



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of Police Accountability and Transparency
Evandro C. Carvalho, Executive Director

CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD (CRB) - COMPLAINT #359

CASE TIMELINE:

Date of Incident: April 25, 2024
Time of Incident: 1:41 AM
Location of Incident: Massachusetts Transportation Building - Stuart St.
Date of Filing: June 7, 2024
Date of CRB Decision: July 14, 2026

BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT (BPD) EMPLOYEE(S):

BPD Employee Name	District/Unit	Employee ID #	Sex	Race/Ethnicity
Detective Juan José Seoane López	Family Assistance Unit	011458	M	Hispanic

CASE PROCEDURAL HISTORY:

This is the third time this case has been brought to the Civilian Review Board (CRB). On February 12, 2026, the board reviewed Complainant's video footage of the incident and decided to continue reviewing further evidence prior to voting on the allegations in this case.

SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS:

- 1) The Complainant alleged that on April 25, 2024, he was approached by Detective Juan José Seoane López, ID #011458, while standing on the sidewalk in the area of Stuart Street near the Massachusetts Transportation Building documenting police activity during an incident involving a public gathering.
- 2) The Complainant alleged that during the early morning hours, he observed a large police presence in the area, including officers in riot gear, and retrieved his camera equipment to document officers entering the Massachusetts Transportation Building. The Complainant alleged that he remained on the sidewalk, did not interfere with officers, made no verbal statements toward them, and was not given any verbal instructions or warnings to move from his location.
- 3) The Complainant alleged that Detective Seoane approached him while holding a baton and, without issuing any verbal commands or warnings, forcefully jabbed the baton into the Complainant's side while stating that the Complainant could not stand on the sidewalk. The Complainant alleged that the contact was forceful enough to cause his



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camera to shake.

- 4) The Complainant further alleged that there was sufficient space for Detective Seoane López to pass without making physical contact and that the baton contact was intentional and unjustified. The Complainant alleged that Detective Seoane López did not follow Boston Police Department policy in his handling of the interaction.

APPLICABLE RULES & LAWS:

1. **BPD Rule 102§9 (Respectful Treatment):** Employees must be civil, respectful, courteous, and considerate toward members of the public.
 - a. Allegations of Misconduct: The Complainant alleges that Detective Seoane López acted in a disrespectful and discourteous manner by forcefully jabbing the Complainant with a baton while the Complainant was lawfully present on the sidewalk and documenting police activity, without providing prior verbal instruction or warning.
2. **BPD Rule 304§6 (Use of Non-Lethal Force):** Batons are non-lethal weapons intended primarily for defensive purposes and must be used in accordance with Department training, proportionality, and reasonableness standards. The rule emphasizes that baton use must be consistent with the totality of the circumstances and limited to situations where such force is necessary.
 - a. Allegations of Misconduct: The Complainant alleges that Detective Seoane López used non-lethal force by intentionally jabbing the Complainant with a service baton without issuing verbal commands, without apparent necessity, and in the absence of resistance or threat, in a manner inconsistent with Rule 304 §6.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Former OPAT Investigator initiated investigative efforts following receipt of the complaint. On August 6, 2024, Investigator contacted the Complainant by phone. During that conversation, the Complainant stated that he was a student at Emerson College and reiterated that the incident occurred on Stuart Street. The Complainant reported observing a large police presence, including officers in riot gear, near the Massachusetts Transportation Building. The Complainant stated that he stood on the sidewalk documenting officers entering the building and alleged that, after officers exited the building, an officer approached him and jabbed him in the side with a baton while telling him that he could not be there.
2. On August 8, 2024, Former Investigator reviewed a video submitted by the Complainant. The video depicts Detective Seoane López wearing riot gear and holding a baton while walking toward the Massachusetts Transportation Building. The video shows Detective Seoane López telling the Complainant that he needed to move. The video further depicts



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Detective Seoane López heading toward the Complainant and pointing the baton in the Complainant's direction while calling out to another officer and instructing them to remove the Complainant from the area.

