

ALLEGATIONS:

On 07 April 2015, at 1340 hours, the complainant, Subject 1, telephoned the Independent Police Review Authority and registered this complaint with Investigator A.

It is alleged that, on 03 December 2013, at an unknown time, at XXXX N. East River Road, while off-duty, **Officer A, #XXXXX, Unit XXX/XXX:**

- 1) Threatened to kill Subject 1, Witness 1, and himself, a violation of Rule 8.

It was alleged that, on 03 December 2015, at approximately 2100 hours, at XXXX W. Berseau, while off-duty, Officer A, #XXXXX:

- 2) Threatened to hire people to kill Subject 1's family in Syria, a violation of Rule 8;
- 3) Threatened to physically harm Subject 1 and Witness 1, a violation of Rule 9; and
- 4) Threatened to use his position as a police officer to have Subject 1 deported, a violation of Rule 4.

It was also alleged that on various occasions over the past three years, Officer A, #XXXXX:

- 5) Has threatened to physically harm Subject 1, her daughter Witness 1, and Subject 1's family, a violation of Rule 9;
- 6) Has repeatedly told Witness 1 that by the time she reaches 16 years of age, she would be pregnant by a "nigger," a violation of Rule 9.

It was further alleged that on unknown dates and time, Officer A, #XXXXX:

- 7) Falsely reported Subject 1's vehicle stolen, a violation of Rule 14; and
- 8) Slashed the tires on Subject 1's vehicle, a violation of Rule 2.

APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS

Rule 2—Any action or conduct which impedes the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.

Rule 4—Any conduct or action taken to use the official position for personal gain or influence.

Rule 8—Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off-duty.

Rule 9—Engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with a person, while on or off-duty.

Rule 14—Making a false report, written or oral.

INVESTIGATION:

In his Initiation report dated on 07 April 2015, Sergeant A, #XXXX, stated that Subject 1 arrived at the Internal Affairs office and related to him that for the past several years her estranged husband, Officer A, has been verbally, emotionally, and psychologically abusive. Subject 1 further related that, on numerous occasions, Officer A threatened to physically harm her and her family. On 20 March 2015, at approximately 2100 hours, during a conversation with Subject 1, Officer A threatened to kill her, her daughter (now known as Witness 1), her family, and her elderly parents in Syria.

In a statement to IPRA on 10 April 2015, the complainant, Subject 1, stated that she and Officer A were married for nearly four years and do not have any children together. Subject 1 has a daughter from a previous marriage, Witness 1, who was 15 years old at the time of this investigation. Subject 1 stated that on 03 December 2013, Officer A put three bullets in his gun on the floor of their home and told her, “[These] three bullets, one for me, one for you, and one for your daughter. We must, we must, I must kill myself and kill you and kill your daughter.”

Subject 1 stated that on 10 February 2015, she had been downstairs in the home while Officer A was upstairs. They had previously been arguing about whether they should divorce, and Subject 1 then went to talk to a friend on the phone. Officer A’s mother contacted Subject 1, and she seemed to be panicked. Officer A’s mother asked Subject 1 to go upstairs and check on Officer A because, “he wants to kill himself and harm himself.” Subject 1 stated that she went upstairs to check on Officer A and found him sitting on his bed with his gun in his mouth, while his mother was on speakerphone. Subject 1 heard Officer A say “I am going to kill myself and kill [Subject 1].” Subject 1 added that some of the time, Officer A had the gun in his mouth, and some of the time he pointed the gun at her. Subject 1 convinced Officer A to put his gun down, after which she picked it up and discovered there was no magazine in the weapon. Officer A showed Subject 1 that there was a round in the chamber. Subject 1 then took the gun downstairs with her, but Officer A followed and demanded that she give the gun back. When Subject 1 complied, Officer A once again pointed the gun at himself while threatening to kill himself. Simultaneously, Subject 1 was yelling for her daughter to call the police. When the police arrived, Officer A told them that they had only been arguing. The responding officers asked Subject 1 if Officer A had threatened her with the gun. Subject 1 stated that, at the time, she said no because she didn’t want him to lose his job, as he had previously threatened her that if he was fired from the Chicago Police Department, he would kill her.

