

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident:	December 17, 2017; June 25, 2018
Time of Incident:	Unknown; 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Location of Incident:	██████████ Chicago, IL; ██████████ Chicago, IL
Date of COPA Notification:	July 3, 2018

On June 25, 2018, between approximately 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., Officer Robert Hughes, was at the residence of his ex-girlfriend, ██████████ located at ██████████ ██████████ answered a telephone call from her boyfriend and Officer Hughes became enraged. Officer Hughes then physically and sexually assaulted ██████████ causing bruising to her body and a concussion. Officer Hughes left the residence. ██████████ subsequently posted about the incident on Facebook, which was subsequently seen by Officer Michael Singleton, Jr., who then registered a complaint with COPA on behalf of ██████████ also alleged that Officer Hughes previously displayed his weapon without justification. Although Officer Hughes denied the allegations made against him, the preponderance of the evidence indicates that it is more likely than not that Officer Hughes committed the acts alleged by ██████████ COPA finds the allegations against Officer Hughes are **SUSTAINED**.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Officer #1:	Robert Hughes, Star #17394, Employee # ██████████ DOA: March 28, 2001; Police Officer, Unit 376, DOB: ██████████ ██████████ 1972; Male, Black
Involved Officer #2:	Michael Singleton, Jr, Star #11122, Employee # ██████████ DOA: December 16, 1991, Police Officer, Unit 133. DOB: ██████████ 1968; Male, Black.
Involved Individual #1:	██████████ DOB: ██████████ 1981, Female, Black
Involved Individual #2:	██████████ DOB: ██████████ 1983; Male, Black
Involved Individual #3:	██████████ DOB: ██████████ 1974, Female, Black
Involved Individual #4:	██████████ DOB: ██████████ 1983, Female, Black
Involved Individual #5:	██████████ DOB: ██████████ 1981, Female, Black

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer Robert Hughes,	1. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, at approximately 5:00 p.m. through 10:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED] the accused was intoxicated.	SUSTAINED
	2. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED] the accused verbally abused [REDACTED] in that he stated words to the effect of, "You disrespectful little bitch," among other vulgarities; and also stated, "What's wrong, you know you like this rough shit anyway."	SUSTAINED
	3. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED] the accused slapped [REDACTED] on the face.	SUSTAINED
	4. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED] the accused struck [REDACTED] about her head with an open hand and caused her to strike her head against a wall.	SUSTAINED
	5. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED] the accused restrained [REDACTED] by getting on top of her and using his body weight to keep her from standing.	UNFOUNDED
	6. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and	SUSTAINED

10:00 p.m. at the location of [REDACTED] the accused strangled [REDACTED] in that he put at least one of his hands around her neck and applied pressure.

SUSTAINED

7. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED] the accused spit on [REDACTED]

SUSTAINED

8. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED] the accused punched [REDACTED] on the head.

SUSTAINED

9. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED] the accused sexually assaulted [REDACTED] in that the accused vaginally penetrated her without her consent.

SUSTAINED

10. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the residence, located at [REDACTED] the accused forced unwanted sexual contact on [REDACTED] without her consent.

SUSTAINED

11. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED] the accused pulled [REDACTED] by the hair.

SUSTAINED

12. It is alleged that on December 17, 2017, at an unspecified time, inside the residence located at [REDACTED] the accused was intoxicated.

13. It is alleged that on December 17, 2017, at an unspecified time, inside the

SUSTAINED

<p>residence located at [REDACTED] the accused displayed his weapon without justification.</p> <p>14. It is alleged by COPA that on December 17, 2017, at an unspecified time, inside the residence located at [REDACTED] the accused failed to properly secure his weapon.</p>	<p>NOT SUSTAINED</p>
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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.
2. Rule 8: Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty.
3. Rule 9: Engaging in any unjustified or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.

General Orders

1. Uniform and Property U04-02.II.M

V. INVESTIGATION¹

a. Interviews

In an interview with COPA on July 10, 2018, complainant **Officer Michael Singleton, Jr.**,² stated that [REDACTED] is the mother of his paternal cousin’s son. Officer Singleton’s toddler son and [REDACTED] toddler children played together sporadically. Officer Singleton described [REDACTED] as an “acquaintance,” that he and [REDACTED] have played together in the same coed flag football leagues, and are friends on Facebook.³ On June 29, 2018, Officer Hughes saw a Facebook post from [REDACTED] in which she wrote that she had been raped and beaten about the head by an off duty

¹ COPA 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. 16 & 44.

³ Att. 44 at 6.

police officer. Officer Singleton reached out to his cousin, ██████████ about ██████████ post. ██████████ who had a cordial friendship and good parenting relationship with ██████████ told Officer Singleton that the post was legitimate, adding that he had talked to her and that this was “real.”⁴

Officer Singleton stated that he contacted ██████████ either through telephone or text, to check on her. ██████████ related to him that she was not okay and that she was afraid. Officer Singleton described ██████████ as initially reluctant to identify the police officer who assaulted her. However, ██████████ eventually stated that Officer Robert Hughes assaulted her. Officer Singleton stated that he immediately searched for Officer Hughes on Facebook to see if he knew him. Officer Singleton stated that he did not recognize Officer Hughes personally or professionally from his Facebook profile, which was later removed. ██████████ told Officer Singleton that she blocked Officer Hughes from her phone, but he continued to contact her. ██████████ also deleted her Facebook post about Officer Hughes after a few days.

██████████ told Officer Singleton that she was afraid of Officer Hughes because he would often pull his gun out and show it off when he was drinking. ██████████ added that she imposed restrictions to him bringing his gun into her home because he previously pulled it out when they were out with friends. ██████████ told Officer Singleton that she also was frightened because Officer Hughes had assaulted her while her children, aged two and three, banged on the bedroom door. Officer Singleton told ██████████ to call him anytime and he would be over instantly, since they lived so close to each other. ██████████ told Officer Singleton that she went to the hospital after the assault but had not completed an official police report because Officer Hughes lived only a few blocks away from her. ██████████ also told Officer Singleton that she informed hospital staff that a police officer raped her, but the police did not come to the hospital during the seven hours that she was there. Officer Singleton asked ██████████ if she saved her clothes and sheets. ██████████ told him that she threw her clothes away and washed her sheets because she did not want to be reminded of Officer Hughes and the assault.

On June 20, 2018, Officer Singleton called ██████████ to see how she was doing and ask her children over for a playdate. Officer Singleton encouraged ██████████ to make a police report and told her that as a police officer, he had to make the report if she did not. ██████████ acknowledged his obligation and agreed to think about making the report. Officer Singleton described ██████████ as becoming “more comfortable” with the idea after he explained that Internal Affairs would get involved even if she did not pursue the matter criminally.⁵

On July 1, 2018, Officer Singleton texted ██████████ to see if she made the police report. ██████████ spoke of being alone and unsupported by friends once it became public that Officer Hughes raped her. On July 3, 2018, Officer Singleton contacted ██████████ again to see if she wanted to make the report with him. She said that she could not face making the report and that she would be starting therapy. Officer Singleton then went to the 003rd District and made Case Report for Non-Aggravated Sexual Assault (RD # ██████████ on ██████████ behalf. Officer Singleton stated that he called ██████████ from the district as he made the report to get her information and provide as accurate a narrative as possible. ██████████ became very nervous. Officer Singleton called her later that evening

⁴ Id. at 23.

⁵ Id. at 15.

to tell her that he spoke to detectives, a log number was generated, and an advocate would reach out to her.

Officer Singleton stated [REDACTED] did not respond to him until the next day, July 4, 2018, and she was upset because she did not want him to make a report. After again explaining that detectives would speak to her and that she was going to have to talk to someone, [REDACTED] grew comfortable with the process. On July 5, 2018, [REDACTED] came to Officer Singleton's home and spoke with Chicago Police detectives while he watched her two children.

