

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT

Log #1085320

On May 20, 2017 at approximately 1:30 A.M., Civilian 1 and his friend, Civilian 2, attempted to enter Café Latin Bliss, located at XXXX N. Lincoln Avenue. Civilian 2 was not allowed to enter due to the dress code. Civilian 1 and Civilian 2 left the location and returned later to again try to enter by talking to the security personnel. Civilian 1 and Civilian 2 were once again denied entry. Civilian 1 then tried to take a photograph of the Café Latin Bliss's rules posted outside near the entrance with his cellphone. The security guard near the door, who denied Civilian 1 and Civilian 2 entrance into the club, then tried to strike Civilian 1. The security guard attempted to put Civilian 1 into a chokehold, but Civilian 1 was able to slip out of the security guard's hold. The security guard grazed the right side of Civilian 1's face with his fist. Two more security guards came out of Café Latin Bliss to assist the first security guard. Civilian 1 threatened to call police. The three security guards pulled out badges and stated to Civilian 1 that they were the cops. Civilian 1 could not clearly make out the badges and did not ask for any of the security guard's badge numbers. Civilian 1 believed the security guards were members of the Chicago Police Department and made a complaint to the Independent Police Review Authority ("IPRA") based on the actions of the security guards.

ALLEGATIONS:

It is alleged that on May 20, 2017, at approximately 1:30AM, at XXXX N. Lincoln Avenue,
Unknown Officer A:

1. Struck Civilian 1 in the face.

It is alleged that on May 20, 2017, at approximately 1:30AM, at XXXX N. Lincoln Avenue,
Unknown Officer B:

2. Failed to promptly report Unknown Officer A's unlawful action.

It is alleged that on May 20, 2017, at approximately 1:30AM, at XXXX N. Lincoln Avenue,
Unknown Officer C:

3. Failed to promptly report Unknown Officer A's unlawful action.

APPLICABLE RULES AND LAW

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 3: Any failure to promote the Department's efforts to implement its policy or accomplish its goals.

Rule 6: Disobedience of an order or directive, whether written or oral.

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 any person, while on or off duty.

Rule 21: Failure to report promptly to the Department any information concerning any crime or other unlawful action.

INVESTIGATION

The complainant, Civilian 1, gave an **audio recorded interview** with IPRA on May 26, 2017. In his interview, Civilian 1 stated that he and his friend, Civilian 2, planned to attend the night club Café Latin Bliss around 1:30 A.M. on May 20th, 2017. Civilian 1 had been to the club before and never had a problem there. Civilian 1 and Civilian 2 went to Café Latin Bliss, but the security guard at the door denied them entry, stating that Civilian 2 was not properly dressed for the club. Civilian 1 and Civilian 2 then left the club, but returned later in the morning to try and reason with the security guard to enter the club. The security guard once again denied the two entry into the club. Civilian 1 then decided to take a photo of the club's rules which were posted outside the club near the entrance. Civilian 1 stated that the security guard near the door was also in the picture. He further stated that the security guard became irritated and grabbed Civilian 1's neck to try and put Civilian 1 in a chokehold. He dodged the chokehold and pushed the security guard back. The security guard tried to strike Civilian 1 with his fists, and grazed the right side of Civilian 1's face with a punch. Two more security guards exited the club and joined the first security guard. Civilian 1 then told the security guards he would call the police. At that point, the security guards showed Civilian 1 their badges and stated they are the "we are the cops." Later in his statement Civilian 1 stated that the bouncers said, "we are police." Civilian 1 could not see the badge numbers, but identified the badge as having a silver metal star. Civilian 1 could not see if the badges said Chicago Police. The guards were about five to seven feet away when displaying their badges, and the badges were shown for only a brief moment. Civilian 1 stated that he assumed the security guards were members of the Chicago Police Department. Civilian 1 stated that he knows many police officers work as security guards when they are off-duty, and because Café Latin Bliss is in Chicago, the security guards were likely Chicago Police Officers. After Civilian 1 was shown the badges by the security guards, he and Civilian 2 left Café Latin Bliss. Civilian 1 did not seek medical attention. Civilian 2 was not injured. Civilian 1 was never able to take the photograph or record the incident. (Attachment 10)

POD Search from May 23, 2017 revealed that there were no PODs in the vicinity of Café Latin Bliss. (Attachment 5)

An **Email from Civilian 3** from May 24, 2017 contained a photograph of the badge the security guards at Café Latin Bliss carry. The badge states "Security Officer" with the State of Illinois seal in the center of the badge. "State of Illinois" is around the State seal. The badge is a six pointed star and encased in a black leather circle. The star is a gold star. (Attachment 12)

A Telephone Conversation with Civilian 3 on May 23, 2017

between IPRA and Civilian 3 revealed that no current or former police officer of any municipal, county, state, or metropolitan police department is permitted to serve on the security staff of Café Latin Bliss. Civilian 3 also stated that the security personnel do carry badges and the badge is only produced if a patron questions a security staff member's authority. Civilian 3 noted that the 20th District Station of the Chicago Police Department is located across the street from the club, but the officers do not ordinarily come to the club and that there were no officers present during the weekend in which the incident occurred. (Attachment 17)