Subject 1 stated that on 20 March 2015, they were at home, preparing to eat lunch. Officer A refused to eat with Witness 1, as she had previously called the police on him. Subject 1 told him that she and her daughter would eat first and he could eat later. Officer A left the room, and she and her daughter began to eat.

A few moments later, Officer A came into the dining room, sat down at the table, and stared at Witness 1. This upset Subject 1, and she and Officer A began to argue. Officer A subsequently apologized. A short time later, Officer A went to the basement bedroom where Witness 1 had relocated to, told her that he held her accountable for calling the police on him, and threatened to put her and her mother into a shelter. Officer A then spoke to Subject 1 in the kitchen, where he threatened to kill her and her family in Syria. Officer A told her that he would pay people to hurt her father. Officer A stated that he would call the head of the secret police in Syria and have her

father arrested. Officer A also threatened Subject 1 by saying “And you feel strong against me I can kick you out of the country. I will get, I will kick you out of the country.” Officer A also told Subject 1, “I’m gonna go to the court and file for divorce. And if you go to court and you say I want this and I want that, I will make you lose all your family.”

Subject 1 also stated that, during fights with Officer A, he would demand that she give him the keys to the car he bought her and when she refused to give him the car keys, he reported the car stolen, when in fact she used it to go to work. Subject 1 stated that on another prior occasion, after they had a small argument, she found the tires of her car slashed. Subject 1 stated that Officer A admitted to slashing the car tires of her vehicle.

Juvenile content redacted.

On 10 April 2015, **IPRA investigators obtained text messages** from Subject 1, which were furnished in the form of forwarded screenshots. The messages contained communications between Subject 1 and Officer A. The majority of the messages are from Subject 1, in Arabic, sent to Officer A. Many of the messages do not receive a response from Officer A. IPRA obtained English language translations of the text messages which were originally in Arabic.

General Offense Case Report (RD# HYXXXXXX), dated 24 March 2015, documents that officers were called to the home and Sergeant B served Subject 1 with the Order of Protection obtained by Officer A. The order prohibited Subject 1 from being in the home.

General Offense Case Report (RD# HYXXXXXX), dated 07 April 2015, documents that Sergeant A spoke with Subject 1, who related that she had been married to Officer A for three years, but was estranged at the time of the report. Subject 1 stated that, for the prior three years, Officer A had been verbally, emotionally, and psychologically abusive to her and her daughter (Witness 1). Subject 1 stated that Officer A had consistently threatened her over her immigration status. Officer A also threatened to harm Witness 1, Subject 1’s elderly parents in Syria, and herself. It was reported that, on March 20 2015, at approximately 2100 hours, Officer A threatened to hire people to kill Subject 1’s parents in Syria. Officer A also threatened to harm Subject 1 and her daughter if Subject 1 testified in any court proceedings relative to their divorce or domestic related issues. The report indicates Subject 1 recorded the threats on her iPhone during the incident. Subject 1 also recorded other incidents of the abuse and threats made by Officer A in the course of their marriage.

General Offense Case Report (RD# HYXXXXXX) documents that on 04 December 2013 Officer A reported his vehicle, a 2011 Ford Taurus, stolen from his residence at XXXX N. East River Road. The ensuing investigation revealed that Officer A’s vehicle had been towed for a private parking complaint. The incident was classified as Unfounded.

An **Emergency Order of Protection (Case #15DXXXXX)** was obtained by Officer A on 23 March 2015 against Subject 1. The Order stated that Subject 1 was prohibited from harassing or interfering with Officer A’s personal liberty. Officer A was granted exclusive possession of the residence and Subject 1 was not allowed to enter or remain in the residence. Subject 1 was ordered to stay away from Officer A and ordered to refrain from telephoning him, mailing him, e-mailing him,

writing him notes, and communication through third parties. The Order was in effect from 23 March until 13 April 2015.

In his Petition for Dissolution of Marriage (Case #15DXXXXX), filed on 23 March 2016, Officer A reported that, during the marriage, Subject 1 was guilty of extreme and repeated mental cruelty toward him without cause or provocation on his part. Officer A also alleged that Subject 1 has caused Officer A to be stripped of his police powers and suspended from the Police Department pending separation, based on Subject 1's false allegations.

