



Log # 2024-0003449

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 16, 2024, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) received an initiation report from Lieutenant Gerald Ryan reporting alleged misconduct by a member of the Chicago Police Department (CPD). Lt. Gerald Ryan alleged that on April 14, 2024, Lt. Syed Quadri,² knelt on the neck of ██████████ without justification. Upon review of the evidence, COPA served allegations that Lt. Quadri knelt on the neck of ██████████ and failed to de-escalate the encounter.³

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE⁴

On April 14, 2024, Lt. Quadri and Police Officer Sahmer Ihmoud were on routine patrol when they observed an SUV driven by ██████████ with an inoperative left brake light. The officers activated their emergency equipment and curbed the vehicle in the alley at 1120 W. Lunt Avenue. Once the officers arrived at each side of the vehicle, Officer Ihmoud approached the driver's side and informed ██████████ that the left brake light was not working. Officer Ihmoud asked for ██████████ identification, insurance, and if he had a FOID card.⁶ While waiting to retrieve the requested items, ██████████ spoke with the officers about his personal life.

Officer Ihmoud observed what appeared to be marijuana in the center console and asked ██████████ about the quantity he had present in the vehicle.⁷ Officer Ihmoud returned to the police vehicle to conduct a name search while Lt. Quadri remained on the front passenger side of ██████████ vehicle, continuing the conversation. Officer Ihmoud returned to ██████████ vehicle, asking if there were any firearms and permission to search the vehicle. ██████████ hesitantly declined. Officer Ihmoud opened the driver's door and repeatedly asked ██████████ to step out of the vehicle.⁸ ██████████ refused to

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 During the date of the incident, Syed Quadri was a Sergeant, as of June 9, 2024, he was promoted to Lieutenant

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ ██████████ did not cooperate with the investigation. COPA spoke with ██████████ private attorney refused to allow ██████████ to provide an interview. (See CMS Notes)

⁶ Att. 13 – BWC of Officer Ihmoud at 2:33

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⁷ Att.13 at 3:22

⁸ Att. 13 at 5:58

exit the vehicle multiple times.⁹ While Officer Ihmoud attempted to grab ██████ wrist to detain him, he reached between his legs and told Officer Ihmoud he had a Taser.¹⁰

During Officer Ihmoud's attempt to place ██████ in handcuffs, ██████ began resisting.¹¹ Immediately, Lt. Quadri walked to the driver's side to assist Officer Ihmoud in removing ██████ got out of the vehicle, and placed him in handcuffs. ██████ refused to cooperate with officers by resisting and being combative.¹² The officers performed a takedown to gain control of ██████ causing all parties to fall to the ground. Officer Ihmoud's Body Worn Camera (BWC) footage captures Lt. Quadri with his knee near ██████ neck and upper chest amid the struggle.¹³ The officers continued to struggle with ██████ eventually succeeding at placing two sets of handcuffs on ██████ was lifted from the ground and taken to the assisting officers' vehicle for transport.

During the interview with Lt. Quadri, he said they curbed ██████ vehicle because one of the taillights was inoperable (burned out).¹⁴ While speaking with ██████ he admitted to possessing a substantial amount of cannabis, a knife, and a taser in the vehicle.¹⁵ Officer Ihmoud's name search of ██████ resulted in a denied FOID. After being asked if a gun was in the vehicle, ██████ became hesitant. The officers repeatedly asked him to step out of the vehicle, but he refused. The officers made several attempts to remove ██████ from the vehicle. Lt. Quadri stated he grabbed one of ██████ arms to apply an armbar in hopes of extracting him from the vehicle. ██████ actively resisted to comply with all attempts before the attempts led to a struggle in a confined space.

The officers gave ██████ multiple advisements before conducting a takedown to gain control and successfully place handcuffs on him. Amid the takedown, Lt. Quadri stated, "It was a tough situation because it was a very limited room to work with. We had the open door of a vehicle, which it wasn't even able to open all the way, and there was a parked vehicle right behind it. So, we were working within a very tight constraint. There's three of us in there. So eventually, when the takedown did occur, I fell on top of him."¹⁶ Lt. Quadri explained that when he fell on top of ██████ his knee landed between the head area of the shoulder and the head area. Lt. Quadri immediately repositioned himself to maintain positive control, rotated ██████ to his stomach, and cuffed him behind his back. After successfully handcuffing ██████ the struggle was over.

⁹ Att. 13 at 6:45 to 7:29

¹⁰ Att. 13 at 7:44

¹¹ Att. 13 at 7:38

¹² Att. 15 at 7:58 to 11:57

¹³ Att. 14 at 0:55 to 1:09

¹⁴ Att. 32 (Transcript of Lt. Quadri's interview), pg. 9, lns. 16 to 17

¹⁵ Att. 32, pg. 9, lns.20 to 23

¹⁶ Att. 32, pg. 11, lns.13 to 19

III. ALLEGATIONS

Lieutenant Syed Quadri:

1. Kneeling on the neck and/or throat area of [REDACTED] without justification.
 - Not Sustained
2. Failing to de-escalate the encounter with [REDACTED]
 - Unfounded

IV. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

An individual's credibility relies primarily on two factors: 1) the individual's truthfulness and 2) the reliability of the individual's account. The first factor 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 accurately recall the event from memory.