In an interview with COPA on July 7, 2018, [REDACTED] stated that she and Officer Robert Hughes were very close friends and were previously in a dating relationship that ended in 2016. [REDACTED] and Officer Hughes continued an occasional sexual relationship until early 2018, when [REDACTED] began a serious dating relationship with someone else.⁷ [REDACTED] stated that she and Officer Hughes continued their friendship after January 2018, often talking and drinking together, adding that Officer Hughes knew her children and her whole family. [REDACTED] related that there was one instance in late May or early June 2018, during which Officer Hughes asked her to leave his residence after she declined to engage in sexual activity with him. [REDACTED] stated that she was not offended by this and left amicably. [REDACTED] stated that after that incident, they went out to bars, and as long as they were in a setting where there was not a bed, there were no issues. [REDACTED] also stated that she thought Officer Hughes "had a problem" with her not being sexually involved with him anymore.⁸

Prior to June 25, 2018, [REDACTED] was not afraid of Officer Hughes but considered him "a little crazy,"⁹ stating that Officer Hughes occasionally became drunk and pulled his gun out but not in a threatening manner. Officer Hughes typically had his gun in a holster under his shirt. [REDACTED] described Officer Hughes as displaying his weapon for effect and in an unnecessary manner. This concerned her because her daughter was present when he did this in her home. [REDACTED] instituted a rule that Officer Hughes could not have his gun on him in her home and either had to secure it in her desk drawer or leave it at his home or in his car. [REDACTED] estimated that Officer Hughes displayed his weapon six to seven times over the course of knowing him. [REDACTED] named [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] as witnesses to Officer Hughes' display of his weapon.

On June 25, 2018 at approximately 3:00 p.m., [REDACTED] called Officer Hughes, who was off work that day, and invited him over. Officer Hughes came in with a light-colored alcoholic drink. They drank a fifth of Honey Jack whiskey together, while they talked about [REDACTED] new relationship and Officer Hughes dating his ex-wife again.¹⁰ [REDACTED] stated that she did not remember drinking most of the bottle and was not sure how much Officer Hughes drank. [REDACTED] said that she felt fine and described herself as "a little buzzed."¹¹ The fifth was gone by 6:00 p.m. [REDACTED] then

⁶ Att. 12, 13, 47, and 48.

⁷ [REDACTED] declined to identify her new romantic partner to COPA.

⁸ Att. 47 at 11.

⁹ Id. at 15.

¹⁰ Honey Jack is slang for Jack Daniel's Honey Whiskey

¹¹ Att. 47 at 15.

brought Officer Hughes with her to pick up her children¹² from their nearby daycare, because Officer Hughes seemed drunk. ██████ said she did not understand how Officer Hughes could be so intoxicated and did not want him to get in his car to drive home, so she proposed that he come with her to the daycare to get some air.

They immediately returned to ██████ apartment, where Officer Hughes laid down on the floor in the hallway. ██████ described Officer Hughes as “wasted.”¹³ There was no more alcohol and no further drinking. ██████ did not want her kids to see him like that and did not want him to leave her home in that state, so she told him to lie down in her bedroom. ██████ spent the next ninety minutes to two hours making dinner for the kids, feeding them, and getting them ready for bed. Once the kids were all set, ██████ went to her bedroom to check in with Officer Hughes, who was standing up. Once in the bedroom, ██████ took a brief telephone call from her new boyfriend and laughed with him prior to terminating the call. ██████ did not think anything of taking the call, because she and Officer Hughes had discussed their new romantic situations earlier in the afternoon.

As soon as ██████ got off the phone, Officer Hughes “smacked” ██████ on the back of her head, by her ear.¹⁴ ██████ could not recall if he did this with an open hand or closed fist. ██████ was stunned. Officer Hughes slapped her in the past in a playful manner, but he had never struck her like this and had never hit her that hard. ██████ turned to face Officer Hughes and ask what he was doing. Officer Hughes hit ██████ again on her face. ██████ hit him back, thinking that they were playing and he was just playing a little too hard. Officer Hughes then slapped ██████ hard on each side of her head. ██████ realized that Officer Hughes was not playing. Officer Hughes then got on top of ██████ on her bed, and she tried to push him off. After Officer Hughes hit ██████ hard on her head, ██████ was confused, and balled up to protect herself. ██████ asked Officer Hughes, “what the fuck are you doing?”¹⁵ ██████ told Officer Hughes that he was hurting her and to stop.

Officer Hughes pulled down ██████ jogging pants and removed his jogging pants.¹⁶ Officer Hughes then “shoved” his penis into her vagina.¹⁷ Officer Hughes said, “You like this rough shit. You know you like this rough shit. You’re my bitch. You’re my woman.”¹⁸ ██████ repeatedly told Officer Hughes to stop and that it he was hurting her. ██████ said, “Stop, this is not cool, this is not cool.”¹⁹ Officer Hughes continued to hit ██████ in the head before spitting on her face and choking her. ██████ compared the encounter to being in a very weird pornographic movie that she did not sign up for and did not consent to. ██████ then heard her toddler daughter knocking on the bedroom door and yelling in response to ██████ yelling at Officer Hughes to stop. ██████ who was crying, called out for her daughter to go back in the front room, which she did after a pause.

¹² ██████ children include her biological daughter and nephew, whom she has custody of. At the time of this incident, her daughter was 3 years old and her nephew was 2 years old.

¹³ Att. 47 at 17.

¹⁴ Id. at 12.

¹⁵ Id. at 21.

¹⁶ ██████ stated that Officer Hughes was not wearing underwear.

¹⁷ Att. 47 at 21.

¹⁸ Id.

¹⁹ Id.

█████ stated that she did not understand why Officer Hughes did not respond to her, adding that he appeared to be “blacked out.”²⁰ Officer Hughes called █████ “A disrespectful little bitch,” and █████ repeatedly asked Officer Hughes to stop and told him that he was hurting her. As █████ continued to cry, Officer Hughes ripped out a plug of █████ hair and yanked on her neck as he grabbed her hair. █████ stated that she began to feel dizzy and repeatedly told Officer █████ that she could not breathe. █████ stated that she eventually hit Officer Hughes on the mouth and busted his lip, which made him back off. Officer Hughes stated, “Oh, I’m sorry, I’m sorry. I went too far. You will never see me again.”²¹ █████ repeatedly asked Officer Hughes what was wrong with him and why he would do that to her. Officer Hughes said that he would fix it and then attempted to perform oral sex on █████ who continued to cry and repeatedly told Officer Hughes to stop and leave her alone. After attempting oral sex, Officer Hughes got dressed, exited the bedroom, said goodbye to the kids, and left the apartment.

█████ estimated that this assault lasted ten to fifteen minutes, and she believed that Officer Hughes ejaculated. A few minutes after leaving, Officer Hughes sent █████ a text asking if he could come back to her residence. █████ stated that she continued to cry and took a shower before speaking with her friend, █████ via telephone. █████ related that █████ was out of state for his job with Amtrak, so he called her friend, █████²² and her cousin, █████ to come over to █████ home out of concern for her being alone. █████ stated that everyone started calling everyone and soon everyone knew.²³ █████ also named █████ as an outcry witness, adding that she thought Ms. █████ might not be honest with COPA because █████ was close to Officer Hughes.

█████ stated that after this incident, she had a headache that was not going away and believed she had a concussion. On June 26, 2018 at approximately 1:00 p.m., █████ went alone to Trinity Hospital for treatment, where she told staff that she had been raped, did not want to file charges and declined a rape kit. Hospital staff told her that they had to call the police and that the police would have to respond. However, the police never came to Trinity to interview █████ After seven hours at Trinity, █████ called her cousin, █████ to take her home. █████ was diagnosed with a concussion and prescribed Tramadol. █████ did not feel good at home and was emotionally upset over the assault. █████ who described herself as a writer, wrote about the incident and posted it to her Facebook page, where Officer Michael Singleton, the cousin of her daughter’s father, saw it. Officer Singleton contacted █████ and encouraged her to report it, telling her that if she did not, he would have to make a report. █████ spoke with detectives²⁴ but declined to press charges, stating that she thought something was wrong with Officer Hughes and that he needed help. █████ stated that she was afraid of Officer Hughes and still cared for him. █████ stated that she took the Facebook post about her assault down after a few days because it was bringing too many negative comments from people who were upset that she posted it, as well as people saying that she had posted it for attention.

