

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT:

On 01 July 2016, at approximately 1309 hours, Officers A, #XXXX and Officer B, #XXXXX responded to a call of a “burglary in progress” at XXXX W. Pratt. While clearing the rear stairwell of the apartment building, Officer B tripped and accidentally discharged his taser, striking a brick wall.

ALLEGATION:

On 01 July 2016, at approximately 1309 hours, while at XXXX W. Pratt, **Officer B:**

- 1) Accidentally discharged his Department issued taser.

APPLICABLE RULES AND LAW:

Rule 10: Inattention to duty.

Department General Orders/ Uniform and Property Order:

U04-02-04 Taser Devices

G03-02-05 Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report

G03-02-02 Force Options

G03-02-07 Other Weapon Discharge Incidents

INVESTIGATION:

In an Initiation Report authored by Sergeant A, it was reported that on the date of incident, Sergeant A responded to the scene and learned that Officer B had responded to a “burglary-in-progress” call at the location of incident, in which the 911 caller reported seeing a subject inside of her residence through a window. As Officer B and his partner, Officer A, were walking up the rear stairs of the multiple story apartment building, clearing the stairwell, Officer B tripped on the top stair and accidentally discharged his department issued taser. The prongs of the taser struck the brick wall of the building and fell to the floor. No persons were struck as a result of the discharge, nor did it occur in the vicinity of any persons. The accidental discharge did not damage any property. It was further reported that Officer B immediately notified Sergeant A as well as OEMC of the taser discharge. (Att. 4)

In the **Chicago Police Department Event Query #XXXXXXXXXX** and **XXXXXXXXXX**; as well as in the **OEMC transmissions**, a male caller identified himself as Citizen 1 and reported that he had just arrived home and believed that someone was inside of his apartment. Citizen 1 stated that his wife believed she saw someone “peeking” through the curtains.

A female dispatcher announced the call over the radio. Beat 2406A announced that he would assist Beat 2420. The OEMC transmissions detailed that Beat 2406A was clearing the rear of the building. According to Event #XXXXXXXXXX, Beat 2406A reported that he had accidentally deployed his taser. (Atts. 5-8)

Chicago Police Department reports detailed the information surrounding the “burglary-in-progress.” (Att. 9-11)

According to the **Tactical Response Report (TRR)**, Officer B accidentally discharged his taser, serial number XXXXXXXXXX, when he tripped on the rear stairs as he responded to a “burglary-in-progress” call. The TRR further documented that there was no damage caused to any property or persons. (Att. 10)

Taser Deployment Data Sheet documents that Officer B’s taser was deployed at 13:07:53 hours, for 2 seconds. (Att. 13)

In a statement to IPRA on 11 August 2016, Witness Officer A, stated that on the date of this incident he was working with Officer B. Officer A explained that he and Officer B responded to a call of a “burglary-in-progress” at the location of incident. Officer A reported that he and Officer B parked in the alley of the location and proceeded towards the rear stairs of the building. As they were ascending the stairs, with Officer A behind Officer B, Officer A observed Officer B trip and subsequently heard the taser deploy and he saw the prongs on the floor. Officer A added that Officer B recovered the taser cartridge and prongs and later inventoried the items. (Att. 15)

In a statement to IPRA on 11 August 2016, Accused Officer B, stated that on the date of incident, he and his partner, Officer A, responded to the location of incident to assist on a “burglary-in-progress” call. While clearing the rear of the building and reaching the top landing, Officer B accidentally discharged his taser when he tripped on the top stair, as he attempted to re-holster his taser. Officer B stated that the taser prongs hit a brick wall. Officer B further explained that his finger had been on the guard of the taser but as he tripped, it must have slipped along the slide guard and onto the trigger.

Officer B stated that he followed normal protocol for making notification of the taser discharge, recovering the taser prongs and inventorying the cartridge. Officer B explained that he has been carrying a taser for a minimum of five years and qualifies yearly. Officer B reported that this was the first time he accidentally discharged his taser.

CONCLUSION:

The Reporting Investigator recommends a finding of **Sustained** on **Allegation #1** that on 01 July 2016, at approximately 1309 hours, while at XXXX W. Pratt, the accused accidentally discharged his department issued taser. The facts of this case are not in dispute as the incident was reported promptly and Officer B explained the circumstances that led to accidentally discharging his taser. All available evidence supports this allegation.

FINDINGS:

Accused: Officer B #XXXX

Allegation No. 1: **SUSTAINED**– Violation of Rule #10: “Inattention to duty,” in that on 01 July 2016, at approximately 1309 hours, while at XXXX W. Pratt, the accused accidentally discharged his department issued taser.