SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident:	July 2, 2018
Time of Incident:	9:38 pm
Location of Incident:	2046 E. 79 th Street
Date of COPA Notification:	July 2, 2018
Time of COPA Notification:	10:03 pm.
and was working alone. At approximate Police SUV in the west parking low made a purchase from inside the stable police vehicle. Officer Thomp closed the driver's side-door he saw Mr. pointed a semi-autom point the handgun at him, Officer once at Mr. striking Mr. parking lot, dropping his firearm then ran west through the was discovered in the trashcan rathompson did not pursue Mr. dispatchers of what occurred and the INVOLVED PARTIE	<u> </u>
Involved Officer #1:	Lawrence Thompson; Star #4602; Employee # Date of Appointment: May 2, 1994; Rank: Police Officer; Unit of Assignment: 004; Date of Birth: 1961; Gender: Male; Race: Black.
Involved Individual #1:	DOB:, 2001; Gender: Male; Race: Black.

¹ Officer Thompson was equipped with a body-worn camera, but it was not activated at the time of this incident.

² Throughout this investigation, different parties referred to this Family Dollar Store by other names including: Dollar Tree, Family Tree, Family Dollar Tree and Dollar Store.

III. ALLEGATIONS

Pursuant to section 2-78-120 of the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability ("COPA") has a duty to investigate all incidents in which a Department member discharges their firearm in a person's direction or where a person sustains serious bodily injury as a result of police actions. During its investigation of this incident, COPA did not find evidence to support allegations of excessive force related to Officer Soto's firearm discharge.

IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS

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1. GO 03-02-03: Firearm Discharge Incidents – Authorized Use and Post-Discharge Administrative Procedures (effective October 16, 2017 – February 29, 2020)

V. INVESTIGATION³

a. Interviews

In a statement to COPA on July 19, 2018, **Officer Lawrence Thompson⁴** stated that on the day of this incident he was on-duty, in full uniform and in a marked Chicago Police squad car.⁵ Officer Thompson was working alone on the night of this incident.

Officer Thompson was on routine patrol when he stopped at the Dollar Tree store located at 2346 W. 79th Street. He parked in the parking lot located on the east side of the store with his squad car facing away from the store. Officer Thompson entered the store and purchased water and foot powder. After making his purchase he returned to his car and sat in the front seat, leaving the driver's door open, as he placed his purchase on the front passenger seat. As Officer Thompson was about to insert the key into the vehicle's ignition, he suddenly noticed a person⁶ standing on the other side of the still-open driver's side door, pointing a semi-automatic handgun at him. He estimated that the barrel of Mr.

Mr. was standing near the side mirror of the driver's door, pointing a gun at him
through the open space between the driver's door and the doorframe. Officer Thompson did not
recall seeing Mr. prior to this moment, but recalled other customers walking in the parking
lot. Mr. did not say anything to Officer Thompson, and Officer Thompson did not say
anything to Mr. Mr. just stood there pointing a handgun at him. Fearing he was
about to be killed, Officer Thompson pulled his gun from its holster on his right hip and fired one
time, from a seated position inside the vehicle, at Mr. Officer Thompson explained that
he aimed through the open space between the still-open driver's door and the doorframe.

³ COPA conducted a thorough and complete investigation. The following is a summary of the material evidence gathered and relied upon in our analysis.

⁴ Attachments 50 & 67.

⁵ Although Officer Thompson drove a Ford Explorer, he repeatedly referred to it as a car throughout his statement.

⁶ NKA

Immediately after Officer Thompson discharged his firearm, Mr. Immediately after Officer Thompson discharged his firearm, Mr. Immediately after Officer Thompson did not pursue Mr. Instead he radioed OEMC notifying them that shots had been fired by police, a description of Mr. Instead his direction of flight and to request assistance. Officer Thompson was not injured as a result of this incident.

In a statement to COPA on October 15, 2018, **Officer Jarredd Cochran**⁷ stated on the night of this incident he was working assigned to work a four-man car with Officers Kevin Burg, Lee Caldwell, and Eric Jones. Officer Cochran stated that just prior to this incident he and his partners were travelling west on 76th Street, a few blocks from Yates Avenue when they heard Officer Thompson over the police radio make notification of shots fired by the police. Officer Thompson also gave a description of the offender, adding that the offender ran north from the location of incident. Officer Cochran stated that he and his partners drove toward the incident and entered the alley west of Yates Avenue. They drove north in the alley and parked about halfway down the alley. They exited their vehicle and proceeded to look in the vacant lots and nearby backyards. Officer Cochran stated that they split up and went different directions as the searched the alley and yards.

