



CIVILIAN OFFICE OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

INTEGRITY • TRANSPARENCY • INDEPENDENCE • TIMELINESS

March 27, 2024

TO: Commander Davina Ward
Unit 011, Chicago Police Department

FROM: Steffany Hreno, Director of Investigations
Civilian Office of Police Accountability

RE: Concerns Related to the Accuracy of Records in the 11th District

Dear Commander Ward:

The Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) is writing to inform you of a pattern of problems we have discovered with the documentation of CPD/citizen encounters in the 11th District. Over the past several months, COPA has received numerous complaints related to CPD members detaining, searching, and/or subjecting citizens to force. COPA's investigation of these complaints has been impeded by a consistent lack of documentation, Body Worn Camera (BWC) footage, and accurate recordkeeping.

Upon receipt of each complaint, COPA has attempted to verify that the CPD/citizen encounter occurred by locating any relevant records, including BWC footage, Investigatory Stop Reports (ISRs), Tactical Response Reports (TRRs), Global Positioning System (GPS) records,¹ and Event Queries. In multiple cases, COPA was able to confirm that the encounter occurred but unable to locate records to accurately identify the involved members.² The following are examples of this problem:

2023-0000557 – The complainant alleged that CPD members stopped and searched him without justification, and the encounter was captured on Ring doorbell footage. Based on GPS data, COPA identified CPD vehicles 4841 and 4891 as likely involved in the incident.³ However, the Attendance and Assignment (A&A) Sheets and Supervisor Logs do not contain accurate information regarding which members were assigned to the vehicles,⁴ and COPA was unable to locate any BWC footage or ISRs from the incident.

¹ In several complaints, COPA was able to identify the likely involved CPD vehicles using GPS records, but the records showed that no members were signed into the PDT and/or GPS system with unique identifiers.

² This may result in allegations being served to members who were not present for or otherwise involved in the incident.

³ Both vehicles were assigned to the 11th District at the time of incident.

⁴ The Supervisor Logs indicate that eleven different members were operating two vehicles (2684 and 4891) at the same time. COPA's review revealed that Sergeant Jason Edwards completed the inaccurate Supervisor Logs in this case and at least four other cases; therefore, COPA referred Log 2023-0004244 to BIA to address the inaccurate recordkeeping by Sergeant Edwards.

2023-0000864 – The complainant alleged that he ran across the street, and an unmarked CPD vehicle drove onto the sidewalk and almost struck him. Per the complainant, three members exited the vehicle, forcefully grabbed him, and questioned him. COPA located third-party video and Police Observation Device (POD) footage that confirmed the incident occurred. Based on GPS data, COPA identified CPD vehicle 4882⁵ as likely involved in the incident. However, the A&A Sheets do not contain accurate information regarding which members were assigned to the vehicle, and COPA was unable to locate any BWC footage or ISRs from the incident.

2023-0000922 – An eyewitness reported that he observed multiple CPD members stop their vehicles, grab an unknown juvenile walking down the street, and use excessive force against the juvenile. COPA obtained POD footage of the incident and identified the likely members involved; however, there was no BWC footage documenting the encounter, including the alleged use of force.⁶

2023-0001282 – The complainant alleged that multiple CPD members stopped and searched him without justification, then denied his request for a sergeant. The complainant identified one of the involved members, and POD footage confirmed the incident occurred. Based on GPS data, COPA identified CPD vehicle 2684⁷ as likely involved in the incident. However, the A&A Sheets and Supervisor Logs do not contain sufficient information to determine which members occupied the vehicle. Additionally, COPA was unable to locate any corresponding BWC footage or ISRs.

2024-0002691 – The complainant alleged that multiple CPD members stopped and searched him and his vehicle without justification, while threatening an arrest. COPA used GPS and BWC to identify the accused, however, there is no paperwork detailing the interaction.

In addition to these examples, COPA has received numerous complaints where it has been unable to verify that the CPD/citizen encounters occurred. In each of these instances, the citizen alleged that the interaction happened in the 11th District and involved more than one member operating at least one unmarked vehicle. Despite this, COPA was unable to locate any BWC footage, ISRs, or Event Queries to verify the incidents occurred.

This inaccurate recordkeeping and lack of proper documentation has impeded COPA's ability to identify the involved members and determine the facts and circumstances of each incident. It has also undermined COPA's ability to fully investigate the alleged misconduct and determine whether members are adhering to CPD policies and procedures. Going forward, COPA is requesting your assistance to ensure that members of the 11th District consistently adhere to CPD policies regarding the documentation of their encounters with members of the public. In particular, COPA is requesting that members of the 11th District:

1. Accurately document which members are assigned to which vehicles on both the A&A Sheets and Supervisor Logs;

⁵ This vehicle was assigned to the 11th District at the time of the incident.

⁶ One BWC recording captured the very end of the encounter.

⁷ This vehicle was assigned to the 11th District at the time of the incident.

2. Log into PDT and/or GPS systems with a unique identifier when using a CPD vehicle for law enforcement activity;
3. Properly document investigatory stops and traffic stops with ISRs, Traffic Stop Statistical Study stickers, and any other reports required by CPD policy;
4. Activate their BWCs in accordance with CPD policy; and
5. Inform the Office of Emergency Management and Communication (OEMC) when they engage in enforcement activity.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter.

Regards,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

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Steffany Hreno
Director of Investigations