An **Email from Civilian 1** sent on May 23, 2017 contained three photos of his person. The three photos show a scratch and injury to the left side of his face. Civilian 1 noted that the injury was from the incident. (Attachment 13, 14, 15, and 16, respectively)

CPD Badges — Stars & Shields documents what the Chicago Police Officer stars look like. The report contains multiple images of the various Chicago Police positions' stars. The Chicago Police star is a five pointed star with a large round base in the middle. The star states "Chicago Police," the rank of the individual, and the star number. The star also contains the seal of the City of Chicago in the round base. The star is silver in color. (Attachment 19)

An **Email from Civilian 3** dated July 13, 2017 contains all of the names of the security personnel at Café Latin Bliss. The list contains 7 individuals. (Attachment 22)

An **Alpha/ Star Query Check for Café Latin Bliss Security** created on July 13, 2017, revealed that only one of the named individuals in the email from Civilian 3 came back with a possible Chicago Police Department member by the same name. The possible member was Officer A, with the date of birth of XX/XX/1986. (Attachment 25)

An **Email from Civilian 3** dated July 21, 2017 contained the Café Latin Bliss security guard Civilian 4's date of birth after a request for more information. (Attachment 23)

A July 26, 2017 **Telephone Conversation between Civilian 4** and IPRA, revealed that he is not a Chicago Police Officer and has never been a Chicago Police Officer. Civilian 4 confirmed he was never a member of any police department and that his date of birth is XX/XX/1981. (Attachment 26)

An August 15, 2017 **Telephone Conversation between Officer A** and IPRA revealed that Officer A does not work off-duty and is not employed by Café Latin Bliss in any capacity. Officer A is currently in the second field-training cycle of CPD's PPO program. Officer A confirmed his date of birth is XX/XX/1986. (Attachment 27)

CONCLUSION

IPRA's burden of proof is based on the preponderance of evidence standard. IPRA's

investigation revealed that there were no members of the Chicago Police Department involved in this incident. In his interview, Civilian 1 stated he was not sure the security personnel were Chicago Police Officers, but assumed they were as they had badges, they responded that they were the help Civilian 1 would receive if he called the police, and Civilian 1 believed most police officers also work as security when they are off-duty. The information given by Civilian 3 indicates that no police officers of any jurisdiction are permitted to work at Café Latin Bliss. All the security personnel employed by Civilian 3 are not, and never have been, members of the Chicago Police Department. Civilian 3 gave the names of all security guards employed by Café Latin Bliss. All of the names were searched in Chicago Police watch information and a star query search. Only one of the names, Officer A, came back with a positive match for a Chicago Police Department member.

According to the Chicago Police records on CLEAR, Officer A is a police officer assigned to the 18th District. Officer A's date of birth is XXXXXXXX XX, 1986. After seeing Officer A's information on CLEAR, Civilian 3 was contacted via email for more information regarding security guard Civilian 4. The security guard Civilian 4 has a date of birth of XXXXXXXX XX, 1981. Civilian 4 stated over the phone that he applied to be a Chicago police officer, but has never been offered the position and has never been a police officer for Chicago or any other jurisdiction. Civilian 4 also confirmed his date of birth as XXXXXXXX XX, 1981.

Officer A was also contacted via telephone he and he indicated he is a Chicago probationary police officer ("PPO"), currently in the field training program. Officer A confirmed he was not employed by Café Latin Bliss and does not work any job off-duty. Officer A also confirmed his date of birth was XXXXXXXX XX, 1986. Officer A stated he is in the second cycle of the Chicago Police field training program. The evidence from Civilian 3's email, phone call, Civilian 4's phone call, and Officer A's phone call suggests that Civilian 4 and Officer A are different people, and the fact that there was a Chicago police officer and a Café Latin Bliss security guard with the same name is merely a coincidence.

Furthermore, the security personnel's badge is not the same as the Chicago Police Department star. Civilian 3 provided a photograph of the star carried by Café Latin Bliss security guards. The "Security Officer" star is a gold six pointed star with the words "State of Illinois," "Security Officer," and the seal of the State of Illinois on it. The Chicago Police star is a five pointed silver star with the words "Chicago Police," rank of the individual, and has the seal of the City of Chicago in the base of the star. Civilian 1 stated the guards were about five to seven feet away when displaying their badges, and the badges were shown for only a brief moment. He also could not see if the badges said Chicago Police. The evidence suggests that the security guards likely showed their badges, but the badges were the "Security Officer" badge and not a Chicago Police star. There is no evidence that any Chicago Police member was present or involved in the alleged incident.

Based on all of these factors, the Independent Police Review Authority recommends a finding of Unfounded for the allegations against Unknown Officer 1, Unknown Officer 2, and Unknown Officer 3, as these allegations do not involve any members of the Chicago Police Department.