

**BEFORE A MEMBER OF THE POLICE BOARD
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

IN THE MATTER OF THE)	
RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE OF)	No. 23 RR 16
LIEUTENANT WILFREDO ROMAN JR.,)	
STAR No. 723, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE,)	(CR No. 2021-2843)
CITY OF CHICAGO.)	

REQUEST FOR REVIEW

On December 1, 2023, the Executive Director of the Police Board of the City of Chicago received from the Chief Administrator of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) a request for review of the Chief Administrator’s recommendation for discipline of Lieutenant Wilfredo Roman Jr., Star No. 723, arising out of the investigation of Complaint Register No. 2021-2843 (“Request for Review”).

The investigation stems from an incident on February 9, 2021, in the 25th police district. According to the summary report of the investigation, [Z.K.] was apprehended by two officers as a suspect for vehicular carjacking. As the officers adjusted [Z.K.]’s handcuffs, Lieutenant Roman approached and began yelling in the direction of [Z.K.] and the officers. Lieutenant Roman then walked behind [Z.K.], who was still handcuffed, and placed a flashlight between the buttocks of [Z.K.]. COPA brought allegations, including excessive force, against Lieutenant Roman. On September 2, 2021, Lieutenant Roman was arrested and charged with Aggravated Battery and Official Misconduct. Lieutenant Roman was indicted on September 17, 2021, and was found not guilty on January 30, 2023, after a bench trial. Following the conclusion of COPA’s investigation, the Chief Administrator issued a recommendation for discipline of Lieutenant Roman. The Superintendent of Police did not agree with the Chief Administrator’s recommendation and proposed less discipline for Lieutenant Roman.

The Chief Administrator recommended that the following allegations against Lieutenant Roman be *Sustained*:

1. On February 9, 2021, at approximately 8:35 p.m., at or near 1909 North La Crosse Avenue in Chicago, Lieutenant Roman used excessive force by placing a flashlight in between the buttocks of [Z.K.] without justification;
2. Lieutenant Roman was arrested on one count of Aggravated Battery in the Public Way under CB No. 030080098;
3. Lieutenant Roman was arrested on one count of Official Misconduct under CB No. 030080098;
4. On February 9, 2021, at approximately 8:35 p.m., at or near 1909 North La Crosse Avenue in Chicago, Lieutenant Roman failed to act in a manner consistent with the Department's policy to treat all persons with courtesy and dignity by placing a flashlight in between the buttocks of [Z.K.] without justification;
5. Lieutenant Roman failed to complete a Tactical Response Report (TRR) regarding his use of force against [Z.K.]; and
6. On February 9, 2021, at approximately 8:35 p.m., at or near 1909 North La Crosse Avenue in Chicago, Lieutenant Roman directed disrespectful language to the effect of, "Stop yelling like a little bitch," to [Z.K.].

The Chief Administrator recommended that Lieutenant Roman be discharged from the Chicago Police Department.

The Superintendent disagreed with the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline of Lieutenant Roman. The Superintendent did not agree that Lieutenant Roman used excessive force or that he violated Rule 1 (which prohibits violation of any law or ordinance) and proposed that Lieutenant Roman be suspended for a period of one hundred and eighty (180) days (the Superintendent agreed that Lieutenant Roman failed to complete a TRR and that he failed to treat all people with dignity and respect).

According to the Certificate submitted by the Chief Administrator: (1) the Chief Administrator issued the recommendation for discipline on July 6, 2023; (2) the Chief

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Administrator received the Superintendent's written response on October 5, 2023; (3) the Chief Administrator's designees met with the Superintendent's designees and concluded their discussion of this matter on November 28, 2023; and (4) the Request for Review was sent via email to the Executive Director of the Police Board on December 1, 2023.

The Executive Director of the Police Board prepared and forwarded the Request for Review file to Mareilé B. Cusack, the member of the Police Board who was selected on a random basis, pursuant to Article VI of the Police Board's Rules of Procedure ("Reviewing Member"). The Reviewing Member reviewed the Request for Review pursuant to Section 2-78-130(a)(iii) of the Municipal Code of Chicago and Article VI of the Police Board's Rules of Procedure. Following her initial review of this matter on December 4, 2023, the Reviewing Member requested, received, and reviewed body-worn-camera video recordings of the incident.

OPINION

It is my opinion that, based on a thorough review of the Request for Review material, including the video recordings of the incident, COPA's findings that Lieutenant Roman engaged in the use of excessive force—force that did not serve any legitimate police purpose and that was retaliatory in nature—and COPA's recommendation for discipline are reasonable. The Superintendent did not meet the burden of overcoming the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline. A full hearing before the Police Board is an appropriate next step that will allow the Board to thoroughly consider all relevant evidence regarding Lieutenant Roman's conduct.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 2-78-130(a)(iii) of the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline of Lieutenant Wilfredo Roman Jr., Star No. 723, shall be deemed accepted by the Superintendent.

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DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 14th DAY
OF DECEMBER, 2023.

/s/ MAREILÉ B. CUSACK
Member
Police Board

Attested by:

/s/ MAX A. CAPRONI
Executive Director
Police Board