

**SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**

**I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Date of Incident:	March 23, 2018
Time of Incident:	8:14 am
Location of Incident:	[REDACTED]
Date of COPA Notification:	March 23, 2018
Time of COPA Notification:	9:03 pm

On the morning of March 23, 2018, Officer [REDACTED] and his wife, [REDACTED] engaged in verbal altercation in front of their daughters, [REDACTED] (6 yoa) and [REDACTED] (8 yoa). Mrs. [REDACTED] was upset that Officer [REDACTED] went drinking after work and that he did not want to take the children to school. When Mrs. [REDACTED] decided to take to children to school, Officer [REDACTED] grabbed Mrs. [REDACTED] around her head and chest and pulled her back inside the house and prevented her from leaving. Mrs. [REDACTED] fearing for her safety attempted to call the police and Officer [REDACTED] prevented her from making the call. Mrs. [REDACTED] was able to open the front door and began to yell for help. A neighbor, [REDACTED] and a construction worker, [REDACTED] heard her scream and called the police. Mrs. [REDACTED] left the house with her children and took them to their school. While at the school, the children were visibly shaken after witnessing their parents involved in a domestic altercation. At that point, the school initiated an investigation with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

**II. INVOLVED PARTIES**

Involved Officer #1:	[REDACTED] Star # [REDACTED] Employee ID# [REDACTED] Date of Appointment: [REDACTED] 2003, Police Officer, Unit 016, DOB: [REDACTED], 1972, Male/Asian.
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED], 1979, Female/Asian.

**III. ALLEGATIONS**

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Officer [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	1. Engaged in a verbal altercation with [REDACTED] in violation of Rules 2 & 9 2. Pushed [REDACTED] in violation of Rules 2 & 9. 3. Grabbed [REDACTED] by her hair, in violation of Rules 2 & 9. 4. Placed [REDACTED] in a headlock, in violation of Rules 2 & 9. 5. Took away [REDACTED] cell phone and prevented her from calling the police, in violation of Rules 2 & 9. 6. Was under the influence of alcohol, in violation of Rules 6 & 15.	Sustained / 1 day  Sustained / 10 days  Sustained / 10 days  Sustained / 5 days  Sustained / 1 day  Not Sustained

**IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS**

**Rules**

1. Rule 2: Any action or conduct which impedes the Department’s efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.
2. Rule 6: Disobedience of an order or directive, whether written or oral.
3. Rule 9: Engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.
4. Rule 15: Intoxication on or off duty.

1. Special Order S08-01-02, Special Situations Involving Allegations of Misconduct.

**V. INVESTIGATION**

**a. Interviews**

Attempts made by COPA to interview Mrs. [REDACTED] were met with negative results. However, Mrs. [REDACTED] was interviewed by CPD Detective [REDACTED] and it was reported under Case Supplementary Report RD # [REDACTED]. Mrs. [REDACTED] was also interviewed by DCFS Investigators and reported under SCR# [REDACTED]. An Affidavit Override<sup>3</sup> was requested and approved and hence this investigation proceeded.

<sup>1</sup> Attachment #45, Case Supplementary Report.

<sup>2</sup> Attachment #34, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Investigation.

<sup>3</sup> Attachment #43, Affidavit Override.

In an interview with COPA<sup>4</sup> Officer ██████████ and his wife, ██████████ have known each other for 25 years and have been married for 12 years. Officer ██████████ and Mrs. ██████████ together have a son, ██████████ (7 yoa) and a daughter, ██████████ (9 yoa). Officer ██████████ is the sole financial provider of his family while Mrs. ██████████ cares for their children. Prior to this incident, Officer ██████████ and Mrs. ██████████ had been arguing about their finances and Mrs. ██████████ desire to return to school. Officer ██████████ said that his work schedule has changed to straight days and will be more involved with his children since Mrs. ██████████ has now returned to school.

Officer ██████████ admitted to engaging in a domestic verbal altercation with Mrs. ██████████ that escalated to being physical. On March 23, 2018, Officer ██████████ was scheduled to work the 1<sup>st</sup> watch from 1800 hours to 0300 hours. Instead, Officer ██████████ left work two hours earlier and went drinking with other officers. On his days off, Officer ██████████ said that he would consume about six beers and a shot or two of alcohol. Officer ██████████ said he goes out drinking twice a week with friends to avoid coming home and arguing with Mrs. ██████████. However, Officer ██████████ said that he only had two beers that morning and denied being intoxicated and felt more tired and groggy than under the influence.

