

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION ¹

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	September 16, 2019 / 5:55 pm / 7531 S. Stony Island Ave, Chicago, Illinois 60649
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	September 16, 2019 / 6:24 p.m.
Involved Officer #1:	Officer ██████████ # ██████████ Employee ID # ██████████, Date of Appointment: ██████████, 2016, Rank: Police Officer, Gender: Male, Race: White, Unit of Assignment: ██████████ DOB: ██████████, 1992
Involved Individual #1:	██████████ DOB: ██████████, 1971, Gender: Female, Race: Black
Case Type:	Allegation of Improper Detention

I. ALLEGATIONS ²

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer ██████████	On or about September 16, 2019, at approximately 5:55pm, at or near 7531 S. Stony Island Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, Officer ██████████ committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions: 1. Detained the ██████████ without justification.	Exonerated

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE ³

The Complainant, ██████████ (██████████) alleges that Officer ██████████ (“Officer ██████████”) stopped her without justification. Specifically, ██████████ was driving a Chevrolet Impala (temporary plate No. ██████████) owned by her partner, ██████████ (██████████) when the two of them were stopped by Chicago Police Officers ██████████ (“Officer ██████████” and ██████████ (“Officer ██████████”). During her interview with investigators, ██████████ described herself as having masculine features and overall appearance, and it is ██████████ subjective belief that her physical appearance was the sole reason for the officers’ decision to stop/detain her.

¹ COPA investigated this complaint. As part of COPA’s ongoing efforts to increase case closure capacity, certain cases are summarized more succinctly in a Modified Summary Report of Investigation, such as this one.

² Formal allegations were not served on Officer ██████████

³ This section contains a summary of the material evidence gather during the investigation.

Officer body-worn camera (“BWC”) footage captured the incident and shows that the officers pulled [REDACTED] over at 7531 S. Stony Island Avenue.⁴ Once Officer [REDACTED] approaches the driver’s side door, [REDACTED] immediately questions the officer’s justification for stopping her.⁵ Officer [REDACTED] informs [REDACTED] that she was stopped due to expired license plates. With a raised voice, [REDACTED] briefly argues with Officer [REDACTED] asserting that the plates will not expire until the 18th of September. Soon thereafter, Officer [REDACTED] tells [REDACTED] she is acting hostile and asks [REDACTED] to exit the vehicle. [REDACTED] complies, and Officer [REDACTED] escorts [REDACTED] to the rear of the vehicle where she is handcuffed. [REDACTED] remains handcuffed for approximately forty-five seconds, during which time, Officer [REDACTED] shows [REDACTED] a screenshot from the LEADS network database indicting the Impala’s plate (plate No. [REDACTED] expired on September 12, 2019. In addition to showing [REDACTED] the screenshot, Officer [REDACTED] tells [REDACTED] that the Impala’s plate expired on September 12, 2019, to which [REDACTED] replies words to the effect of “you aren’t lying.” Following [REDACTED] acknowledgment that her plates are expired, Officer [REDACTED] uncuffs [REDACTED] Officer [REDACTED] then issues a citation and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are released.

The entire stop lasted approximately nine minutes. During the entirety of the stop, [REDACTED] remained seated in the vehicle and was never handcuffed. The vehicle was not searched, nor were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Finally, the relevant PDT report indicates that Officer [REDACTED] ran plate No. [REDACTED] through the LEADS database on September 16, 2019, at 5:29pm, approximately two minutes before Office [REDACTED] activated his BWC⁶

III. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

We find that Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] did not commit misconduct by detaining [REDACTED] for approximately 9 minutes to issue a traffic citation for expired plates. In this case, the officers had a legal justification to stop and detain [REDACTED] The evidence establishes that Officer [REDACTED] ran the Impala’s plate through the LEADS database (clearly indicting that the plate was expired) and that the officers subsequently stopped and detained [REDACTED] Furthermore, we find the duration of the detention to be well within the parameters of a reasonable traffic stop. While it is plausible that [REDACTED] subjective believe that the officers considered her physical appearance as part of their decision to stop her is true, we believe the possibility to be remote – our review of the BWC demonstrated a complete lack of any indication that officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] stopped [REDACTED] for anything other than expired plates. Accordingly, COPA finds the allegation is EXONERATED.

Approved:

[REDACTED]

January 13, 2020

Andrea Kersten
Deputy Chief Investigator

Date


⁴ Attachments 2 and 6.

⁵ Due to the vehicle’s tinted windows, the officers did not have a clear view of [REDACTED] as they approach the vehicle.

⁶ Attachment 5.

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad#:	
Investigator:	
Supervising Investigator:	
Deputy Chief Administrator:	
	Andrea Kersten