

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	June 20, 2019 / 11:45 p.m. / 73rd and Halsted
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	June 23, 2019 / 5:28 p.m.
Involved Officer #1: Vincent J. Turner, II	Officer Vincent J. Turner / Star# 16484 / Employee ID# [REDACTED] / Date of Appointment: September 29, 2014 / Police Officer / District / Black Male
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] / DOB [REDACTED] 1971 / Black Male
Case Type:	Excessive Force

I. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer Vincent Turner	It is alleged that on or about June 21, 2019, at or near 73rd and Halsted Streets, at approximately 10:30 p.m., Officer Turner:	
	1. Broke a window in Mr. [REDACTED] vehicle and dragged him out of the vehicle without justification.	UNFOUNDED
	2. Handcuffed Mr. [REDACTED] without justification.	UNFOUNDED
	3. Stole items from Mr. [REDACTED] vehicle.	UNFOUNDED

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE¹

In a statement to COPA, the complainant, [REDACTED] told investigators that he was pulled over by the police for no reason between 9:00 and 11:00 pm on June 21, 2019. Mr. [REDACTED] said he dropped a friend off near 73rd and Halsted when two officers in an unmarked car pulled him over and started asking him questions. Mr. [REDACTED] said the officers had no reason to stop him

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. 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, pursuant to COPA Guideline Modified Summary Report of Investigation Template and Approvals, effective February 13, 2019.

and when he asked them why they were questioning him, one of the officers told him to “shut the fuck up.” One officer then smashed the passenger window of his car, while the other officer pulled him out of the driver’s-side window and handcuffed him for no reason. Mr. ██████ said he was sent to the hospital and wasn’t released until the following morning. Mr. ██████ said in his belongings he found the business card of one of the officers, Officer Vincent Turner. Mr. ██████ also said his cell phone, keys, and state I.D. were missing.

Bodycam footage from the incident shows Officers Turner and Rodriguez² being flagged down by a pedestrian and pulling up next to an SUV. No one is in the SUV, which is stopped in the middle of the road, but an individual (now known to be ██████) is on the ground in the middle of the street, semi-conscious, in a crouching position. He is clearly under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Officer Turner asks Mr. ██████ if he is OK and checks his person for identification and weapons. Officer Turner immediately calls for an ambulance to assist as Mr. ██████ is clearly incapacitated and unresponsive. Officer Turner informs Mr. ██████ that the police are there and continues to ask if he is OK. Mr. ██████ is slow to acknowledge their presence and has difficulty articulating anything.

The Officers keep watch on Mr. ██████ as they wait for the ambulance, they engage him in conversation to ascertain what happened. Mr. ██████ says several family members died and he is distraught, it’s unclear whether Mr. ██████ realizes where he is or who he is talking to. Mr. ██████ stands up at one point, stumbles around, and walks to his car to sit in the passenger seat. The officers are watching him and allow him to sit in the car while they are still waiting on the ambulance. However, Mr. ██████ then climbs into the driver’s seat, turns the car on by a keyless ignition button and tries to drive away. Officer Turner pulls him out of the car to prevent him from driving. The officers realize a second set of keys must be nearby and search for them to prevent the car from being started again. The ambulance arrives and they have some difficulty getting Mr. ██████ into it because he is resisting their help. They finally get him into the ambulance, but he will not stay on the gurney, so the officers handcuff him to keep him from flailing around and hurting himself or the EMT in the tight space of the ambulance. The Officers put Mr. ██████ keys, phone, wallet, and shoes in the ambulance with him. Officer Turner rides in the ambulance with Mr. ██████ and the EMT to the hospital while Officer Turner follows behind in the police vehicle. Mr. ██████ was treated at Forest Glen Hospital for alcohol intoxication and released the next day.

III. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The body-worn camera footage in this case is compelling evidence that the officers acted professionally and in accordance with Department Policy when they encountered Mr. ██████. Mr. ██████ was clearly intoxicated and could have been charged with DUI. Instead, the officers used their discretion to help him, ensure that he did not drive, and was treated at a hospital.

² Former Officer Julian Rodriguez has since left the Chicago Police Department.

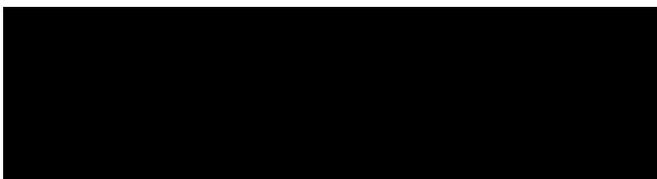
Officers Turner and Rodriguez were operating under the true ideals of the police department to serve and protect citizens.

Mr. ██████ said he was pulled over at a stop sign for no reason and one of the officers broke a window in his car and dragged him out of the driver’s-side window, causing his glasses to come off. Body-cam footage shows Officer Turner pulling Mr. ██████ out of the driver’s seat through the open door, not a window, to prevent him driving off because he was clearly intoxicated. Mr. ██████ is not seen wearing glasses in the body-cam footage, was not pulled over by the officers and was not in his vehicle when the officers arrived. The officers were flagged down by a concerned citizen. No window is seen broken on Mr. ██████ car in any portion of the body-cam footage. As for the missing items Mr. ██████ complained of, there is way to corroborate that any of his items were missing or suggest the officers took them. In fact, the officers can be seen taking care that he had his belongings with him in the ambulance. Mr. ██████ also alleged he was handcuffed for no reason; however, he was hand-cuffed for the safety of himself, the officers, and the EMT. Initially he was not handcuffed while they waited for the ambulance. Only after Mr. ██████ attempted to drive away drunk and became combative was, he handcuffed.

Mr. ██████ account of what happened is contradicted by the video evidence and his interpretation of events is unreliable at best. In his statement, Mr. ██████ framed the officers’ as having no legitimate reason to stop him, that they were extremely disrespectful, and outrageously aggressive. Nothing could be further from the facts established by clear video evidence which shows not only their concern for his safety, but their willingness to overlook charging him with a crime.

Based on the preceding, COPA finds the allegations that Officer Turner used excessive force are unfounded.

Approved:



8-31-2020

Angela Hearts-Glass
Deputy Chief Administrator

Date

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad#:	06
Investigator:	Linda Wyant
Supervising Investigator:	Elaine Tarver
Deputy Chief Administrator:	Angela Hearts-Glass