On March 24, 2018, Officer ██████████ arrived home that morning and went to sleep and was awakened by screaming coming from Mrs. ██████████. Officer ██████████ said that Mrs. ██████████ was upset because he had gone out drinking with his friends. Officer ██████████ said that he normally takes the children to school but felt tired and wanted to stay home and rest. Officer ██████████ got up from bed and approached Mrs. ██████████ and attempted to calm her down. Mrs. ██████████ continued to yell and scream as she attempted to walk out the front door. Officer ██████████ grabbed Mrs. ██████████ around her shoulder and by the hood of her jacket hood and pulled her back inside the house. Officer ██████████ denied placing Mrs. ██████████ in a headlock but admitted that he might have accidentally grabbed her hair while pulling her. Officer ██████████ heard Mrs. ██████████ threaten to call the police but denied preventing her from calling the police. However, Officer ██████████ believes that during the pushing and pulling Mrs. ██████████ might have dropped her cell phone. Officer ██████████ observed his children become emotional and told Mrs. ██████████ to take the children to school. Officer ██████████ became aware that Mrs. ██████████ was staying with the children at her brother's house and was not returning. After reflecting about his actions and drinking habits, Officer ██████████ self-admitted himself to the Alcoholic Detox Center and Behavioral Health Program at Presence St. Joseph. Officer ██████████ was interviewed several times by DCFS investigators who enacted a temporary Safety Plan<sup>5</sup> for about three weeks. During that time, Officer ██████████ temporarily moved in with a friend and visited with his children alone. After the plan ended, Officer ██████████ returned to his home and his relationship with Mrs. ██████████ gradually improved. Officer ██████████ said that he has not had a drink since the incident and regularly attends Alcohols Anonymous and No Cop Out meetings.

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<sup>4</sup> Attachment #44, Transcription interview of Officer ██████████

<sup>5</sup> A "safety plan" is an agreement between a parent or caretaker being investigated for child neglect or abuse and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

**b. Digital Evidence**

**Body Worn Camera (BWC)**<sup>6</sup> video from March 23, 2018, captured Officer [REDACTED] (vehicle # [REDACTED] arriving on the scene and knocking on the front and side doors of [REDACTED] Avenue and there was no answer. Officer [REDACTED] spoke to a male, now known as [REDACTED] who said he heard a woman yelling for help and he called the police. Shortly thereafter, Officer [REDACTED] (vehicle # [REDACTED] arrived on the scene and was informed by Officer [REDACTED] that no one was answering from the house.

**c. Documentary Evidence**

The **Initiation Report**,<sup>7</sup> authored by Sergeant [REDACTED] [REDACTED] detailed the initial investigation into a Domestic Battery Incident Report that involved Officer [REDACTED] and his wife, [REDACTED]

The **Original Case Incident Report**<sup>8</sup> and **Case Supplementary Report**<sup>9</sup> for [REDACTED] authored by Detective [REDACTED] related that she was assigned to investigate a child abuse hotline notification SCR # [REDACTED]. The detective interviewed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who related that a student, [REDACTED] (8 yoa) entered her classroom crying and was accompanied by her mother. [REDACTED] said that her father had grabbed her mother by her hair and had pulled it out.

The detective interviewed [REDACTED] who stated the incident occurred in her home and in the presence of her two children. Mrs. [REDACTED] said that after leaving work, Officer [REDACTED] went out drinking with friends and arrived home at approximately 5:00 am. Later that morning, Mrs. [REDACTED] asked Officer [REDACTED] to take the children to school and an argument ensued. Officer [REDACTED] wanted to keep the children home and Mrs. [REDACTED] wanted them to go to school. As Mrs. [REDACTED] was about to leave with the children, Officer [REDACTED] grabbed Mrs. [REDACTED] around her neck and pulled by her hair. Officer [REDACTED] grabbed [REDACTED] backpack from her hand and proceeded to block the front door and prevent Mrs. [REDACTED] and the children from leaving the house. Mrs. [REDACTED] began to yell for help and that's when Officer [REDACTED] allowed Mrs. [REDACTED] and the children to leave. Mrs. [REDACTED] did not want to pursue prosecution and only wanted the incident to be reported. Mrs. [REDACTED] was not injured, and the children were not harmed.

The detectives interviewed [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who related they had witnessed their parents fighting that morning. No injuries were observed to both children and they appeared to be in good health.

<sup>6</sup> Attachment #24, CD of BWC, March 23, 2018.

<sup>7</sup> Attachment #4, Initiation Report of Sgt. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

<sup>8</sup> Attachment #5, Original Case Report.

<sup>9</sup> Attachment #45, Case Supplementary Report.

The detectives attempted to interview Officer [REDACTED] while at Presence St. Joseph Hospital and hospital staff related that program participants were unable to receive phone calls.

The detectives interviewed [REDACTED] who related calling "911" after hearing a woman scream for help. Mr. [REDACTED] looked out his front window and recognized that it was his neighbor, now known as Mrs. [REDACTED]. Mr. [REDACTED] observed Mrs. [REDACTED] leave the house and drive away with her children.

The detectives interviewed DCFS Investigator [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who enacted a Safety Plan for the children and said they would be staying with a family relative and that Officer [REDACTED] had admitted himself into a detox rehabilitation program at Presence St. Joseph Hospital.

