

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	February 28, 2018 / 7:00 PM / ██████████ Chicago, IL
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	March 1, 2018 / 11:51 PM
Involved Officer #1:	██████████ Eyad; Star# 859; Employee# ██████████; DOA: June 25, 2001; Sergeant; UOA: 006; Male; White.
Involved Individual #1:	██████████ Female; Hispanic
Involved Individual #2:	██████████ DOB: ██████████ 2006; Female; White
Involved Individual #3:	██████████ DOB: ██████████ 1977; Female; White.
Case Type:	Domestic Violence – Child Abuse

I. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Sergeant Eyad ██████████	1.It is alleged that on or about February 28, 2018, at approximately 7:00 p.m., at ██████████, the accused grabbed ██████████ by the hair. 2. It is alleged that on or about February 28, 2018, at approximately 7:00 p.m., at ██████████, the accused slammed ██████████ head into couch cushions.	Not Sustained Not Sustained

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE¹

On March 1, 2018, Sergeant Jeffery Coleman, Star #1008 initiated a complaint, via an Initiation Report,² against Sergeant Eyad ██████████ after he was listed as the offender in a Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Hotline Notification. The initiation report from Sgt. Coleman documented that Sgt. ██████████ 11 year old daughter, ██████████ reported

¹COPA conducted a full and complete investigation of this matter, including the interview of all pertinent civilian and officer witnesses, and the collection and review of digital, documentary, and forensic evidence.

² Att. 5

to George Washington Elementary School counselor, ██████████ that on February 28, 2018, inside the family residence, located at ██████████, Sgt. ██████████ grabbed her by the hair, dragged her, and smashed her face onto the couch cushions. ██████████ also told ██████████ that her mother, ██████████ a teacher at the same school, drove erratically a week prior and almost hit a tree while ██████████ yelled at her to stop. According to the report, ██████████ further reported that both her parents have made statements like, “If we die, it’s your fault. If we get divorced, it’s your fault.”³ The DCFS Hotline Notification also noted that ██████████ feared the outcome once DCFS was involved.

On March 1, 2018, Detective Coleman interviewed ██████████ who denied the reported allegations. Det. Coleman also noted that she had no visible physical injuries. It was further documented that Mrs. ██████████ believed that ██████████ made the DCFS report in retaliation for Mrs. ██████████ questioning ██████████ job performance as counselor. Both Sgt. and Mrs. ██████████ denied the allegations when speaking with Det. Coleman.⁴

The General Offence Case Report and Detective Supplementary Reports⁵ essentially documented the same information as the Initiation Report, adding that ██████████ stated that it was Mrs. ██████████ that screamed “It’s all your fault,” in Arabic as she drove erratically toward a tree. ██████████ stated that ██████████ told her that she initially thought her father was playing during the incident, but he grabbed her by the hair, dragged her to the couch, and slammed her face onto the couch cushions. ██████████ also reported to the detective that ██████████ previously wrote a paper on the death of an older sibling, but she had no further details as to when the death occurred. ██████████ denied having any knowledge of there being any issues between herself and Mrs. ██████████. When asked if she knew that ██████████ held her in high regard, ██████████ stated that she did not know. When speaking with Detective Coleman, ██████████ denied making the allegations, stating that she liked and admired ██████████ and did not know why she would get ██████████ into trouble. The criminal investigation was subsequently closed with a finding of “Unfounded,” citing the lack of evidence and ██████████ denial of making the allegations reported by ██████████.

COPA obtained the DCFS records⁶ related to this incident and learned that the investigation was closed with a finding of “Unfounded.” The DCFS investigation documented that Sgt. ██████████ denied the allegations, stating that he played with ██████████ hair and was affectionate but did not grab her hair or push her face into the cushions. It was also documented that Sgt. ██████████ stated that ██████████ was known to tell lies. Sgt. ██████████ related that the couple had an older son that died of a medical condition before ██████████ was born. Sgt. ██████████ thought ██████████ might be mad at him, because a boy was interested in her at school but he would not allow her to date. Mrs. ██████████ denied the allegations, stating that she was home and did not observe her husband grab or pull ██████████ by the hair. Mrs. ██████████ stated that she worked at the school so she could keep an eye on ██████████. ██████████ denied making the allegations. It was also documented that ██████████ was examined by Dr. ██████████ for bruises from suspected bullying at school on March 2, 2018, and no injury was present.

³ Id.

⁴ Id.

⁵ Att. 6, 7, & 8

⁶ Att. 9 & 22

In an interview with COPA on October 8, 2019,⁷ ██████ stated on March 1, 2018 ██████ came to her office crying and made allegations against her parents. ██████ told her that she was sitting on the couch with her father when he grabbed her hair playfully and then grabbed it harder and pushed her head into the couch cushions. ██████ clarified that ██████ did not report that Sgt. ██████ dragged her by the hair. ██████ stated that she previously counseled ██████ at the request of her parents during the 2017-2018 school year for test and school anxiety. ██████ stated she was not particularly close with ██████ and had no relationship with her parents, describing Mrs. ██████ as a coworker with whom she had no issues prior to calling DCFS. ██████ had no concerns for ██████ prior to this incident. ██████ stayed in ██████ office for approximately a half hour before returning to her classroom. ██████ observed no injuries on ██████ adding that she did not check for injuries. ██████ stated that at the time, ██████ had very long hair.

██████ stated that on the date ██████ reported this incident, ██████ had meetings to attend, so she did not call DCFS until later that afternoon and left a message. ██████ received no response from DCFS and called again later from her home. DCFS never spoke with ██████. However, detectives did speak with her and asked her why she did not take ██████ into protective custody if she was concerned about her. ██████ stated that she did not think it was her place to confront the parents and conduct an investigation. ██████ stated that the relationship with the ██████ family was damaged after she called DCFS. Mrs. ██████ quit George Washington Elementary and subsequently made a complaint that ██████ was making a false report and being vindictive. Mrs. ██████ also wrote a letter stating ██████ was unqualified to teach sexual health education classes. ██████ stated that there were no issues that she was aware of until after she called DCFS. ██████ also related that after this incident, ██████ avoided her and broke into tears when she saw ██████ in the bathroom.