²⁰ Id. at 22.

²¹ Id. at 23.

²² COPA’s attempts to contact █████ were unsuccessful. *See* Att. 41 & 81.

²³ █████ stated that someone called her new boyfriend, █████ to come over and he did. However, █████ declined to provide Mr. █████ contact information to COPA.

²⁴ This conversation occurred July 5, 2018 at █████ home.

In an interview with COPA on July 12, 2018, ██████████ stated that he knew ██████████ for approximately three or four years and that they became friends after they dated. ██████████ described ██████████ as someone who could hold her liquor, adding that he had never seen her intoxicated to the point where she was not aware of what she was doing. ██████████ stated that he met Officer Hughes only once approximately one month earlier when he went to Officer Hughes' home and had drinks with him and ██████████ stated that Officer Hughes was intoxicated but fine overall except for inappropriate sexual comments directed at both him and Ms. ██████████ suggesting that he watch ██████████ and ██████████ have sex. ██████████ stated that he knew ██████████ dated Officer Hughes and had become a very close friend of his after she stopped dating him. ██████████ described Officer Hughes in a positive light to ██████████ also related that ██████████ had told him that Officer Hughes drank too much and was an alcoholic.

██████████ stated that he texted ██████████ on June 25, 2018, between 9:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m., but did not recall the exact time. ██████████ did not respond, which ██████████ found odd, so he called her back a few hours later. ██████████ stated that ██████████ sounded strange to him, adding that her voice lacked energy. ██████████ asked her what was wrong. ██████████ who previously played semi-pro football and had suffered two concussions, suspected that ██████████ had a concussion, stating that ██████████ had difficulty answering his questions and told him that her eyes hurt from the light.

██████████ who was crying, told ██████████ that Officer Hughes had been hanging out and drinking at her house, while her kids were there. After ██████████ talked on the phone with another man, Officer Hughes got mad and hit ██████████ on the face. ██████████ told him that Officer Hughes beat her, choked her and raped her. ██████████ related that Officer Hughes told her that, "You usually liked it like this," or something to that effect.²⁶ ██████████ told Officer Hughes to leave her alone and he finally left after saying sorry. Officer Hughes also grabbed her by the hair and hit her on the head several times. ██████████ was extremely upset and repeatedly told ██████████ that she did not know why Officer Hughes would assault her. ██████████ related that she repeatedly asked Officer Hughes to stop. ██████████ did not recall ██████████ telling him that she had punched Officer Hughes. ██████████ stated that her kids were banging on the bedroom door and yelling while the assault occurred.

██████████ continued to sound dazed to ██████████ who wanted to call an ambulance for ██████████ but she declined. ██████████ did not want him to call the police. ██████████ who previously worked in a treatment facility for male sex offenders, knew that victims were often too afraid to reach out and tell anyone what had happened and needed immediate support and medical attention. He and ██████████ called ██████████ cousin. ██████████ was concerned that ██████████ would fall asleep, which is dangerous when you have a concussion. ██████████ finally went for medical treatment, but he could not recall when or where she went. ██████████ was in California when he spoke with ██████████ and did not see ██████████ until approximately three days later.

Upon his return to Chicago, ██████████ called ██████████ and they went to a pool hall near 111th and Pulaski on June 28, 2018. ██████████ whose face appeared swollen and whose eyes were still bothered by light, was emotional and cried about the assault. ██████████ suggested that they go to the police, but ██████████ stated that she was going to deal with it in her own way. ██████████ told ██████████ that she was concerned for herself and the kids because she was afraid Officer Hughes would hurt them

²⁵ Att. 21 & 46.

²⁶ Att. 46, Pg. 11, Lns. 10-11.

and himself if he had nothing left and lost his job. ██████ stated that ██████ told him that she lived close to Officer Hughes and had not been able to sleep in her bed since the assault.

██████ advised ██████ not to post about it on Facebook. ██████ told him that it was the easiest way to forget was to get the secret out and move on.²⁷ ██████ stated that ██████ received a mixed response to her detailed post about Officer Hughes and the assault. Some people wanted her to take it down and others were mad about the assault and concerned for her. ██████ stated that Officer Singleton, whom he knows from playing in a flag football league saw the post and reached out to her, taking the matter from there. ██████ stated that he did not find it out of the ordinary for ██████ as a victim, to still care for Officer Hughes and not want to go to the police, because in his experience, victims abused by those close to them usually react in a similar manner due to their relationship to the abuser.

In an interview with COPA on July 12, 2018, ██████ identified herself as a maternal cousin of ██████ with whom she has a close relationship. ██████ stated that she was aware of ██████ having a dating relationship with Officer Hughes in the past. ██████ terminated her sexual relationship with Officer Hughes in January 2018 and voiced no concerns about Officer Hughes to ██████ prior to June 26, 2018. ██████ socialized with Officer Hughes on two prior occasions. ██████ described Officer Hughes as aggressive with women, in that he initiated physical contact with women by hugging them, grabbing them and touching them. ██████ stated that he did not do those things with her because of her relationship with ██████. However, she observed him do it when she socialized with them, and she considered him a flirtatious person. ██████ described Officer Hughes to ██████ as a heavy drinker and emotionally unstable person.

In the early morning of June 26, 2018, ██████ called ██████ to tell her that “Robert” hit her. ██████ did not immediately know who “Robert” was until ██████ identified him as Officer Hughes. ██████ also texted her that “Robert whooped my ass last night. Uh, basically he took it and left me here, crying. My kids were here. I don’t know what the fuck happened.”²⁹ ██████ who read the text messages into the interview but declined to show the texts to COPA investigators, also stated that ██████ texted, “Police Rob. He slapped me like five times, hit me in the head, uh, beat me in the head, my head’s been hurting all night.”³⁰ ██████ related that ██████ texted her saying she received a telephone call from a man and Officer Hughes hit her on the side of the head as soon as she hung up the phone. ██████ screamed, and Officer Hughes slapped her over and over while she asked him to stop. Officer Hughes pulled her pants down and penetrated her with his penis as she cried. ██████ texted that she told Officer Hughes that he was hurting her, and he said, “Am I taking it? So what I’m taking it. [...] He said ‘You were disrespectful.’”³¹ Officer Hughes pulled ██████ head down, yanked her hair, bit her jaw, hurt her neck and slapped her. ██████ texted ██████ that Officer Hughes questioned if he was hurting her and then said that she would never find him or see him again, repeating that she had disrespected him. ██████ also told her that Officer Hughes had performed oral sex on her against her will. ██████ stated that ██████ tried to fight off

²⁷ ██████ also told ██████ that she had been sexually assaulted years ago by a different man and had a terrible experience after reporting it to the police.

²⁸ Att. 26 & 45.

²⁹ Att. 45, Pg. 12, Lns. 4-7/

³⁰ Att. 45, Pg. 12, Lns. 8-10.

³¹ Att. 45, Pg. 13, Lns. 8-9.

Officer Hughes by trying to punch him in the head and regretted not being able to do more physically against him. [REDACTED] also told her that her two-year-old daughter was knocking on the bedroom door. [REDACTED] texted that she continued to cry and said that he was sorry repeatedly before he left. [REDACTED] also forwarded [REDACTED] a text from Officer Hughes in which he asked to come back over, said he was sorry, and said that he loved [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] did not understand what happened, because a few months ago they had talked about never having sex together again and remaining good friends.

The day after the incident, [REDACTED] went to the store to look for Plan B emergency contraception and then went to [REDACTED] home. [REDACTED] said that her head and eyes hurt and that she wanted to go to her doctor. The doctor referred [REDACTED] to the Emergency Room, so [REDACTED] met [REDACTED] at the doctor and took [REDACTED] to the Trinity Hospital Emergency Room. [REDACTED] did not stay at the emergency room and did not observe any facial swelling to [REDACTED]. However, [REDACTED] complained of her head and eyes hurting and that her hair had been ripped out. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] was afraid that Officer Hughes would kill her and himself and was worried that he would lose his job if she made a report. [REDACTED] obtained a counselor for [REDACTED] and spoke with [REDACTED] who called her to make sure someone was with [REDACTED]. On June 28, 2018, [REDACTED] called [REDACTED] after visiting with [REDACTED] to express his concern for [REDACTED] wellbeing. [REDACTED] stated that she monitored [REDACTED] posts on Facebook about the assault. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] shared more as the day went on. A police officer friend of [REDACTED] saw the post and started an investigation.

