

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE)	
RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE OF)	No. 24 RR 04
FIELD TRAINING OFFICER JOHN DALCASON,)	
STAR No. 5392, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE,)	(CR No. 2021-3726)
CITY OF CHICAGO.)	

REQUEST FOR REVIEW

On May 17, 2024, 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 Field Training Officer John Dalcason, Star No. 5392, arising out of the investigation of Complaint Register No. 2021-3726 (“Request for Review”).

The investigation stems from an incident on September 19, 2021, in the 5th Police District. According to COPA’s Final Summary Report, Members of the Chicago Fire Department (CFD) responded to the scene of a shooting and began to treat the wounded individuals. Chicago police officers also responded and began to establish a perimeter around the scene. Members of the community and the victims’ families also began to gather around the scene. Shortly thereafter, several civilians approached the victim in the vacant lot and started interfering with the CFD members efforts to treat him. Officer Dalcason then approached these civilians in effort remove them from the scene. As part of these efforts, Officer Dalcason placed his hands on an unidentified man who was standing directly over one of the shooting victims. As Officer Dalcason was doing this, [B.D.] approached Officer Dalcason from behind and pushed him. Officer Dalcason turned towards [B.D.], placed his hand around [B.D.]’s neck and pushed [B.D.] backwards into car. Officer Dalcason then performed an emergency takedown by pulling

[B.D.] forward by his shirt and the back of his neck. [B.D.] fell to his knees, and Officer Dalcason put [B.D.] in a chokehold with his forearm across [B.D.]'s neck while forcing [B.D.] fully to the ground. Once on the ground, Officer Dalcason handcuffed [B.D.], assisted him to his feet, and led him to a patrol car parked on the street. Once at the car, [B.D.] slammed his head on the hood of the car. Following the conclusion of COPA's investigation, the Chief Administrator issued a recommendation for discipline of Officer Dalcason. The Superintendent of Police did not agree with the Chief Administrator's recommendation and proposed no discipline for Officer Dalcason.

The Chief Administrator recommended that the following allegations against Officer Dalcason be *Sustained*:

On or about on or about September 19, 2021, at approximately 2:00 p.m., at or near 11812 South Emerald Avenue in Chicago, Officer Dalcason:

1. Placed his hands around [B.D.]'s neck without justification; and
2. Placed [B.D.] in a headlock without justification.

The Chief Administrator recommended that Officer Dalcason be suspended without pay for ninety (90) days.

The Superintendent disagreed with the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline of Officer Dalcason. The Superintendent recommended a finding of *Exonerated* and no discipline for Officer Dalcason.

According to the Certificate submitted by the Chief Administrator: (1) the Chief Administrator issued the recommendation for discipline on September 6, 2023; (2) the Chief Administrator received the Superintendent's written response on December 4, 2023; (3) the Chief Administrator's designees met with the Superintendent's designees and concluded their

No. 24 RR 04
Field Training Officer John Dalcason
Request for Review and Opinion

discussion of this matter on May 10, 2024; and (4) the Request for Review was sent via email to the Executive Director of the Police Board on May 17, 2024.

The Executive Director of the Police Board prepared and forwarded the Request for Review file to Kyle Cooper, 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"). On May 31, 2024, 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.

OPINION

Following a thorough review of the Request for Review material, it is my opinion that the Superintendent did not meet his burden to overcome the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline because the nature of the misconduct alleged and the information contained in the Request for Review file reveal that while [B.D.] initiated the interaction with Officer Dalcason by pushing him from behind, Officer Dalcason failed to use force that was objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional, under the totality of the circumstances. For example, the material in the Request for Review file shows that rather than attempting to de-escalate the situation, Officer Dalcason, in response to the push from [B.D.], escalated the situation by placing his hands around [B.D.]'s neck with both hands and pushing him backwards several feet. This response by Officer Dalcason was disproportional, unnecessary and objectively unreasonable under the circumstances. Moreover, the material in the Request for Review file shows that the chokehold that Officer Dalcason performed on [B.D.], in which he placed his forearm across [B.D.]'s neck while forcing [B.D.] fully to the ground, was similarly disproportional, unnecessary and objectively unreasonable under the circumstances. In light of

No. 24 RR 04
Field Training Officer John Dalcason
Request for Review and Opinion

the above, the Superintendent's proposed disposition of exoneration is not more reasonable and appropriate than the Chief Administrator's recommendation of discipline.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 2-78-130(a)(iii) of the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline of Field Training Officer John Dalcason, Star No. 5392, shall be deemed accepted by the Superintendent.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 20th DAY OF JUNE 2024.

/s/ KYLE COOPER
President
Police Board

Attested by:

/s/ MAX A. CAPRONI
Executive Director
Police Board