In an interview with COPA on February 6, 2020,⁸ Mrs. ██████ stated that she and Sergeant ██████ have been married for twenty years. Mrs. ██████ worked at ██████ school to be close to her since she has asthma, frequent chest pain, and an intestinal disorder. Mrs. ██████ described the school as unsupportive of ██████ in that the nurse did not take ██████ medical conditions seriously and would tell her that nothing was wrong with her except anxiety. When ██████ was bullied by classmates and excluded socially, the administration refused to act. Mrs. ██████ described ██████ as a straight A student who wants to fit in with her classmates, many of whom see ██████ for family problems. Mrs. ██████ stated that she thought ██████ made up family problems in order to see the counselor and fit in with the other kids. She further stated ██████ has a history of making things up. In addition to peer pressure, Mrs. ██████ stated that ██████ was upset because she had recently learned that she had an older brother that died from a genetic condition prior to her birth. Mrs. ██████ also thought that the school was prejudiced against her and ██████ because they are Arab-Americans. She stated that ██████ never liked her and called DCFS in retaliation for Mrs. ██████ objecting to her qualifications to teach sexual health. Mrs. ██████ quit her job on March 2, 2018, because she no longer felt welcome at the school.

With respect to February 28, 2018, Mrs. ██████ stated she was at home and nothing happened between her husband and ██████. She recalled that ██████ was practicing music while

⁷ Att. 10

⁸ Att. 14

seated near her father, and he played with her hair. After DCFS and the detectives came to their home, ██████ denied accusing her father of grabbing her hair. Mrs. ██████ stated that ██████ told her ██████ had lied.

In an interview with COPA on February 6, 2020,⁹ ██████ stated that she was in fifth grade in 2018, which was a terrible year for her because she was bullied terribly by girls in her class and had considered suicide. ██████ stated that she is still being bullied but that it mostly happens online now. ██████ described her parents as good people, who helped her through the bullying when the school did not. ██████ denied telling ██████ that her parents abused her, adding that she told ██████ that her father had patted her hair, not pulled it. ██████ stated that she felt pressured to say something when she was brought to the counselor's office and that she did not know how ██████ could get it so wrong. ██████ stated that she has had no personal interaction with ██████ since March 1, 2018, but ██████ often stared at ██████

In an interview with COPA on June 20, 2020,¹⁰ Sgt. ██████ stated that he was devoted to ██████ and considered her a blessing after the loss of his son. Sgt. ██████ essentially stated the same as Mrs. ██████ regarding ██████ being bullied and having medical conditions. In January 2018, ██████ learned of her older sibling's life and death and that she is a carrier of the same genetic disease. This knowledge affected ██████ greatly, especially since her cousin has mental challenges due to the disease. Sgt. ██████ stated that he was aware of the issues between his wife and school staff and aware of the school nurse denying ██████ medical conditions. Sgt. ██████ stated that while ██████ never indicated that she craved the attention of ██████ did crave the attention of others. ██████ who has been in therapy periodically, has been known to lie and once lied about using their credit card to buy things on the internet. Sgt. ██████ stated that corporal punishment is not used on ██████ and she is typically disciplined by having privileges and material items taken from her.

Sgt. ██████ denied the allegations made against him, stating that on the night of the alleged incident, he was with ██████ in the living room while she played her clarinet. While he did not recall if he stroked her hair, he related that this was a common thing for him to do, adding that he usually laid down on the couch. Sgt. ██████ further stated that he did not know why ██████ would lie to ██████ Sgt. ██████ stated that he did not recall what he told DCFS exactly regarding ██████ liking boys and girls but related that both DCFS and the detective unfounded the allegations against him.

III. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

COPA finds both Allegations 1 and 2 against Sgt. ██████ that on February 28, 2018, at approximately 7:00 p.m., at ██████, Sergeant ██████ grabbed ██████ by the hair and slammed her head into the couch cushions are **Not Sustained**. ██████ the school counselor and mandated reporter, stated that she reported what ██████ stated to her on March 1, 2018. When speaking with COPA, ██████ denied making these allegations, stating that ██████ misconstrued what she said and made a false report. ██████ also denied making the allegations

⁹ Att. 15

¹⁰ Att. 31

when she spoke with DCFS and the detectives. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she was at home at the time of the incident and that it did not occur.

Sgt. [REDACTED] denied the allegations but could not recall exactly what physical contact occurred between [REDACTED] and himself on the night of February 28, 2018, suggesting that he may have played with her hair as was his habit. Sgt. [REDACTED] reported to DCFS that [REDACTED] may have lied because she was mad that he would not let her date a boy. Sgt. [REDACTED] stated to COPA that he did not recall exactly what he said to DCFS but acknowledged to COPA that he may have stated that to DCFS. No one reported that they observed any injuries to [REDACTED]. According to DCFS records, [REDACTED] was examined by a doctor on March 3, 2018, who also observed no injuries. There was no other evidence to support the allegations as alleged.

Therefore, based on the preponderance of the evidence, there is insufficient evidence to determine the these allegations occurred as alleged, and the allegations are **Not Sustained**.

Approved:

[REDACTED]

August 28, 2020

Andrea Kersten
Chief of Investigative Operations

Date

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad#:	9
Investigator:	Jeanne Goodwin
Supervising Investigator:	Sharday Jackson
Chief of Investigative Operations:	Andrea Kersten