Additionally, [REDACTED] recalled an incident on December 17, 2017 when she was at Officer Hughes' home for a paint party on an unspecified date with approximately ten other people and [REDACTED]. Officer Hughes, who [REDACTED] recalled as intoxicated, picked up his gun from a dresser or a nightstand by his bed in his bedroom and displayed it.³² [REDACTED] who does not drink alcohol, stated that she was not afraid of Officer Hughes at that moment, because she heard that he likes to take out his gun and wave it around, when he drinks. However, she does not like guns, so she left his bedroom.

In a subsequent conversation with [REDACTED] on December 4, 2020,³³ she related she did not definitively recall whether she picked up [REDACTED] children from daycare on the date of this incident. However, she related that [REDACTED] would not have asked her to pick up the children if she was with Officer Hughes, because [REDACTED] was aware of [REDACTED] dislike for him. [REDACTED] stated she considered Officer Hughes unstable. She further related that she did not know [REDACTED] was with Officer Hughes until after the incident.

In an interview with COPA on July 16, 2018, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated she and [REDACTED] have known each other for approximately twenty years, since they attended Chicago Vocational High School together. [REDACTED] stated they remain good friends. [REDACTED] stated that she met Officer Hughes through [REDACTED] adding that they all met while performing karaoke at different bars like the Fountain Inn, and described him as a "close acquaintance."³⁵ [REDACTED] stated that Officer Hughes and [REDACTED] dated in 2015 and 2016, and then had an on again/off again relationship.

³² [REDACTED] did not identify the other people at the party.

³³ Att. 84

³⁴ Att. 32 and 43.

³⁵ Att.43, Pg. 5, Ln. 14.

██████████ stated that she did not know the exact date they stopped dating, but afterwards, they remained close friends.

On June 26, 2018, at approximately 6:18 a.m., ██████████ sent ██████████ messages via Facebook Messenger that were essentially the same as the texts she sent to ██████████ and the conversation she had with ██████████ added that Officer Hughes had pulled out some of her hair during the assault and beat her like she was a man. ██████████ asked ██████████ if Officer Hughes had done anything like this before. ██████████ replied that he slapped her once but had never hurt her like this before. ██████████ stated that she called ██████████ at approximately 7:00 a.m. and told her that she would call her when she finished work before going to ██████████ home. ██████████ also forwarded ██████████ texts from Officer Hughes.

██████████ went to ██████████ home after 5:00 p.m. with her friend, ██████████³⁶ ██████████ told her that her cousin, ██████████ took her to the hospital where she was diagnosed with a concussion. ██████████ seemed slow to ██████████. She did not observe any injuries to ██████████ but stated she was not looking for any either. ██████████ stated that she was not surprised to see ██████████ posts on Facebook because ██████████ is an “open person” with her life.”³⁷

██████████ describe Officer Hughes as affectionate drunk who was not threatening but aggressive, explaining that he might kiss you, but would stop if you objected and respect that you did not want to be kissed. ██████████ related that she understood why ██████████ did not prosecute him criminally since she was afraid of him hurting her further and worried about his emotional instability.

██████████ stated that she went to Officer Hughes’ home between ten and fifteen times, adding that Officer Hughes was often intoxicated. ██████████ stated that she last socialized with him in late 2017 or early 2018. ██████████ stated that Officer Hughes had a reputation for pulling his gun out when he was drinking and that she had seen him pull his gun out from his person at ██████████ home. ██████████ stated that it was not threatening but still uncomfortable because it was a gun and ██████████ daughter was there. After this incident, ██████████ would no longer allow Officer Hughes to have his gun on his person when he was in her home, especially if he had been drinking.

In an interview with COPA on July 12, 2018, ██████████ stated that she has known ██████████ for three years, having been introduced by a friend. ██████████ stated that she knew Officer Hughes through karaoke and as a romantic partner of ██████████ stated that she was unsure of when they ended their dating relationship, believing that they continued a sexual relationship into the spring 2018. ██████████ described their group of friends as drinkers whose social activities almost always involved alcohol. ██████████ stated that she last socialized with Officer Hughes approximately one month ago at a bar and last socialized with him at ██████████ residence during the winter of 2017 or 2018. ██████████ last spoke with ██████████ the day before her statement, and last saw her in person on July 9, 2018.

³⁶ All attempts to contact Mr. ██████████ were unsuccessful. See Att. 83.

³⁷ Att. 43, Pg. 20, Ln. 4.

³⁸ Att. 27 & 80

██████████ stated that both Officer Hughes and ██████████ were heavy drinkers, and while Officer Hughes often seemed intoxicated, ██████████ never seemed drunk. ██████████ stated that when Officer Hughes is drunk, he has no filter and can be inappropriate. While ██████████ heard a story about Officer Hughes pulling out his gun at an event at a home, she was not present and never personally saw Officer Hughes handle his gun while intoxicated. ██████████ considered herself to have close relationships with both Officer Hughes and ██████████ but related that she was closer to ██████████ due to her involvement with ██████████ children.

██████████ described Officer Hughes as a very sexual person who attracted a lot of women that liked this aspect of his personality. ██████████ stated that he did not have a reputation as a predator or as someone to warn other women about. ██████████ related that she learned about the allegations of sexual assault made by ██████████ by reading her Facebook post and speaking with ██████████ approximately one week later. ██████████ stated that her friends did not initially tell her about the assault because of her relationship with Officer Hughes. Specifically, ██████████ told her that they did not want to cause conflict in her relationship with Officer Hughes.

██████████ described the Facebook post that ██████████ posted and stated that she reached out to her to support her. ██████████ has had no contact with Officer Hughes since ██████████ Facebook post. ██████████ stated that she absolutely believed ██████████ account of the assault because ██████████ had nothing to gain by lying about it, adding that this was not malicious on ██████████ part in anyway. ██████████ also stated that her initial reaction upon hearing of the assault was to call Officer Hughes. Then she found out he was the perpetrator of the assault.

In a statement on January 17, 2019, **Officer Robert Hughes**³⁹ stated that he met ██████████ during the early fall of 2015 at a bar called the Leo's Den that is known for karaoke. Officer Hughes stated that he and ██████████ were close friends who had been "friends with benefits," in that they were very good friends who also engaged in sexual activity together. However, Officer Hughes stated that he and ██████████ were never exclusively dating. Officer Hughes related that ██████████ wanted an exclusive dating relationship with him but knew that he did not want that type of relationship and did not press him for that. They also socialized together, and he met and socialized with many of her friends, including ██████████ ██████████ and ██████████⁴⁰

Officer Hughes stated that he and ██████████ often visited each other's homes. Officer Hughes and ██████████ had many mutual friends and often drank alcohol together, both out and at each other's homes. Officer Hughes stated that ██████████ could not get out often because she was caring for two small children, so her group of friends often went to her house to hang out.

Officer Hughes stated that they continued their sexual relationship from 2015 into 2018, only stopping for approximately seven months in 2017 when ██████████ dated a mutual friend of theirs. Officer Hughes stated that they did not announce the rekindling of their sexual relationship, adding that some mutual friends knew, and some did not. Officer Hughes stated he had sex with ██████████ at her home approximately three weeks prior to this incident, in early June 2018. Officer Hughes

³⁹ Att. 62 & 67

⁴⁰ Officer Hughes stated that he engaged in group sex with ██████████ and ██████████ on two separate occasions; and that he had also engaged in a threesome with ██████████ and ██████████ on one occasion; and ██████████ and ██████████ on two occasions.

stated that while he and ██████ enjoyed having sex together, their relationship was more of a friendship than just a sexual relationship, and they spent time together just laughing, talking, and drinking. They often texted each other and spoke on the phone multiple times a week. In the month leading up to June 25, 2018, they saw each other in person approximately once a week.

