

DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDATION

To: Chief Lisa Davis, Austin Police Department

From: Director Gail McCant, Austin Police Oversight

Date: June 4, 2026

Subject: **2025-2663 Discipline Recommendation**

Dear Chief Davis:

On December 12, 2025, Austin Police Oversight (APO) received a walk-in complaint, 2025-2663, alleging that an unknown Austin Police Department (APD) officer conducted a strip search on him in a public place. APO conducted a Preliminary Review of the complaint and identified the officer in the alleged complaint to be Officer Andres Sanchez, AP9669.

On December 16, 2025, APO forwarded the complaint to APD Internal Affairs Division as a Supervisor Referral at the complainant's request.

On December 22, 2025, APD Lieutenant Eric Cleveland, AP5145, submitted an Internal Complaint Memorandum to APD Internal Affairs Division (IAD) requesting an investigation into Officer Sanchez's actions, stating the actions may have been inconsistent with APD policy.

Disposition by APD Chain of Command

On May 20, 2026, APO was notified that IAD had forwarded their completed summary to Officer Sanchez's chain of command. At the time of this recommendation, APO had not received the Notice of Sustained Allegations (NOSA) or the Control Sheet from Officer Sanchez's chain of command. The Internal Affairs Division reviewed the following APD General Orders during their investigation:

- 306 Search and Seizure
- 402.2.4 Report Writing
- 900.3.2 Acts Bringing Discredit Upon the Department

APO Disposition Recommendation: Sustain & Written Reprimand

Upon reviewing the investigative file, I believe IAD conducted a thorough and unbiased investigation and collected and analyzed pertinent information regarding the incident.

On September 30, 2025, Officer Sanchez was monitoring the High Activity Location Observation (HALO) camera from the APD Main Station. Officer Sanchez observed a male, later identified as the complainant, remove a small, round, white substance from his mouth and drop it onto the ground in front of a nearby female. The female had money in her hand and followed the complainant. Officer

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Sanchez asked nearby officers to stop the male and female for a narcotics investigation. The male and female were detained and handcuffed.

Officer Sanchez then arrived on scene and conducted a search of the male. During the search, he is seen placing his hands inside the front of the male subject's shorts and into his pockets. He then left the area to search the location he had observed on the HALO camera before returning to complete the search of the male.

Upon returning, Officer Sanchez turned the male around and instructed him to separate his feet while pulling up the male's shirt. The male's buttocks became exposed, and his shorts were below his waistline. Officer Sanchez then used his hand and a flashlight to search the male's buttocks for approximately 20 seconds. Officer Sanchez did not recover anything from the search, and both the male and female were released.

During his IAD interview, Officer Sanchez stated he believed his actions did not constitute a strip search, stating he did not intend to expose the complainant's buttocks. Officer Sanchez stated, *"I believe a strip search to be intentionally removing someone's clothing or they're naked, having them squat and cough."* When asked how the public might perceive this, Officer Sanchez stated he believed the public would see him as doing his job.

When asked during his interview about the tactic used when searching the complainant's buttocks, Officer Sanchez stated, *"I looked in his butt crack area. I think that's all I did. I mean, I'd done a small credit card kind of swipe to make sure there was no bags or rocks of crack cocaine concealed there. That was it."* Internal Affairs asked Officer Sanchez why his search of the complainant was not detailed in the written report, and Officer Sanchez stated, *"Based on the policy of report writing, any actions taken, I put in my report that I searched him."*

During his IAD interview, Officer Sanchez denied violating APD Policy 306, Search and Seizure, 402.2.4, Report Writing, and APD Policy 900.3.2, Acts Bringing Discredit Upon the Department.

After reviewing the IAD digital case file, I believe Officer Sanchez's actions did not adequately consider the sensitive nature of the search or the complainant's dignity. Furthermore, I believe Officer Sanchez's report did not properly document the scope and circumstances of the invasive search.

I recommend a finding of **Sustained** for GO 306.11.2 Search and Seizure, GO 402.2.4 Report Writing, and 900.3.2 Acts Bringing Discredit Upon the Department, and that Officer Sanchez should receive discipline of a **Written Reprimand**.

In compliance with Section 2-15-5(B) of the City Code, I request that the Chief "provide a detailed public, written explanation if the Chief does not follow a recommendation of the Office of Police Oversight to impose discipline."

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Sincerely,

Ryan Alvarez on
behalf of Gail McCant

Digitally signed by Ryan Alvarez
on behalf of Gail McCant
Date: 2026.06.04 10:19:21 -05'00'

Gail McCant
Director
Austin Police Oversight