3. Investigator determined that body-worn camera footage was unavailable because Detective Seoane López, as a Detective, was not issued a body-worn camera at the time of the incident. In response to OPAT's requests for incident-related documentation; BPD liaison informed Investigator on September 11, 2024 that no police report, CAD record, or other documentation could be located for the incident on the date in question.
4. On November 21, 2025, OPAT Investigator assumed responsibility for the investigation. Upon reassignment, Investigator undertook efforts to identify the specific police incident referenced by the Complainant.
5. Through this review, Investigator identified two incidents occurring in close geographic proximity to the location described by the Complainant: Incident # [REDACTED], classified as "Sick/Injured/Medical – Police," occurring at approximately 2:00 AM at 8 Park Plaza, Boston, MA, and Incident # [REDACTED], classified as "Sick/Injured/Medical – Police," occurring at approximately 4:32 AM at 2 Boylston Place, Boston, MA.
6. Further review identified Incident # [REDACTED], occurring on April 25, 2024, at approximately 3:58 AM in the area of Boylston Place and Boylston Street, Boston, MA. This incident was classified as "Disturbing the Peace / Disorderly Conduct / Gathering Causing Annoyance / Noisy Party with Arrest" and involved protest activity, including tents erected by Emerson College students. Incident # [REDACTED] was documented on the initial 1.1 Incident Report associated with the broader police response referenced by the Complainant and was determined to be the incident most consistent with the Complainant's description of a significant police presence, officers in riot gear, and arrests occurring in the area.
7. On November 21, 2025, Investigator submitted records requests seeking the incident report, CAD Event Sheets, 911 calls, and turret tape related to Incident Numbers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as well as related materials connected to Incident # [REDACTED]. On November 25, 2025 BPD provided records related to the incident to the Investigator.
8. Investigator also located a redacted version of Incident # [REDACTED] through open-source investigative methods and confirmed the validity of the information through comparison with official records.



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9. Investigator conducted outreach to the Complainant on December 1, 2025, as part of continued investigative follow-up. Investigator also conducted outreach to Detective Seoane López via email requesting an interview regarding the allegations.
10. On December 10, 2025, Detective Seoane López responded through counsel via email and declined to participate in an interview. Investigator acknowledged the refusal and documented the officer's decision not to appear.
11. Following the December 10, 2025 refusal, Investigator reviewed investigative notes prepared by the former assigned investigator, including handwritten and typed notes dated November 21, 2025, and incorporated those materials into the case file. Investigator also reviewed the initial intake materials.
12. On January 15, 2026, Investigator received an email from the Complainant containing a video recording related to the original allegations, but was unable to review. On that same date, Investigator received access and reviewed the submitted material. On the same date, Investigator issued formal notice of the scheduled Civilian Review Board meeting to the Complainant and separately to the involved Boston Police Department employee and legal counsel, via email.
13. On March 23, 2026, Detective Seoane López, through counsel, reached out to schedule a voluntary interview for April 9, 2026 at 11:00 AM.
14. On April 9, 2026, interview held at OPAT office, audio recording of interview available. Detective Seoane López appeared for this voluntary interview and asserted rights to remain silent and not proceed with the interview.
 - a. Counsel requested a copy of the interview audio recording – Provided April 30, 2026.



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EVIDENCE REQUESTED/REVIEWED:

The following materials were identified, requested, and reviewed as part of the OPAT investigation.

I. Evidence Available and Reviewed¹

Evidence ID	Evidence Type	Description / Title	Date Requested	Date Received	Date Reviewed
359-EV0001	Emails	Internal Email - RE: Unable to access video file for AgilePoint	–	11/21/2025	12/17/2025
359-EV0002	Video Recording	Video Recording from Complainant	12/04/2025	11/21/2025	12/17/2025
359-EV0003	Emails	Response to Attorney - 12-12-2025; Acknowledge officer refusal to appear for interview	–	11/21/2025	12/12/2025
359-EV0004	Emails	Response from Attorney - 12-12-2025; Officer declined appearance at interview	–	11/21/2025	12/12/2025
359-EV0005	Emails	12-11-2025 - Email to Det. Seoane & Attorney RE: Interview Request; w/ Interview Request Letter, Complaint Cover Sheet, Carney Rights Form	–	11/21/2025	12/11/2025

¹ Evidence Items 359-EV0011 through 359-EV0018 were reviewed and determined to be unrelated to the alleged baton contact involving the Complainant. These materials are retained in the evidentiary record to document investigative efforts to identify and assess potentially related incidents occurring in the vicinity on April 25, 2024.



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Evidence ID	Evidence Type	Description / Title	Date Requested	Date Received	Date Reviewed
359-EV0006	Emails	12-10-2025 - Response from Det. Seoane RE: Interview Request; CC'd and referred to contact attorney	—	11/21/2025	12/11/2025
359-EV0007	Emails	Follow-Up Email to Det. Seoane RE: Interview Request	—	11/21/2025	12/04/2025
359-EV0008	Emails	Email to Det. Seoane RE: Interview Request	—	11/21/2025	12/01/2025
359-EV0009	Incident Report (1.1)	Incident Report for I#: [REDACTED]	—	11/21/2025	12/01/2025
359-EV0010	Emails	Emails to/from BPD RE: "Notice of Redaction Error in Incident Report"; Resolving Concerns	—	11/24/2025	11/25/2025
359-EV0011	Documents and PDFs	Turret/911 Call Recording Request Form for I#: [REDACTED]	—	11/24/2025	11/21/2025
359-EV0012	Documents and PDFs	Turret/911 Call Recording Request Form for I#: [REDACTED]	—	11/24/2025	11/21/2025
359-EV0013	Emails	Email to BPD to Request Records - 11-21-2025	—	11/24/2025	11/21/2025
359-EV0014	CAD Sheet	CAD Event Sheet for I# [REDACTED]	11/21/2025	11/24/2025	11/24/2025