Officer Hughes stated he believed that he was off work on June 25, 2018. ██████ called him to tell him that she had the day off work and to stop by before 6:00 p.m. Officer Hughes stated that he arrived between 4:00 and 4:30 p.m. Officer Hughes stated that he had not been drinking prior to arriving at her residence and that ██████ was not drinking either. Officer Hughes stated that they hung out, talked, and watched television until the children came home at 6:00 p.m. Officer Hughes stated that he did not accompany ██████ to pick up the children, because they were dropped off by ██████ who came up the stairs for approximately three minutes before leaving. Officer Hughes stated that he watched television on the couch, while ██████ fed the children, and he watched the movie "Frozen" with the children before they went to bed at 10:00 p.m. Officer Hughes stated that he did not sleep or pass out between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., and did not drink any alcohol until 10:00 p.m., when the children were asleep.

Officer Hughes stated that ██████ had an unopened fifth of Jack Daniels Honey Whiskey. Officer Hughes stated that he typically drank vodka and cranberry juice but drank the Jack Daniels Honey Jack whiskey with cranberry juice and ice that evening because there was no vodka. He drank two average sized glasses. ██████ drank about the same. They talked and watched television for approximately forty-five minutes in ██████ bedroom. Officer Hughes did not recall their conversation, nor did he recall if they talked about their romantic relationships with other people. Officer Hughes recalled ██████ receiving multiple telephone calls, while he was there. Officer Hughes stated that he was unaware of who ██████ spoke to and did not know if she had a new boyfriend.

As the evening progressed, they began making out, kissing and fondling each other. Officer Hughes did not recall who initiated the sexual contact. Officer Hughes stated that at this point, he was in his underwear and ██████ had on a top and underwear. Officer Hughes stated he and ██████ had sex. Officer Hughes denied that ██████ ever asked him to stop kissing her. Officer Hughes stated ██████ was lying on the her back on the bed with her face turned to the side. As they were making out, Officer Hughes noticed that ██████ eyes were welling up with tears. ██████ then said, "You know, I'm not a whore."⁴¹ Officer Hughes related that he gave ██████ a puzzled look as she repeated saying that she was not a whore three or four more times. ██████ then got up and stood on the other side of the bed opposite from the side that Officer Hughes was standing. ██████ repeated that she was not a whore as she cried. Officer Hughes stated that he had no idea why ██████ was saying that.

Officer Hughes put on his clothes as ██████ got a little louder. Officer Hughes decided to leave because he did not want the kids to wake up. Officer Hughes related that this had never happened before, and that he thought that he would talk about it with her later. Officer Hughes estimated that he left ██████ apartment within five minutes of her beginning to cry, stating that he left at about midnight. Officer Hughes stated that they did not argue.

⁴¹ Att. 67, Pg. 53, Ln. 11.

Officer Hughes stated when ██████ began crying they were having sex, that he was on top of her in the missionary position and had penetrated her vagina with his penis. Officer Hughes stated that he did not ejaculate because she began crying. When asked if Officer Hughes had ██████ consent, he responded by saying, “We started making out. We started kissing. We took off our clothes. I got an erection. I entered her, and at no time during that point did she say stop or no. [...] She – we were kissing. She’s touching me. She’s grabbing me. She’s performing oral sex.”⁴² Officer Hughes stated they each removed their own clothes. Officer Hughes stated that he touched ██████ on various parts of her body, including her vagina, breasts, and buttocks. Officer Hughes stated that he also performed oral sex on ██████. Officer Hughes stated that ██████ never asked him to stop and never said that she in pain. Officer Hughes stated that neither he nor ██████ were intoxicated.

After leaving, Officer Hughes stated that he texted ██████ while he was heading to his residence to see if she wanted him to come back. COPA confronted Officer Hughes with a text exchange between ██████ and himself from 11:51 pm that evening wherein ██████ texted, “Nigga u (sic) whooped my ass” and Officer Hughes responded, “I’m so sorry, I love you so much.”⁴³ Officer Hughes stated, “I was saying I was sorry. I mean, I didn’t whop her. I didn’t beat her. I was expressing that I was sorry about her crying.”⁴⁴ Officer Hughes further stated that ██████ never cries.

COPA also confronted Officer Hughes with text messages from June 26, 2018, at 9:23 a.m. In those text messages, Officer Hughes asked ██████ if she was okay. ██████ replied, “Why did you do that to me??? I don’t understand.”⁴⁵ Officer Hughes responded, “Well talk when u get off work.”⁴⁶ ██████ replied, “You took the pussy. You beat my ass then you wanna talk after work. Tf?”⁴⁷ Officer Hughes stated that he had no idea what ██████ was referring to in the text. When asked why he did not respond to it, Officer Hughes stated, “I didn’t want to get in no type of debates over the phone.”⁴⁸

COPA questioned Officer Hughes about his text message to ██████ on June 28, 2018, at 11:19 a.m. where Officer Hughes asked her to please call him. When she did not respond, Officer Hughes texted, “I’m embarrassed and very disappointed in myself in regards to the other night. I have no idea what came over me, but its clear that I have some problems going on within myself. Not sure what it is but I’ve made steps to work see what’s going on. There are no words I can express of how sorry I am. I wish I did have the words to say. I hope that u can forgive me for my actions.”⁴⁹ When asked what he was sorry for, Officer Hughes stated that he was trying to get ██████ to talk to him, adding that he was trying to offer her “comfort” so they could talk like they used to.⁵⁰ When asked again what he was sorry for, Officer Hughes stated that he was sorry for making ██████ cry.

⁴² Id. at 60 – 61.

⁴³ See Att. 58.

⁴⁴ Att. 67 at 78.

⁴⁵ Att. 58 at 2.

⁴⁶ Id.

⁴⁷ Id.

⁴⁸ Att. 67, Pg. 82, Lns. 18-19.

⁴⁹ Att. 58, Pg. 4.

⁵⁰ Att. 67, Pg. 84, Ln. 6.

In a text from Officer Hughes to ██████ on June 29, 2018, Officer Hughes requested that she return his phone call. ██████ did not respond. Officer Hughes texted, "I know that you are tired of me trying to reach out. But I just need u to know that I'm truly sorry about happened. I feel like total and utter dog shit. I just hope that u can forgive for my actions both emotionally and physically. And if there is anything u need me to do I will."⁵¹ Officer Hughes explained that he realized that he should not have physically left ██████ apartment and should have stayed with her. Officer Hughes acknowledged that he never denied any of the statements that ██████ texted to him, stating that he wanted to discuss them with her in person and explaining that his first marriage taught him to apologize to a woman when she was upset, even if he did not know why she was upset, or what he had done to upset her.

Officer Hughes stated that, he began getting calls about a Facebook post that ██████ had written in which she made vague allegations. Officer Hughes did not see the post but received telephone calls from various people asking him what was going on with ██████ Officer Hughes stated that he went on Facebook to view the posts but discovered that he was blocked by ██████ A friend also called him to tell him to stop texting ██████ because she had posted his text messages to her on Facebook. Officer Hughes previously saw snippets of the Facebook posts but had not seen the whole thing before viewing them during this statement. Officer Hughes stated that the Facebook posts were not an accurate depiction of what had occurred between himself and ██████ adding that "It's reading like a novel, you know. It's very descriptive."⁵²

Officer Hughes denied the allegations, stating that he did not slap ██████ on the face, nor did he strike her about the head with an open hand. Officer Hughes stated that he did not hit ██████ on the head in anyway and did not cause her to strike her head against a wall. Officer Hughes denied restraining ██████ in anyway, adding that he was only on top of her while they were having vaginal intercourse. Officer Hughes denied choking ██████ stating that if he touched her neck, it was never to clutch her neck or apply pressure in anyway. Officer Hughes denied strangling ██████ and denied spitting on her. Officer Hughes related that the only time his hands came into contact with ██████ face was when he caressed her face as they kissed. Officer ██████ denied pulling ██████ hair or causing any of her hair to fall out. Officer Hughes denied calling ██████ a "disrespectful little bitch," and stating, "What's wrong? You know you like this rough stuff anyway." Officer Hughes denied having physical contact with ██████ outside of consensual sex, adding that ██████ attempted to strike him by slapping at him when she was standing on the side of the head saying that she was not a whore. Officer Hughes stepped back, and ██████ was unable to slap him. Officer Hughes stated that their sexual contact on June 25, 2018 was not violent and not rough.⁵³ Officer Hughes further stated that he and ██████ had been very open and vocal with each other about their preferences, fantasies, and proclivities, and she had never expressed

⁵¹ Att. 58

⁵² Att. 67, Pg. 95, Lns. 19 – 20.