In her Affidavit for Petition for an Order of Protection dated 8 April 2015, Subject 1 stated that throughout their relationship, Officer A had been verbally, emotionally, and financially abusive to her and her daughter. Subject 1 outlined Officer A's arrest, his Order of Protection against her, and her being forced from their home. The Affidavit continued that on 20 March 2015, Officer A had been verbally abusive to her daughter. Subject 1 was afraid that Officer A's behavior would eventually turn violent.

The related Arrest Report, dated 09 April 2015, stated that Officer A was arrested at his home on an active criminal warrant (Warrant #CWXXXXXXXX) and charged with Aggravated Assault. Officer A was also stripped of his police powers.

Recorded conversations between Officer A and Subject 1 were obtained as part of this investigation. The recordings were secretly recorded by Subject 1, during an argument she had with Officer A on an unknown date and time. The recordings were provided to the Chicago Police Department's Bureau of Internal Affairs by Subject 1; copies were provided to IPRA. The conversation was in Arabic and was subsequently translated and transcribed in English.

In a statement to IPRA on 23 November 2015, Officer A stated that he and Subject 1 were married in January 2011 in Syria. Officer A stated that they began having problems after Subject 1 obtained her permanent green card and they began to constantly fight. Officer A stated that Subject 1 began demanding he pay her a salary and threatened Officer A by telling him that she would tell the police that he threatened to kill her and her daughter Witness 1, and that he pointed a gun at them. Because these fights escalated and the relationship continued to deteriorate, Officer A told Subject 1 that they should get divorced. Subject 1 responded that Officer A could not divorce her until after she obtained her citizenship, and demanded that he give her \$30,000 for her to agree to a divorce.

Officer A stated that he could not recall the argument with Subject 1 on 20 March 2015, where she had secretly recorded him, though he later became aware of the recordings during their divorce proceedings. Officer A admitted that he had told Subject 1 that he would have her deported and had threatened to harm her parents during an argument with her. Officer A did not express how he would harm Subject 1's family, but he explained that he made that threat after Subject 1 provoked him by telling him she would use her father's connection with the Syrian government to have Officer A's mother and grandmother arrested in Syria. Officer A stated that he and Subject 1 would regularly make similar threats toward each other during their arguments.

Officer A denied ever pointing a gun at Subject 1, Witness 1, or at himself. Officer A explained that on the evening of 10 February 2015, the night it was alleged that he placed his firearm in his mouth, that Subject 1 told the responding police personnel and supervisors that Officer A did not do anything to her or her daughter. Officer A stated that 58 days later Subject 1 made the allegation that he pointed a gun at her and her daughter. Officer A maintained that Subject 1 made

that allegation in retaliation against him for obtaining an Order of Protection against her. Officer A explained that he obtained an Order of Protection against Subject 1 because of her threats to make false allegations against him to the Chicago Police Department.

Officer A denied all of the allegations, with the exception of threatening to have Subject 1 deported. Officer A stated that he made that remark in the heat of the moment during an argument. Officer A denied making specific threats against Subject 1's family, although he did admit that in past he had threatened to do harm to her family in response to threats she would make against his family.

CONCLUSION:

The IPRA finds that **Allegation #1**, that Officer A threatened to kill Subject 1, Witness 1, and himself, a violation of Rule 8, is **Sustained**. Subject 1 stated that Officer A threatened them by showing her three bullets and telling her that one bullet was for her, one bullet was for her daughter, and the third was for him. Subject 1's daughter, Witness 1, did not see Officer A display the bullets, as she was in another room, but she did hear him say that he had a bullet for each of them. Witness 1 also heard sounds that were consistent with Officer A placing bullets onto a table as he made the threat to Subject 1. Audio recordings obtained in this investigation capture Officer A threatening to kill himself multiple times.