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Evidence ID	Evidence Type	Description / Title	Date Requested	Date Received	Date Reviewed
359-EV0015	911 Audio Recording	911 Call Recording for I# [REDACTED]	11/21/2025	11/24/2025	—
359-EV0016	Emails	Email to Complainant RE: "New Investigator Contact and Case Update" - 12-01-2025 at 12:02 PM	—	11/24/2025	12/01/2025
359-EV0017	Turret Tape Recording	Turret Tape Recording for I# [REDACTED]	11/21/2025	11/24/2025	—
359-EV0018	Incident Report (1.1)	Incident Report for I# [REDACTED]	11/21/2025	11/25/2025	11/24/2025
359-EV0019	CAD Sheet	CAD Event Sheet for I# [REDACTED]	11/21/2025	11/25/2025	11/24/2025
359-EV0020	Documents and PDFs	District Journal - Incidents on 04-25-2024, including map of location of two incidents	—	12/01/2025	11/21/2025
359-EV0021	911 Audio Recording	911 Call Recording for I# [REDACTED]	11/21/2025	12/01/2025	—
359-EV0022	Turret Tape Recording	Turret Tape Recording for I# [REDACTED]	11/21/2025	12/01/2025	—
359-EV0023	Investigator Notes	Investigative Notes for Case #359 RE: Overview and Investigative Steps	—	12/04/2025	12/01/2025
359-EV0024	Incident Report (1.1)	Incident Report for I# [REDACTED]	11/21/2025	12/04/2025	11/24/2025



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Evidence ID	Evidence Type	Description / Title	Date Requested	Date Received	Date Reviewed
359-EV0025	Evidence Requests	Initial Records Request	–	12/05/2025	11/21/2025
359-EV0026	Emails	Email Response from Complainant - 12-05-2025 at 2:42 PM	–	12/10/2025	12/08/2025
359-EV0027	Emails	Follow-Up Email to Complainant RE: "New Investigator Contact and Case Update" - 12-04-2025 at 2:11 PM	–	12/11/2025	12/04/2025
359-EV0028	Investigator Notes	Investigative Notes for Case 359 from Former Investigator (2 post-it notes)	–	12/12/2025	11/21/2025
359-EV0029	Investigator Notes	Investigative Notes for Case 359 from Former Investigator	–	12/12/2025	11/21/2025
359-EV0030	Initial Complaint (AgilePoint)	Initial Complaint (AgilePoint) - Submission	–	12/17/2025	11/21/2025
359-EV0031	CRB Complaint Cover Sheet	Complaint Cover Sheet	–	12/17/2025	11/21/2025
359-EV0032	Emails	Email from Complainant - 01-15-2026	01/15/2026	01/15/2026	01/15/2026
359-EV0033	Video Recording	Video Recording by Complainant	01/15/2026	01/15/2026	01/15/2026
359-EV0034	Emails	Email to Complainant - 01-15-2026	01/15/2026	01/15/2026	01/15/2026



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Evidence ID	Evidence Type	Description / Title	Date Requested	Date Received	Date Reviewed
359-EV0035	Emails	Email - Notice to Complainant of CRB Meeting	01/15/2026	01/15/2026	01/15/2026
359-EV0036	Documents and PDFs	Letter - Notice to Complainant of CRB Meeting	01/15/2026	01/15/2026	01/15/2026
359-EV0037	Emails	Email - Notice to BPD Employee and Attorney of CRB Meeting	01/15/2026	01/15/2026	01/15/2026
359-EV0038	Documents and PDFs	Letter - Notice to BPD Employee and Attorney of CRB Meeting	01/15/2026	01/15/2026	01/15/2026
359-EV0039	Investigator Notes	Miscellaneous Investigative Notes	–	01/20/2026	01/20/2026
359-EV0040	Emails	Misc. Emails - RE: Scheduling Interview	–	04/15/2026	04/15/2026
359-EV0041	Interview Recording	Interview Recording	–	04/09/2026	04/09/2026

II. Summary of Evidence

- a) The evidence reviewed in this matter includes the Complainant's written complaint, video footage submitted by the Complainant, investigative notes, police records related to incidents occurring in the vicinity on April 25, 2024, and documented investigative correspondence. The available evidence confirms a significant police response in the area during the relevant time period. The video evidence depicts the involved officer interacting with the Complainant while holding a baton; however, no police-generated documentation specifically describes the alleged physical contact. No body-worn camera footage was available, and the involved officer declined to participate in an interview.