⁵³ Officer Hughes stated that he and ██████ had engaged in consensual rough sex in 2016, at which time ██████ asked him to choke her and he did. However, he stated that he did not enjoy this and added that they had not engaged in rough sex since 2017.

remorse. Officer Hughes stated that he had no idea why ██████ would now cry during regular sex with him.⁵⁴

Officer Hughes stated that he hosted a painting party at his residence in December 2017 but was unclear of the exact date. Officer Hughes stated that about twelve people were there, including ██████ and ██████. Officer Hughes denied displaying his weapon to ██████ and denied failing to properly secure his weapon, stating that he stores his weapon in a lockbox in his closet when he entertained. Officer Hughes then stated that he displayed his weapon on an unknown date to ██████ and ██████ only when he was demonstrating how to dryfire a weapon in connection with the women attending a concealed carry class.

b. Digital Evidence

Officer Singleton submitted screen shots of the **Facebook posts**⁵⁵ made by ██████ under the name of ██████. Her initial post on June 28, 2018 read, “I was not drunk. I didn’t do anything to provoke it. This was not a mistake I regretted the morning after.”⁵⁶ The rest of the post included the text messages between ██████ and Officer Hughes and provided her account of the sexual assault on June 25, 2018 as depicted below. ██████ authenticated these screenshots on July 12, 2020.

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⁵⁴ Officer Hughes also stated that he learned in January 2019 that ██████ made rape allegations against the principal of the school that she worked at and requested that COPA consider this in making a determination. While the subsequent incident between ██████ and her principal is not within COPA’s jurisdiction or the scope of this investigation, COPA’s analysis incorporates a credibility assessment of both ██████ and Hughes. . See Atts. 71 – 77.

⁵⁵ Att. 18, 30, 31

⁵⁶ Att. 18, Pg. 4, Lns. 1-2.

AT&T LTE 11:45 AM 68%

Search

As I sit here thinking about these pills the doctor gav me...shouldn't have.
Narcotic...looked it up, they give this shit to dogs.

I realized...shit is fucked.
Nigga wanna call and apologize for ruining me.
Breaking me. Taking that last ounce of try I had.

Before I go. Let me tell you what he did.

So me and dude drink together. That's what we do.
Have for years. Talk, fuck, and drink I know his secre he knows my story...its no secret. My life has been hard but never the worst of the worst.

Now a man I love doesn't love me and it's cool..different person of course. It was too soon. I lo so easy. So back to dude. We stopped fucking a whil back. We're just "friends". Man I love calls me and I think I giggle a little, smile a little, do a little too muc in a 45 second call. End the call.

BOOM, this nigga knocks me upside my head. Now we're not together. He knows about this man that don't love me. I'm confused. "Wtf whv you hit me"

AT&T LTE 11:45 AM 68%

Search

don't love me. I'm confused. Wtf...why you hit me .
BOOM, he slaps the shit out of me. WAMP, he slaps me again, And again, and again, and again. Then he says "You real disrespectful." I'm so confused cuz he just told me he was smashing his ex wife again. He don't want me cuz I got baggage "babies". Wtf does matter if I talk to this man that don't even feel what I feel.

I know my sound effects suck but... WHAAAM he hit me again. Began choking me. "You disrespectful littl bitch" spit in my face over and over. Now he's fuckin me. I'm not even sure how we got there. I apologize. say "I'm sorry. I wasn't trying to hurt you. I'm sorry, please stop. You're hurting me". He's choking me ... can't talk. I'm so sorry for whatever I did, I just made mistake I'm sorry. I think...im sorry.

Hits me again upside the head. "You like that rough shit". I'm screaming now "please stop. I'm so sorry. You're hurting me. I'm sorry." Me???? Wtf am I sorry for? I let you into my life. You know my whole family. You know my child... my child. "Mommy, open the door, mommy." go watch tv." BAAM agair Wtf did I do? Like really, what the Fuck did I do???

AT&T LTE 11:46 AM 68%

Search

mistake I'm sorry. I think...im sorry.

Hits me again upside the head. "You like that rough shit". I'm screaming now "please stop. I'm so sorry. You're hurting me. I'm sorry." Me???? Wtf am I sorry for? I let you into my life. You know my whole family. You know my child... my child. "Mommy, open the door, mommy." go watch tv." BAAM agair Wtf did I do? Like really, what the Fuck did I do???

Little foot steps run away.

I'm so dry. It hurts. I think I'm bleeding. Probably bleeding. I'm hurt. It hurts so bad. I just ball up. Let him hit me like a little bitch. I thought I was hard. All that shit I talk. I'm a bitch. Dam. I took martial arts. BOOM "you disrespectful little bitch." My head hurts It hurts so bad. All I can see is Mishon from the walking dead on my wall and then...yes there's more.

He grabs me by the hair. Ripping that shit clean out my head. I'm crying. I can't really take it. I can't do this. He rips my head from side to side. I feel like im i a street fight with one of those little bitches that fight with their whole backs. And now my neck cracks. An my head hurts. Fuck the sex you could have had that

AT&T LTE 11:46 AM 68%

Search

that shit I talk. I'm a bitch. Dam. I took martial arts.
BOOM "you disrespectful little bitch." My head hurts It hurts so bad. All I can see is Mishon from the walking dead on my wall and then...yes there's more.

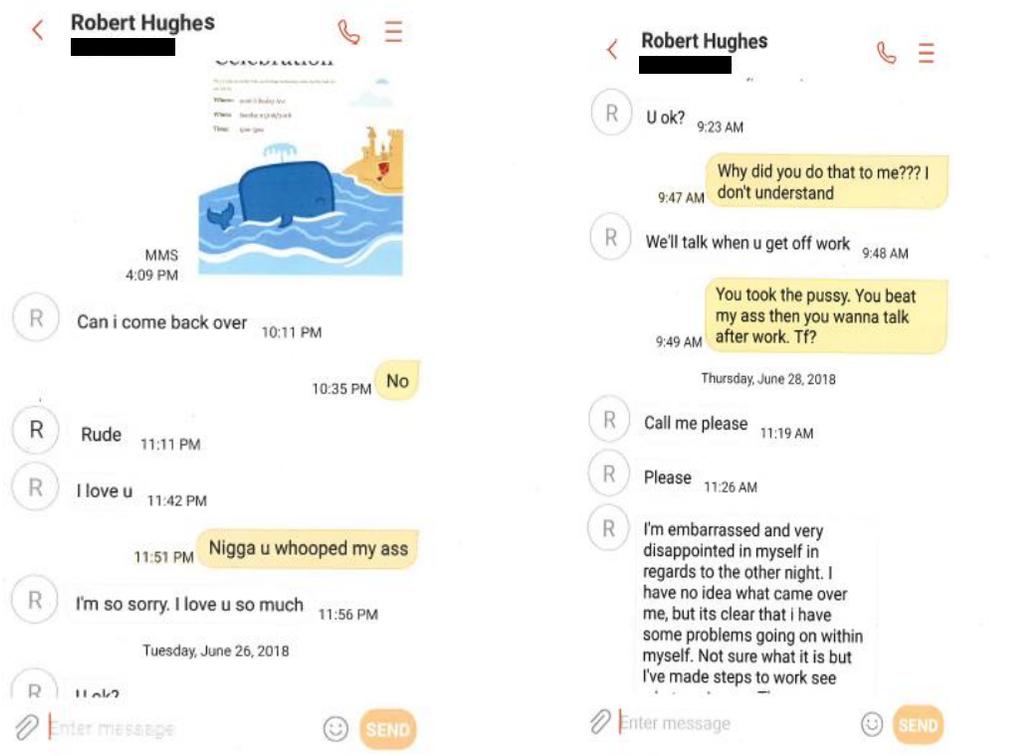
He grabs me by the hair. Ripping that shit clean out my head. I'm crying. I can't really take it. I can't do this. He rips my head from side to side. I feel like im i a street fight with one of those little bitches that fight with their whole backs. And now my neck cracks. An my head hurts. Fuck the sex you could have had that for the free if you had just asked. Maybe... I mean I didn't wanna get raped...i'd just given in like I have before #METOO.