Officer Cochran at first, went north in the alley, but he heard a noise behind him and turned around and walked south in the alley. The noise he heard sounded like someone attempting to scale a fence. Officer Cochran walked about 40 or 50 feet south through the alley and found Mr. laying on his back, attempting to get up. Officer Cochran was alone when he found Mr. white t-shirt. Officer Cochran alerted his partners that he found Mr. His partners ran to them and called for an ambulance. Mr. was then placed in custody. Officer Cochran stated that they cut the straps off the backpack Mr. was wearing so they could determine if Mr. was armed. Officer Cochran did not believe the backpack was searched. Officer Cochran stated they did not find a gun on Mr.

In a statement to COPA on October 15, 2018, **Officer Eric Jones**⁸ stated that on the night of the incident he was assigned to a four-man tactical unit. Officer Jones was working with Officers Cochran, Caldwell, and Burg. Officer Jones and his partners were on routine patrol when they heard Officer Thompson's radio call notifying dispatch of him being involved in a shooting. Officer Thompson reported over the radio that the offender fled north, and described him as a male black, with dreads, wearing a white t-shirt with a bookbag. Officer Thompson reported that the offender pointed a gun at his head.

Officer Jones stated that he and his partners drove towards the location of incident. They drove up and down a few streets looking for the offender. They eventually parked in an alley west of Yates Avenue and north of the Dollar Tree Store. Officers Caldwell and Burg went north in the alley, looking in backyards and empty lots for the offender. Officers Jones and Cochran were further south in the alley when Officer Jones heard what sounded like the rattle of a gate. A few moments later Officer Jones heard Officer Cochran, who was further south in the alley, say he found the offender, Mr. Officer Jones then said he saw Mr. Islaying on the ground in the alley along a fence. Officer Jones told Mr.

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⁷ Attachments 61 & 69.

⁸ Attachments 60 & 68.

that Mr. was bleeding profusely. They removed his backpack in the search to determine if Mr. was armed, but he did not search the backpack. Officer Jones did not know if any other officer searched the backpack. An ambulance was called for Mr.
In a statement to COPA on July 3, 2018, stated that at the time of this incident he was at the gas station across from the Family Dollar Store. Mr. stated that he saw approximately 20 police cars in the Family Dollar Store's parking lot. Mr. stated that he then saw a young-looking black man with short hair and wearing, a dark colored shirt and shorts approach the multiple officers in the parking lot with a small, black handgun in his hand. Mr. stated he looked away for a moment, after which he then heard a gunshot. Mr. looked back toward the Family Dollar parking lot and saw the man lying on the pavement near the front entrance of the Family Dollar store.
During a telephone conversation with COPA on August 17, 2018, witness stated that he did not witness what occurred between Officer Thompson and Mr. Mr. explained that he and his friend, it were walking to the store on the sidewalk near 7840 S. Yates when he heard a gunshot. A few moments later Mr. saw Mr. running north in the Dollar Store's parking lot and then east through the alley where he lost sight of Mr. Mr. Thompson did not get a very good look at Mr. because his view was obstructed by trees, shrubbery, and nearby buildings. Mr. could not recall if Mr. had anything in his hands as he ran. Mr. did not see any police officers chasing Mr. and he did not see where Mr. ran.
COPA Personnel were unable to interview Mr. on the night of incident because the pain medication he was given at the University of Chicago Hospital made him incoherent.
During separate telephone conversations with, Mrattorney, on July 23, 2018, and December 12, 2018, Mr refused to allow COPA to interview Mr
b. Digital Evidence
Evidence Technician Photographs ¹⁴ depicted the location of incident; the fired cartridge casing inside Officer Thompson's police vehicle; Officer Thompson; and of the alley where Mr. was taken into custody; and the silver semi-automatic handgun Mr. was armed with.
⁹ Attachment 26. ¹⁰ Attachment 56. ¹¹ During a telephone conversation with COPA on July 25, 2018, refused to speak with COPA. Mr. agreed to provide Ms. with contact information for COPA in case she changed her mind about cooperating with this investigation. (See Investigator's Case Log). ¹² Attachment 21 & Case Log.

Investigator's Case Log.
 Attachments 52-54.

The recording from the **In-Car Camera** (**ICC**)¹⁵ belonging to Officer Thompson's police vehicle (Car #9081) did not have audio. The ICC footage captured Mr. sitting on a curb in front of the police vehicle. Mr. quickly rose into a crouched position and rapidly moved towards the driver's side of the police vehicle. Mr. held an object that appeared consistent with a firearm in his right hand, near the front of his waist area. Mr. moved forward and was then out of the view of the ICC. Moments later a shadow of a person appears to run to the left and then off-screen. There is no audio and no further video of Mr. on the ICC video.





