search him in an attempt to deescalate the situation. However, Officer Matusiak failed to consider that multiple male officers were at the scene and available to conduct the search, apart from Sgt. Taylor. It is for these reasons, combined with Officer Matusiak's complimentary history and minimal disciplinary history, that COPA recommends she receive a **2-day suspension and retraining** regarding CPD's custodial search and BWC policies.

Approved:

█████ #13

Steffany Hreno
Director of Investigations

11/9/2023

Date

⁸⁴ Att. 49.

Appendix A**Case Details**

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	May 9, 2022 / 3:10 pm / 2901 S. Michigan Avenue & 2850 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, IL
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	May 9, 2022 / 5:34 pm
Involved Officer #1:	Cedric Taylor, Star #18426, Employee # [REDACTED], Date of Appointment: May 17, 1993, Unit of Assignment: 001, Male, Black.
Involved Officer #2:	Pierre Meeks, Star #14737, Employee # [REDACTED], Date of Appointment: December 12, 2016, Unit of Assignment: 001, Male, Black.
Involved Officer #3:	Lucy Matusiak, Star #16011, Employee # [REDACTED], Date of Appointment: December 27, 2018, Unit of Assignment: 001, Female, White.
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] Male, Black.

Applicable Rules

- Rule 2:** Any action or conduct which impedes CPD's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon CPD.
- Rule 3:** Any failure to promote CPD'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 22:** Failure to report to CPD any violation of Rules and Regulations or any other improper conduct which is contrary to the policy, orders, or directives of CPD.

Applicable Policies and Laws

- CPD General Order G03-02-01: Response to Resistance and Force Options (effective April 15, 2021 to June 27, 2023)
- CPD General Order G08-01: Complaint and Disciplinary System (effective December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2022)
- CPD General Order G06-01-02: Restraining Arrestees (effective December 8, 2017 to present)
- CPD Special Order S03-14: Body Worn Cameras (effective April 30, 2018 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.⁸⁵ For example, if the evidence gathered in an investigation establishes that it is more likely that the conduct complied with Department 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.”⁸⁶

⁸⁵ 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).

⁸⁶ *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