So i think im finna die and God tells me "MOVE" so I punch this nigga dead in his mouth. He snaps out of like NOTHING HAPPENED. "I'm sorry. I went too far. You'll never see me again". Tf??? Tf you just do to me?? The fuuuuuck!!!

I'm so empty and I'm so sorry. And I know some of y: truly care but...i just FEEL so alone. And I'm sorry you don't wanna know but if i didnt WRITE this. There might not be a tomorrow for me.

Officer Singleton’s text message exchange with ██████ beginning on June 29, 2018 was submitted to COPA by Officer Singleton. Officer Singleton initiated contact with ██████ inquiring if she needed help and asking for information about the incident. ██████ stated that she was afraid of Officer Hughes and did not want to make a police report. ██████ texted on June 30, 2018 that she was afraid Officer Hughes would kill her and that he had a history of pulling his gun out when he was drunk. ██████ stated, “If he gets fired or something he will kill us all[.] I know for a fact,” and “[He] pulls out his gun drunk all the time. A lot of us ... his friends allow him to do shit and we were brushing it off. He crazy.” Throughout the text messages, Officer Singleton encouraged ██████ to file a police report, offered to assist her, and informed her that he may have to report the incident if she did not. Officer Singleton provided her with resources such as a Domestic Violence Advocate and informed her that the assault could be dealt with administratively. On July 3, 2018, Officer Singleton texted ██████ that the police report had been completed and that Officer Hughes would be stripped of his police powers. ██████ texted back, “I asked you not to do that. Wow.”⁵⁸

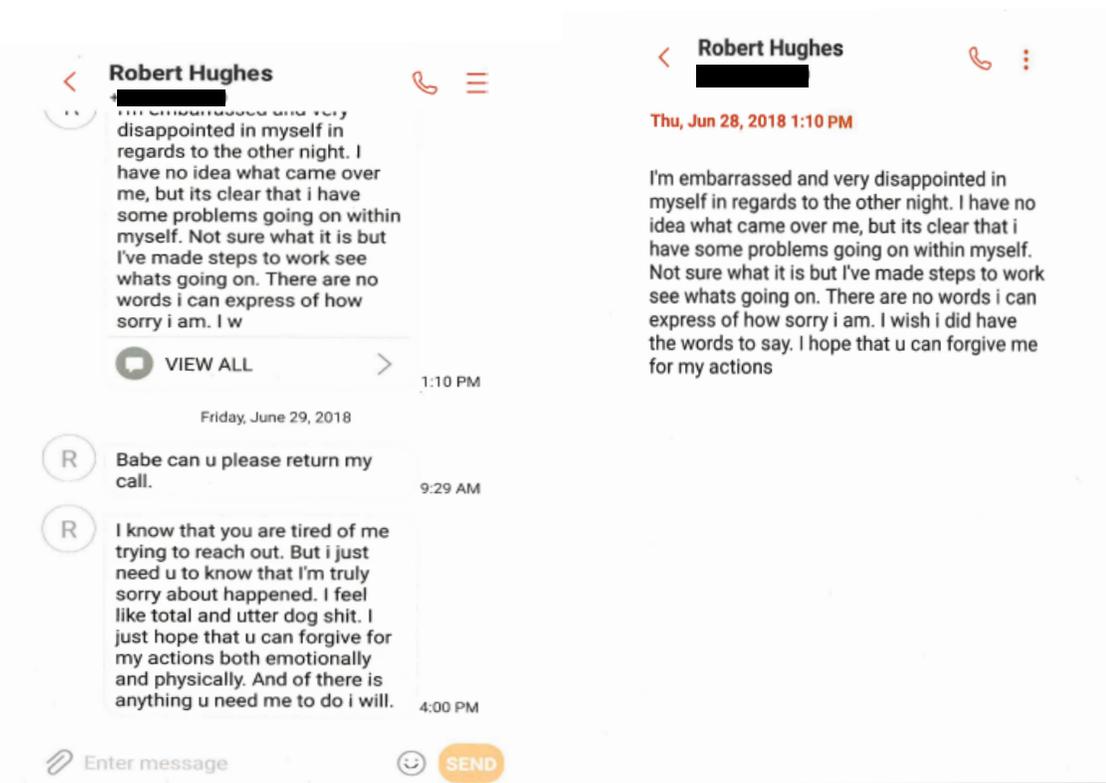
██████ text message exchange with Officer Hughes⁵⁹ beginning on June 25, 2018 was submitted to COPA by ██████



⁵⁷ Att. 19

⁵⁸ Att. 19, Pg. 26, Ln. 1.

⁵⁹ Att. 58



██████████ submitted screenshots of the **Facebook Messenger Exchange**⁶⁰ between herself and ██████████ on June 26, 2018, in which ██████████ provided a brief account of being sexually assaulted on June 25, 2018, by Officer Hughes. Specifically, ██████████ stated, “So Robert is crazy[.] Whooped my ass last night[.] Basically took it and left me in here crying while the kids were here. Idk wtf happened.” ██████████ describes Officer Hughes as being intoxicated, including that he was so intoxicated that he was laying on her floor at one point. ██████████ stated Officer Hughes slapped her approximately five times, hit her in the head, ripped her hair out and started having sex with her while stating that he always has rough sex. ██████████ related that he became physical after she answered the phone for her friend, ██████████ further stated that she was crying, screaming and asking him to stop, but Officer Hughes continued. ██████████ told ██████████ that Officer Hughes performed oral sex on her in attempts to “fix it,” but ██████████ punched him in his lip and ran. She further described Officer Hughes asking her if he “took it” and apologizing. ██████████ described herself as scared, confused, and crying. ██████████ further related to ██████████ that she believed she might have a concussion and that she was going to the doctor.

The **Telephone Records**⁶¹ for ██████████ documented that ██████████ and Officer Hughes exchanged approximately fourteen texts between 6:09 p.m. and 7:58 p.m. on June 25, 2018. Ms. ██████████ telephone number was ██████████. Officer Hughes’ number was ██████████. There is a single text exchanged at 10:58pm. On June 26, 2018, there were five text messages exchanged between Officer Hughes and Ms. ██████████⁶²

⁶⁰ Att. 36

⁶¹ Att. 70

⁶² It should be noted that many of the text messages submitted by ██████████ appear to be exchanged via Imessage which would have been connected through the WIFI and would not appear on the telephone bill.

c. Physical Evidence

The **Medical Records**⁶³ for ██████████ documented that she sought treatment in the Emergency Room of Trinity Hospital on June 25, 2018, at 1:21p.m. for a sexual assault that occurred approximately twelve hours earlier. It was noted that ██████████ declined collection protocols and only wanted to be evaluated for STDs and a possible concussion. ██████████ reported that "...her assailant inserted his penis on her vagina, put his mouth on her vagina, spit on her, choked her, and hit her head multiple times. She reports vaginal soreness and minimal vaginal bleeding."⁶⁴ The physical evaluation documented that there was bruise to the lateral aspect of her left thigh, a hand-sized bruise to the right mid-thigh, and bruise to the right superior aspect of the tibia.⁶⁵ ██████████ was diagnosed with Post Concussive Syndrome and Sexual Assault of an Adult. ██████████ was discharged at approximately 5:25 p.m.

d. Documentary Evidence

The **General Offense Case Report**⁶⁶ for Criminal Sexual Assault – Non-Aggravated, RD # ██████████ was obtained by Officer Singleton on July 3, 2018. The report listed Officer Hughes as the offender who sexually assaulted ██████████ on June 26, 2018.⁶⁷ Officer Singleton reported that ██████████ told him that ██████████ had received medical treatment at Trinity Hospital on June 27, 2018, but had refused a rape kit.⁶⁸ It was also documented that Officer Singleton had screenshots of ██████████ post from Facebook in which she disclosed that she had been raped.⁶⁹