Statements that were provided to COPA by CPD members were consistent with the evidence COPA collected. Therefore, COPA did not find any basis to question the credibility of any of the parties who provided a statement to COPA.

V. ANALYSIS¹⁷

a. Lt. Quadri's kneeling on the neck and/or throat area of [REDACTED]

COPA finds that the allegation against Lt. Syed Quadri that he kneeled on the neck and/or throat area of [REDACTED] is **not sustained**.

General Order 03-02-01 states that CPD members are permitted to use force to overcome resistance.¹⁸ When members encounter a citizen who attempts to create distance from a member with an intent to avoid physical control and/or defeat arrest, that citizen is an active resister.¹⁹ Members are permitted to respond to active resistance with presence, verbal directions, holding and compliance techniques, control instruments, deployment of oleoresin capsicum, stunning, takedowns, canine use, and taser deployment.²⁰ Additionally, when a member encounters a citizen who is using or threatening the use of force against another person or themselves, which is likely to cause injury, that citizen is an assailant.²¹ If the citizen's actions are aggressively offensive with

¹⁷ For a definition of COPA's findings and standards of proof, *see* Appendix B.

¹⁸ Att. 35, G03-02-01 generally, Response to Resistance and Force Options (effective June 28, 2023, to present).

¹⁹ Att. 35, G03-02-01(IV)(B)(2).

²⁰ Att. 35, G03-02-01(IV)(B)(2)(c).

²¹ Att. 35, G03-02-01(IV)(C).

or without weapons,²² members are permitted to respond with presence, verbal directions, holding and compliance techniques, control instruments, deployment of oleoresin capsicum, stunning, takedowns, canine use, taser deployment, direct mechanical strikes; and impact weapons and munitions.²³ However, the force they use must be objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional in order to ensure the safety of a member or third person, stop an attack, make an arrest, control the subject, or prevent escape.²⁴ Further, CPD members will continually assess the necessity of the use of force and whether alternatives may be employed, including the use of de-escalation techniques, other response options, and the availability of other resources.²⁵

In this case, BWC depicts Lt. Quadri and Officer Ihmoud struggling with ██████ when giving multiple orders to comply. ██████ refused all orders given, immediately escalating into violent behavior by resisting arrest, attempting to re-enter the vehicle's driver seat, and using his feet to push against parked vehicles in lieu of breaking free.²⁶ According to Lt. Quadri's TRR, he and Officer Ihmoud performed an emergency takedown, which caused them all to fall, resulting in Lt. Quadri falling on ██████ face and upper body in a three-point kneel stance due to the limited clearance between ██████ vehicle and the parked vehicles.²⁷ Lt. Quadri's kneel to the shoulder/chest area lasted about fourteen seconds.²⁸ During the interview with Lt. Quadri, he said that he and Officer Ihmoud conducted a takedown and he inadvertently landed on ██████ head and shoulder area. COPA finds there is insufficient evidence to sustain the allegation against Lt. Quadri as the contact may have been incidental. Thus, the allegation is **Not Sustained**.

b. Failing to de-escalate the encounter with ██████

COPA finds that the allegation of Lt. Quadri failing to de-escalate the encounter is **unfounded**.

General Order 03-02 states that Department members are "required to use de-escalation techniques to prevent or reduce the need for force unless doing so would place a person or Department member in immediate risk of harm."²⁹

In this case, BWC shows that officers began the stop with consensual conversation, were empathetic to the emotional situation ██████ was experiencing, and gave multiple verbal commands to step out of the vehicle. Officers attempted multiple de-escalation techniques with ██████ considering it was verbalized that there was a taser and knife present. However, ██████ refused to comply, making him an active resister. While struggling to remove ██████ from the

²² The weapons can include a deadly weapon, but the citizen's actions did not constitute an imminent threat death or great bodily harm.

²³ Att. 35, G03-02-01(IV)(C)(1).

²⁴ Att. 36, G03-02, Use of Force (III)(B) (effective June 28, 2023, to present).

²⁵ Att. 36, G03-02, G03-02(III)(B)(1-3).

²⁶ Att. 15 at 8:30 to 10:44

²⁷ Att. 15 at 10:45

²⁸ Att. 13 at 0:55 to 1:09

²⁹ Att. 36, G03-02 (II) (D)

Appendix ACase Details

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	April 14, 2024 / 7:59 pm / 1120 W Lunt Avenue Chicago, IL 60626
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	April 16, 2024/ 10:42 pm
Involved Member #1:	Lieutenant Syed Quadri, star #1923, employee ID# [REDACTED] Date of Appointment: November 27, 2006, Unit of Assignment: 007, Male, Asian Pacific Islander
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] Male, Hispanic

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, 28 June 2023
- G03-02: De-Escalation to Resistance and Use of Force, 28 June 2023

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.³² 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.”³³

³² 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).

³³ *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