Figure. 1. Figure. 2.

¹⁵ Attachments 19, 24. Mr. is visible between 24:33 – 24:59.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 24:56; Figures 1 and 2; screenshots were cropped.

The security recordings from a **Subway Restaurant,**¹⁷ located at 2401 E. 79th Street, and **Lee Cleaners,**¹⁸ located at 7857 S. Yates Boulevard, did not have a view of the incident in the parking lot of the Family Dollar Store's parking lot. The footage did not record anything relevant to this investigation.

The recordings from the two exterior security cameras of **Tiny Tots Academy,** located at 2409 E. 79th Street, showed a marked Chicago Police SUV drive into the parking lot of the Family Dollar Store at 9:28 pm. The CPD SUV entered the parking lot from the south entrance. Once in the parking lot the cameras' view of the CPD SUV is fully obstructed. At 9:35 pm several police vehicles with their emergency equipment activated enter the cameras' view and enter the parking lot. The cameras did not record the incident involving Officer Thompson and Mr.

The security cameras belonging to the **Family Dollar Store**²⁰ were not functional.

The security cameras on Chicago Transit Authority Buses #1251 and 1364²¹ did not

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record this incident. The recordings did not provide any information relative to this investigation. In a video-recorded interview with Chicago Police Department Detectives on July 2, 2018,
stated that he and his friend, were walking south on Yates
Boulevard intending to buy a birthday card at the Dollar Tree Store located on the northwest corner
of 79 th and Yates Boulevard when he heard a single gunshot. A few moments later Mr.
saw a black man with braids, wearing a white T-shirt and possibly a backpack run west in the alley
north of 79 th Street and out of sight. Mr. stated that they did not have a view of the
Dollar Tree Parking lot and therefore did not witness what occurred.
In a video-recorded interview with Chicago Police Department Detectives on July 2, 2018,
stated that she and her mom exited the Dollar Tree Store and walked to her
vehicle parked in the parking lot. sapproached the driver's side of her vehicle and
her mother approached the passenger side. "mother stopped and looked worried"
while directing her attention to a young man ²⁴ and said she was attempting to see what he was
doing. Mr. told them he was tying his shoe. Mr. then stood up and walked towards
a police car also parked in the parking lot. Mr. then sat down next to the police car. A few
minutes later a police officer ²⁵ exited the store and got into the driver's side of the parked police
car. Mr. then stood up and pointed a gun at Officer Thompson's face and fired one time.
Officer Thompson responded by shooting back at Mr.
while and her mother ducked down. heard Officer Thompson
radio for assistance after Mr. aran away.

¹⁷ Attachment 74.

¹⁸ Attachment 72.

¹⁹ Attachment 73.

²⁰ Attachment 24.

²¹ Attachment 75.

²² Attachment 76.

²³ Attachment 76.

²⁴ NKA

²⁵ NKA PO Lawrence Thompson.

In a video-recorded interview with Chicago Police Department Detectives on July 3, 2018, stated that she and her daughter exited the Dollar Tree Store and walked to her daughter's vehicle parked in the store's parking lot. As she approached her daughter's vehicle, she saw a young man ²⁷ crouched down next to the passenger's side of the vehicle. daughter asked Mr. what he was doing. Mr. replied that he was only tying his shoe. It told her daughter that Mr. was not tying his shoe. Mr. then walked away. Stated that Mr. sat on a curb in front of a parked Chicago Police squad car. stated that the police officer ²⁸ came out of the store and got into his vehicle. Before Officer Thompson could shut the driver's side door Mr. stood up, pointed a gun at the police officer, and fired one time at Officer Thompson. Officer Thompson shot one time at Mr. who then ran north toward Yates. looked at the officer in an attempt to determine if he was injured. stated that within seconds other officers arrived on the scene. ²⁹
A review of responding officers' Body-Worn Cameras ³⁰ determined that they did not record any part of the interaction between Officer Thompson and Officer Thompson never activated his body-worn camera. The recordings showed numerous officers searching the area and subsequently finding lying on the ground in an alley behind a residential garage. wore tan pants, a white shirt and a backpack. The front of his white shirt was stained with what appeared to be blood. The officers immediately notified dispatch and requested an ambulance. The officers appeared to conduct a protective pat-down of while asking him the location of his gun. did not respond. repeatedly attempted to get up, but officers ordered him to stay down. remained on the ground until Chicago Fire Department paramedics arrived and transported him from the scene.
c. Physical Evidence
The Chicago Fire Department's Ambulance Report ³¹ documented that on July 2, 2018, at 9:39 pm, Ambulance #22 was dispatched to 7800 S. Yates Boulevard regarding a gunshot victim. Ambulance #22 arrived at the location at 9:42 pm and found Mr. laying in the alley with one gunshot wound to the left upper anterior chest, with only an entrance wound noted. Mr. was subsequently transported to University of Chicago Hospital.
University of Chicago Medical Records ³² documented that Mr. arrived in the Emergency Department on July 2, 2018, at 10:13 pm with a single gunshot wound to his left chest. Examination determined there was no corresponding exit wound. X-rays showed multiple bullet fragments lodged in Mr. the chest. Mr. was immediately intubated and taken to the Surgical Intensive Care Unit.
 Attachment 76. NKA NKA PO Lawrence Thompson. Multiple attempts by COPA to interview and were unsuccessful.
 Attachment 77: PO Eric Jones; PO Jarredd Cochran; PO Kevin Burg; and PO Shawn Popow. Additionally, PO Martin Boyle and PO Matthew Zeiger responded to an unrelated domestic violence incident. Attachment 39. Attachments 42 & 51.

