



**Brandon Johnson**  
Mayor

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

**Larry B. Snelling**  
Superintendent

January 12, 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 Findings and Partial Non-Concurrence with the Penalty Recommendations  
Complaint Log No. 2022-0001884

Dear Chief Administrator Kersten:

After a careful review of the above referenced complaint log number, the Chicago Police Department (Department) does not concur with all of the recommended findings nor with all of the recommended penalties as they pertain to Sergeant Cedric Taylor, Star No. 18426, Officer Pierre Meeks, Star No. 14737 and Officer Lucy Matusiak, Star No. 16011. Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Department provides the following comments.

The COPA investigation recommended a minimum 29-day suspension for Sergeant Cedric Taylor along with retraining regarding CPD's use of force and professionalism policies after concluding that he:

1. Forcefully stepped on an arrestee's leg without justification;
2. Forcefully kicked the arrestee on or about the groin area without justification;
3. Mistreated the arrestee by poking him on or about the chest with a radio antenna without justification;
4. 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.";
5. Directed verbally abusive statements to the arrestee;
6. Discouraged and/or provided false or misleading information to the arrestee about filing a complaint.

The COPA investigation also recommended a reprimand for Officer Pierre Meeks along with retraining regarding CPD's standards of professionalism after concluding that he:

1. Directed verbally abusive statements to the arrestee to the effect of "You stupid? Are you stupid or something?"

The COPA investigation also recommended a 2-day suspension for Officer Lucy Matusiak along with

retraining regarding CPD's custodial search and BWC policies after concluding that she:

1. Searched a person of the opposite gender;
2. Failed to activate her body worn camera.

#### Sergeant Cedric Taylor

The Department concurs with all of the sustained findings. But the penalty recommendation is excessive and the Department recommends a ten (10) day suspension. The Department believes that a 10-day suspension is sufficient to correct this errant behavior and modify his future conduct. Further, this penalty falls within the progressive discipline principal after reviewing the member's complimentary and disciplinary history. Sgt. Taylor has an impressive complimentary history and his disciplinary history is a reprimand through summary punishment for a traffic crash and a reprimand for an excessive force incident in 2018.

#### Officer Pierre Meeks

The Department concurs with both the sustained finding for this allegation as well as the penalty recommendation.

#### Officer Lucy Matusiak

Regarding Allegation #1, the Department does not agree with the sustained finding. Unfortunately, in this situation, Officer Matusiak was caught in the dilemma of being in violation of the policy if she did the custodial search and if she didn't do the custodial search. The COPA summary is correct that the directive states:

Custodial searches will be conducted by a 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 is compromised absent an immediate search, members will not endanger themselves or the public to comply with this requirement. General Order G06-01-02-IV-C.

However, the same directive states that:

Department members taking persons into custody or accepting custody from other Department members will be responsible for conducting a thorough search and ensuring that the persons are appropriately restrained to prevent escape or injury. Id at B.

This placed Officer Matusiak in a dilemma because she was assigned as the transport officer for the arrestee. Her partner on Beat 111 was also a female officer. So even though a male officer was present, and a male officer did indeed assist with that search, the responsibility was on Officer Matusiak and her female partner. If they allowed a male officer to do the search and accepted those results, and if that search missed any contraband, then Officer Matusiak and her partner would have a sustained finding for violation of this policy. This scenario could also have tragic consequences if the contraband missed by the male officer were a weapon. This directive does not have a caveat that the member can delegate that responsibility for searching nor does it allow another member to do the search and relieve the member taking custody of that responsibility. This same sentence in the directive does allow the transport officer to delegate the responsibility for appropriately restraining the arrestee to prevent escape or injury because that portion of the order allows a member to "ensure" this is done and this can be done by delegating to another officer. But the portion regarding the thorough search places responsibility solely on the transport officers. And in Officer Matusiak's

statement to COPA, she specifically acknowledges her responsibility to search as she was the transport officer accepting custody of the arrestee. Officer Matusiak should not be penalized for a contradiction in the directive. For these reasons, the Department recommends that this allegation be "not sustained."

Regarding allegation #2, the Department concurs with the sustained finding for this allegation. For this violation, the Department recommends a penalty of a Reprimand.

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

Sincerely,



Larry B. Snelling  
Superintendent  
Chicago Police Department