The DCFS Report SCR# [REDACTED] related that Mrs. [REDACTED] described Officer [REDACTED] as a being a "high functioning drunk." Mrs. [REDACTED] said that on March 23, 2018, Officer [REDACTED] came home from work and she could tell that he had been drinking. Mrs. [REDACTED] said that she and Officer [REDACTED] began to argue about who was going to take the children to school. Mrs. [REDACTED] told Officer [REDACTED] to go back to sleep and that she was going to take the children to school. Officer [REDACTED] grabbed Mrs. [REDACTED] by her hair and placed her in a headlock and stopped her from leaving the house. The incident was witnessed by their children who felt fear for their mother. Mrs. [REDACTED] threatened to call the police and Officer [REDACTED] took her cell phone away from her. Mrs. [REDACTED] opened the front the door and began to yell for someone to call the police. At that point, Officer [REDACTED] released Mrs. [REDACTED] and she left the house with her children. Mrs. [REDACTED] has no job or money and only wanted to document the incident and refused to press charges against Officer [REDACTED]. DCFS placed Mrs. [REDACTED] into a safety plan and she her children were going to stay at a relative's home. Later that evening while taking a shower, Mrs. [REDACTED] noticed a hand full of hair fall off her head. Mrs. [REDACTED] said that Officer [REDACTED] has an alcohol problem and that he self-admitted himself into a detox treatment. Mrs. [REDACTED] described this incident as being the worst, but their children miss their father.

CPD Event Query Report # [REDACTED] and OEMC 911 transmission<sup>12</sup> indicated that a 911 caller, now known as [REDACTED] reported a woman, now known as [REDACTED] screaming for someone to call the police. Mr. [REDACTED] was rehabbing a house nearby when he heard the cry for help. Mr. [REDACTED] did not witness the alleged incident involving Mrs. [REDACTED].

<sup>10</sup> Attachment #34, Illinois Department of Children and family Services (DCFS) Investigation.

<sup>11</sup> Attachment 7, Event # [REDACTED]

<sup>12</sup> Attachment 33, CD of audio OEMC 911 & Police transmissions.

CPD Event Query Report #1808203372<sup>13</sup> and OEMC 911 transmission<sup>14</sup> indicated that a 911 caller, now known as [REDACTED] reported that a woman, now known as [REDACTED] was screaming for help. Mr. [REDACTED] is a member of the Chicago Fire Department and did not witness the alleged incident involving Mrs. [REDACTED]

## VI. ANALYSIS

Officer [REDACTED] stated that he and Mrs. [REDACTED] have been married for about 12 years and together have two children. Officer [REDACTED] admitted to engaging in a domestic verbal altercation with Mrs. [REDACTED] and therefore, **Allegation #1 against Officer [REDACTED] is Sustained.** The argument escalated when Officer [REDACTED] grabbed Mrs. [REDACTED] around her shoulder and hood of her jacket hood and in the process grabbed her hair and therefore, **Allegation #2 & #3 are Sustained.** Officer [REDACTED] also admitted that he pushed and pulled Mrs. [REDACTED] back inside the house and therefore, **Allegation #4 against Officer [REDACTED] is Sustained.** The DCFS investigations revealed that Officer [REDACTED] took away Mrs. [REDACTED] cell phone and prevented her from calling the police. Officer [REDACTED] said that during his physical contact with Mrs. [REDACTED] she might have dropped her cell phone. Mrs. [REDACTED] feared for her safety and yelled out for help and two persons heard her cry and called the police on her behalf and therefore, **Allegation #5 against Officer [REDACTED] is Sustained.** Due to the lack of evidence to either prove or disprove, **Allegations #6 against Officer [REDACTED] is Not Sustained.**

## VII. RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE FOR SUSTAINED ALLEGATIONS

### a. Officer [REDACTED]

- i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History
- ii. Recommended Penalty, by Allegation

1. **Allegation No. 1,** Officer [REDACTED] admitted in his statement engaging into a domestic verbal altercation with Mrs. [REDACTED]
2. **Allegation No. 2,** Officer [REDACTED] admitted in his statement to placing his arms around her upper body.
3. **Allegation No. 3,** Officer [REDACTED] admitted in his statement that he grabbed Mrs. [REDACTED] by her hair.
4. **Allegation No. 4,** Officer [REDACTED] admitted in his statement that he pushed Mrs. [REDACTED]
5. **Allegation No. 5,** Officer [REDACTED] admitted that during his physical contact with Mrs. [REDACTED] he might have caused Mrs. [REDACTED] to drop her cell phone.

<sup>13</sup> Attachment 8, Event # [REDACTED]

<sup>14</sup> Attachment 33, CD of audio OEMC 911 & Police transmissions.

**VIII. CONCLUSION**

Based on the analysis set forth above, COPA makes the following findings:

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Officer [REDACTED]	1. Engaged in a verbal altercation with Mrs. [REDACTED] 2. Placed Mrs. [REDACTED] in a headlock. 3. Grabbed Mrs. [REDACTED] by her hair. 4. Pushed Mrs. [REDACTED] 5. Took away Mrs. [REDACTED] cell phone and prevented her from calling the police. 6. Was under the influence of alcohol.	Sustained / 1 day  Sustained / 10 days Sustained / 10 days Sustained / 5 days Sustained / 1 day  Not Sustained

[REDACTED]

Deputy Chief Angela Hearts-Glass

2-20-19

Date

**Appendix A**

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad#: Investigator [REDACTED] Supervising Investigator [REDACTED] Deputy Chief [REDACTED]	
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