The **Illinois State Police Laboratory Report,**³³ dated July 31, 2018, documented that Officer Thompson's firearm³⁴ was received with one unfired cartridge in its chamber and thirteen unfired cartridges in its magazine. The fired cartridge casing³⁵ was examined and determined to have been fired from Officer Thompson's firearm.

The **Illinois State Police Laboratory Report,**³⁶ dated November 19, 2018, reported that the handgun³⁷ recovered from the bushes at 7846 S. Yates Boulevard, was examined and found to be in firing condition.³⁸

The **Illinois State Police Laboratory Report,**³⁹ dated November 1, 2018, stated that examination of the handgun recovered from the bushes at 7846 S. Yates Boulevard determined that there were no latent prints suitable for comparison.

d. Documentary Evidence

The **Office of Emergency Management and Communication PCAD Event Queries**⁴⁰ reported that a black male with braids and wearing a white T-shirt pointed a gun at Officer Thompson and fled north on Yates Boulevard. Mr. was subsequently found with a gunshot wound to his chest. An ambulance was requested for Mr. Also, a handgun was reportedly located in the bushes in the alley at 7846 S. Yates Boulevard.

The **Arrest Report**⁴¹ documented that Mr. pointed a gun at Officer Thompson, who was on duty and in uniform. Officers touring the area subsequently found Mr. laying down in the alley. It appeared that Mr. sustained a gunshot wound to his chest area. Mr. matched the description given by Officer Thompson, in that he was a black male with braids and a white t-shirt. Mr. was placed under arrest and transported to the University of Chicago Hospital by Chicago Fire Department Ambulance #22. Mr. was subsequently charged with Aggravated Assault to a Peace Officer with a Weapon and Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon.

Officer Thompson's **Tactical Response Report** (**TRR**)⁴² documented that Officer Thompson was on duty, in uniform, working alone in a police car. The report notes that Mr. ambushed Officer Thompson. Mr. was armed with a semi-automatic handgun, posed an imminent threat of battery with a weapon, used force likely to cause death or great bodily harm

³⁴ Ruger, Model P89M, 9mm semi-automatic pistol.

³⁷ A chrome Jimenez Arms Inc; JA, .380 Auto, semi-automatic pistol.

³³ Attachment 40, 55.

³⁵ Recovered from the front passenger side floor of Officer Thompson's police vehicle.

³⁶ Attachment 62.

³⁸ The firearm was discovered by PO Lewandowski, #12285, who was not wearing a BWC on the night of this incident.

³⁹ Attachment 71.

⁴⁰ Attachments 6-9.

⁴¹ Attachment 5.

⁴² Attachment 10.

and fled. Officer Thompson used member presence, movement to avoid attack and discharged his weapon once, striking Mr.

ine Case Supplemental Report (RD)	7 JB332-199)**	stated that On	the night of	the
incident Det. Evans interviewed Mr.	other,	Ms.	stated that	t she
last saw Mr. earlier in the day when si	he gave him a	McDonald's gift	certificate.	Ms.
did not know why Mr. pointed	a gun at a police	e officer. Ms.	stated	that
Mr.				
. Ms.				