The IPRA finds that **Allegation #2**, that Officer A threatened to hire people to kill Subject 1's family in Syria, a violation of Rule 8 and of Rule 9 is **Sustained**. Subject 1 stated that Officer A was angry about the incident that occurred on 11 February 2015. Officer A and Subject 1 began to argue and Officer A threatened to kill her and her family in Syria. Officer A told Subject 1 that he would pay people to hurt her father. Witness 1 heard Officer A threaten Subject 1 by saying he could pay to make Subject 1's family in Syria disappear. Officer A denied making the specific threat to hire people to kill Subject 1's family, but he admitted that during numerous arguments he threatened to bring harm to her family in response to her threatening to harm his family. Officer A explained that during arguments with Subject 1 it was common for them to threaten each other's families. Audio recordings obtained in this investigation capture Officer A making various threats concerning Subject 1's family.

The IPRA finds that **Allegation #3**, that Officer A threatened to physically harm Subject 1 and Witness 1, a violation of Rule 8 and of Rule 9 is **Sustained**. There is more than a preponderance of evidence that the incident involving Officer A placing bullets on the table, and stating that each bullet was for one of the family members, occurred as Subject 1 has alleged. As Allegation #1, that Officer A threatened to kill Subject 1, Witness 1, and himself, is sustained, so must this allegation that he threatened them with physical harm. The threats to kill Subject 1 and Witness 1 surmounts to the threat of physical harm.

The IPRA finds that **Allegation #4**, that Officer A threatened to use his position as a police officer to have Subject 1 deported, a violation of Rule 9, is **Not Sustained**. Officer A admitted threatening to have Subject 1 deported, although he contends that he never

threatened to use his position as a police officer to threaten her immigration status. The audio recordings that were obtained in this investigation do not contain specific references to his use of his position in regards to her potential deportation. Given the preponderance of evidence standard, there is insufficient evidence to support or refute this allegation.

The IPRA finds that **Allegation #5**, that Officer A has threatened to physically harm Subject 1, Witness 1, and Subject 1's family, a violation of Rule 9, is **Sustained**. Officer A admitted that he has threatened harm against Subject 1's family in Syria. This investigation has shown that it is more likely than not that Allegation #1, that Officer A threatened to kill Subject 1, Witness 1, and himself, occurred as alleged. Therefore, this particular allegation must be sustained as the threats to kill Subject 1 and Witness 1 surmount to the threat of physical harm.

The IPRA finds that **Allegation #6**, that Officer A repeatedly told Witness 1 that by the time she reaches 16 years of age she would be pregnant by a "nigger," a violation of Rule 8 and of Rule 9, is **Not Sustained**. Witness 1 made this allegation when explaining the verbal and psychological abuse directed at her by Officer A recalling that during an incident, in reaction to seeing her report card, Officer A told her that she would be pregnant by a "nigger." Officer A denied the allegation. Notwithstanding Officer A's allegation, Witness 1's account is credible. Given all the information she provided, it would seem unnecessary for her to contrive a story with this specific language. However, because the allegation is that Officer A "repeatedly" stated this, and the evidence supports only that he made this statement on one occasion, this allegation is Not Sustained.

The IPRA finds that **Allegation #7**, that Officer A falsely reported Subject 1's vehicle as stolen, a violation of Rule 14 is **Unfounded**. Officer A explained that, when he reported to the police that the vehicle he owned that his wife used was stolen, he believed it had been stolen from the front of their home. However, Officer A later learned that the vehicle had been towed from his building because he did not have the proper parking permit. Officer A denied that he filed a false police report. The related Department reports corroborated Officer A's account. While Officer A had initially reported the vehicle stolen from his residence, further investigation later revealed that his vehicle had been towed. While Subject 1 alleged that Officer A reported the vehicle stolen when she had simply driven it to work, the only record of Officer A reporting the vehicle as stolen is reflected in this event, wherein it had actually been towed.

The IPRA finds that **Allegation #8**, that Officer A slashed the tires of Subject 1's vehicle, a violation of Rule 2, is **Not Sustained**. Although Subject 1 made the allegation that Officer A slashed her vehicle's tires, Subject 1 offered no evidence to support the allegation. Officer A denied the allegation. This investigation revealed insufficient evidence or witnesses to support or refute the allegation.