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CRB FINAL DETERMINATION:

The CRB reached a **unanimous (6-0)**, regarding allegations against **Detective Juan José Seoane López, ID #011458**, in violation of the following BPD Rules:

BPD Employee Name	Applicable BPD Rule	CRB Ruling
Detective Juan José Seoane López	102§9 (Respectful Treatment)	Sustained
	304§6 (Use of Non-Lethal Force)	Not Sustained

SUMMARY FINDINGS:

1) BPD Rule: 102§9 – Respectful Treatment

CRB Finding: Sustained

Analysis:

- BPD Rule 102§9 requires that employees be civil, respectful, courteous, and considerate toward members of the public. The Complainant alleged that Detective Seoane López approached him while he was standing on a public sidewalk documenting police activity and made physical contact by jabbing him with a baton without first issuing verbal instructions or warnings.
- The investigation established that Detective Seoane López was present in the area during a large-scale police response involving protest activity and that he interacted with the Complainant while holding a baton. Video evidence shows Detective Seoane López directing the Complainant to move from the area and pointing the baton toward the Complainant while requesting assistance from another officer. Although the video does not clearly capture the alleged physical contact, it is consistent with the Complainant's account that Detective Seoane López approached him in close proximity while holding the baton and initiated the encounter in a manner that was abrupt.
- Investigator was unable to locate any police-generated documentation describing the allegations. Although Detective Seoane López appeared for a voluntary interview, he asserted his rights and declined to provide a statement regarding the incident. The Board considered the Complainant's account, the available video evidence, and the absence of documentation addressing the interaction. The Board also considered the protest-response context depicted in the available video. The video shows the Complainant standing on a public sidewalk documenting police activity and not surrounded by protestors or individuals in his immediate



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proximity at the time Detective Seoane López approached. The video further shows Detective Seoane López walking directly toward the Complainant while holding a baton and positioning himself immediately in front of the Complainant before directing him to move. The available evidence does not establish that the Complainant was located within a restricted area or otherwise engaged in conduct requiring immediate physical intervention.

- d) Based on the totality of the evidence, the CRB finds that Detective Seoane López's manner of approach and interaction with the Complainant, including his close-range use of the baton while confronting the Complainant and initiating the encounter, was inconsistent with the standards of civil, respectful, and courteous treatment required under BPD Rule 102§9. Accordingly, the CRB determined that Detective Seoane López violated BPD Rule 102§9, Respectful Treatment, and found this allegation Sustained.

2) BPD Rule: 304§6 – (Use of Non-Lethal Force - Service Baton)

CRB Finding: Not Sustained

Analysis:

- a) BPD Rule 304§6 governs the use of service batons as non-lethal force instruments and provides that batons are intended primarily for defensive purposes. The rule requires that baton use be reasonable, proportionate, and consistent with Department training and the totality of the circumstances.
- b) The Complainant alleged that Detective Seoane López intentionally jabbed him with a service baton without issuing verbal commands, without apparent necessity, and in the absence of resistance or threat. The investigation established that Detective Seoane López was holding a service baton during the interaction and that the encounter occurred during a large-scale crowd-control operation related to protest activity.
- c) Although the available video evidence shows Detective Seoane López approaching the Complainant while holding the baton and directing him to move from the area, the video does not clearly depict whether physical contact occurred between the baton and the Complainant. Likewise, no use-of-force report, supervisor notification, or other police-generated documentation describing baton contact was identified during the investigation. Detective Seoane López appeared for a voluntary interview but asserted his rights and declined to provide a statement regarding the incident.
- d) The Board considered the Complainant's account together with the available video evidence and the absence of corroborating documentation. While the



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evidence establishes that Detective Seoane López had the baton in hand during the interaction with the Complainant, it does not establish that the baton was used in a manner that violated BPD Rule 304§6. Because the available evidence is insufficient to determine whether the alleged improper baton contact occurred or whether any contact constituted an unreasonable or disproportionate use of force under the circumstances, the CRB determined that there was insufficient evidence to conclude that Detective Seoane López violated BPD Rule 304§6 and found this allegation Not Sustained.

CRB RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE:

According to the Discipline Matrix established by the Boston Police Department, the CRB has recommended the following discipline for **Detective Juan José Seoane López, ID #011458**:

BPD Employee Name	Applicable BPD Rule	Recommended Discipline
Detective Juan José Seoane López	102§9 (Respectful Treatment)	5 Day Suspension