Det. Hopps interviewed who stated that he saw the offender run up to the police car with a gun in his hand. Mr. did not provide any additional information relative to this investigation.

A canvass of the location of incident did not produce any additional eyewitnesses or additional relevant information to this investigation.

On July 3, 2018, Mr. told Det. Hopps that he understood his Juvenile Miranda Rights and requested an attorney. Mr. was not interviewed.

According to the **Crime Scene Processing Report**, ⁴⁴ a fired cartridge case was recovered from the front passenger side floor of Officer Thompson's police vehicle.

The report also stated that a chrome, Jimenez Arms Inc., .380 caliber, semi-automatic pistol was recovered from bushes at 7846 S. Yates Boulevard.

In his **Synoptic Report**,⁴⁵ Sgt. Richard Alvarez of the Bureau of Internal Affairs stated that on July 3, 2018, at 12:30 am, he responded to Area South Detective Division and presented Officer Thompson with the Notice of Alcohol and Drug Testing Following a Firearm Discharge Incident form and began the 20-minute observation period. The Breath Test was then conducted at 12:51 am, with a Br.A.C.⁴⁶ reading of .000. A urine sample was collected from Officer Thompson at 1:35 am. Officer Thompson's urine sample was tested and found to be negative for oxidizing adulterants as well as for the substances listed on the Urine Substance Abuse Panel.⁴⁷

e. Additional Evidence

On the night of this incident **Officer Thompson's firearm**, ⁴⁸ a Ruger, Model P89M, 9mm semi-automatic pistol, was processed at Area South Detective Division and found to have one

⁴⁴ Attachment 11.

⁴⁶ Breath Alcohol Concentration.

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⁴³ Attachment 65.

⁴⁵ Attachment 22.

⁴⁷ Amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine metabolites, marijuana metabolites, methadones, MDA-analogues, opiates, oxycodones, phencyclidine, propoxyphene

⁴⁸ Attachment 20.

unfired cartridge in its chamber and thirteen unfired cartridges in its magazine. It was determined that capacity of the magazine is fourteen unfired cartridges.⁴⁹

VI. LEGAL STANDARD

The applicable standard of proof is preponderance of the evidence. A **preponderance of evidence** has been satisfied when the evidence indicates that it is more likely than not that the conduct occurred and violated Department policy. If the evidence gathered in an investigation establishes that it is more likely that the misconduct occurred, even if by a narrow margin, then the preponderance of the evidence standard is met.

VII. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

This investigation found that Officer Thompson's use of deadly force was in compliance with Chicago Police Department policy and Illinois State statutes. According to the Chicago Police Department's General Order 03-02-03, III:

- A. "a sworn member is justified in using force likely to cause death or great bodily harm only when he or she reasonably believes that such force is necessary:
 - 1. to prevent death or great bodily harm to the sworn member or to another person, or:
 - 2. to prevent an arrest from being defeated by resistance or escape and the sworn member reasonably believes that the person to be arrested:
 - a. has committed or has attempted to commit a forcible felony which involves the infliction, threatened infliction, or threatened use of physical force likely to cause death or great bodily harm or;
 - b. is attempting to escape by use of a deadly weapon or;
 - c. otherwise indicates that he or she will endanger human life or inflict great bodily harm unless arrested without delay."

This investigation revealed that	approached Officer Thompson, who was
seated in the driver's seat of his marked po	lice vehicle and pointed a gun at Officer Thompson.
Fearing for his life, Officer Thompson disch	arged his firearm one time at Mr.
on his upper left chest.	
••	

Two witnesses, point a gun at Officer Thompson as he sat in the police vehicle.

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⁴⁹ Inexplicably, Det. Hopps wrote in Case Supplementary Report that the magazine's capacity was fifteen. Reference (Attachment 63; P. 23)

CIVILIAN OFFICE OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

LOG#1090072 / U#18-010

The recording from the Officer Thompson's Infront of the police vehicle. Mr. stood up and the object close to the front of his waist. Mr. vehicle and out of the camera's view.	held an object with his right hand, keeping	
Based on the totality of the circumstances, Officer Thompson was justified in using deadly force because it was reasonable for him to believe that he was in danger of death or great bodily harm, given that Mr. inexplicably pointed a handgun at him as he sat in his police vehicle. Therefore, Officer Thompson's use of deadly force against Mr. was objectively reasonable, and thus, within the policy of the Chicago Police Department.		
Approved:		
on behalf of Angela Hearts-Glass	October 14, 2022	
Angela Hearts-Glass	Date	
Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator		
	October 14, 2022	
Andrea Kersten	Date	
Chief Administrator		