The **Case Supplementary Reports**⁷⁰ documented that ██████████ identified Officer Hughes as her attacker when presented with a photo array on July 6, 2018. On July 12, 2018, this case was classified as "Exceptionally Cleared Closed (Complainant Refused to Prosecute." Officer Singleton was interviewed on July 2, 2018, and essentially stated the same as he had to COPA, adding that ██████████ also told him that she and Officer Hughes had dated in the past but were now friends. While they were hanging out talking about Officer Hughes getting back together with his ex-wife, ██████████ talked on the telephone with her current boyfriend for approximately thirty to forty-five seconds before ending the call. ██████████ told Officer Singleton that she was crying, told Officer Hughes to stop, and that her children were knocking on the bedroom door. Officer Singleton related that ██████████ told him that it seemed as though Officer Hughes blacked out and was in a trance.⁷¹ ██████████ told Officer Singleton that she punched Officer Hughes as hard as she could, adding that Officer Hughes snapped out of it and stopped sexually assaulting her. Officer Hughes then got up and left her residence.

⁶³ Att. 10

⁶⁴ Att. 10 at 24

⁶⁵ Id. at 25

⁶⁶ Att. 5, 6, 7

⁶⁷ This date is incorrect. The correct date of the assault is June 25, 2018.

⁶⁸ This date is incorrect. The correct date of hospital treatment is June 26, 2018.

⁶⁹ Officer Singleton submitted these screenshots which was inventoried under Inventory # ██████████ See Att. #8. These screenshots were also submitted to COPA. See Att. #18.

⁷⁰ Att. 49, 50, 51

⁷¹ Att. 51 at 5

On July 5, 2018, detectives interviewed ██████ at Officer Singleton's residence. ██████ essentially stated the same to the detectives as she had to COPA, adding that she and Officer Hughes had known each other for approximately five years and that they were never exclusively dating although she did want that type of relationship.⁷² ██████ stated that she and Officer Hughes last had sex approximately one month prior to the June 25, 2018 assault. ██████ stated that after the assault she cried more and was stunned, adding that she was disappointed by Officer Hughes' actions. ██████ also told detectives that the sex would have been consensual if he had not struck her on the head. According to the report, ██████ also told the detectives that she did not fear Officer Hughes and did not feel like there would be any retaliation for having reported the assault. ██████ is also documented as stating that she still loved Officer Hughes and was more disappointed than anything, expressing that she just wanted to get over the situation. It was also documented that ██████ refused to prosecute Officer Hughes. It was also noted that detectives observed no injuries or trauma to ██████ face or neck.

The **Initiation Report**⁷³ and **Area South Major Report**⁷⁴ dated July 3, 2018 was completed by Sergeant David Moore in response to the completion of the case report. These reports in sum state the same narrative as the case reports.

VI. LEGAL STANDARD

For each Allegation COPA must make one of the following findings:

1. Sustained - where it is determined the allegation is supported by a preponderance of the evidence;
2. Not Sustained - where it is determined there is insufficient evidence to prove the allegations by a preponderance of the evidence;
3. Unfounded - where it is determined by clear and convincing evidence that an allegation is false or not factual; or
4. Exonerated - where it is determined by clear and convincing evidence that the conduct described in the allegation occurred, but it is lawful and proper.

A **preponderance of evidence** can be described as evidence indicating that it is **more likely than not** that the conduct reviewed complied with Department policy. *See Avery v. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co.*, 216 Ill. 2d 100, 191 (2005), (a proposition is proved by a preponderance of the evidence when it has found to be more probably true than not). If the evidence gathered in an investigation establishes that it is more likely that the conduct complied with Department policy than that it did not, even if by a narrow margin, then the preponderance of the evidence standard is met.

Clear and convincing evidence is a higher standard than a preponderance of the evidence but lower than the "beyond-a-reasonable doubt" standard required to convict a person of a criminal offense. *See e.g., People v. Coan*, 2016 IL App (2d) 151036 (2016). Clear and Convincing can be defined as a

⁷² Att. 51, Pg. 5, Lns. 33-34.

⁷³ Att. 4

⁷⁴ Att. 7

“degree of proof, which, considering all the evidence in the case, produces the firm and abiding belief that it is highly probable that the proposition . . . is true.” *Id.* at ¶ 28.

VII. ANALYSIS

a. Credibility Assessment

The credibility of an individual relies primarily on two factors: 1) the individual’s truthfulness and 2) the reliability of the individual’s account. The first factor addresses the honesty of the individual making the statement, while the second speaks to the individual’s ability to accurately perceive the event at the time of the incident and then accurately recall the event at the time of the incident and then accurately recall the event from memory. In this case, Officer Hughes’s account is so divergent from ██████ account that the variances can only be explained by either Officer Hughes or ██████ misrepresenting the facts of the incident.

i. ██████ Account

A preponderance of the evidence demonstrates that ██████ account of the incident is credible.

First, ██████ account remained consistent in her Facebook posts, her accounts to ██████ ██████ Chicago Police Detectives, hospital staff at ██████ Hospital and COPA. These statements are consistent within themselves and amongst each other. Specifically, ██████ consistently reported that Officer Hughes struck her on the head after she ended her telephone call, and then continued to strike her on the head. ██████ related that same account of having her pants pulled down and Officer Hughes inserting his penis in her vagina. She reported consistently that Officer Hughes called her “a disrespectful little bitch” and stated, “What’s wrong? You know you like this rough shit.” Hughes further reported she was spat on, choked, had her hair pulled out, and Officer Hughes performed oral sex on her. ██████ consistently stated she cried and repeatedly asked Officer Hughes to stop.

Second, ██████ account was plausible, and her emotional disposition and immediate outcry support her reliability. COPA recognizes that sexual violence often occurs in a manner that makes witnesses to the incident unlikely and requires the investigator to use the surrounding events to determine whether the conduct occurred. In this case, the events occurred in ██████ home where no other adults were present. ██████ stated her daughter was knocking on the door during the incident, her daughter was too young to be interviewed by COPA. Although there were no direct witnesses to the incident, the surrounding events and circumstances give support to ██████ account. Specifically, the text messages between ██████ and Officer Hughes are revealing. In the messages from the night of the incident, ██████ told Officer Hughes, “Nigga u whopped my ass,” and he replied, “I’m so sorry. I love u so much.” The following day, ██████ tells him, “You took the pussy. You beat my ass then you wanna talk after work. Tf?” These messages support ██████ account of the incident. As will be discussed further, Officer Hughes’ text messages to ██████ further support the plausibility of her account and show his account to be not credible.

Additionally, the medical records from ██████ Hospital and ██████ emotional disposition support her account. The medical records document that ██████ had hand-sized bruising on her thighs and diagnosed her with a concussion after reporting being struck about the head while being assaulted. These injuries support her account of being struck by Officer Hughes and a forcible sexual assault. There is no evidence to suggest these injuries were caused by anything other than the assault ██████ described. Furthermore, ██████ apparent emotional disposition was that of one who was distraught as evidenced by her messages to Officer Hughes and her Facebook posts. Moreover, ██████ was concerned for her safety as evidenced by her relating to ██████ that she was concerned for herself and the kids because she was afraid Officer Hughes would hurt them and himself if he had nothing left and lost his job. ██████ was also reluctant to pursue criminal charges against Officer Hughes or to report the incident, demonstrating seemingly no vindictive attempt to seek revenge on Officer Hughes. There is no apparent motive for ██████ to make up these allegations. Her reluctance is significant. It is well known that many victims of sexual violence do not immediately report these incidents, particularly when the offender is one known to the victim. ██████ did not consider making the report lightly and needed to be convinced to do so, which only enhances the likelihood that her account of the incident was truthful and easily recalled from fresh memory.

Therefore, COPA finds ██████ account of this incident to be credible.

ii. Officer Hughes' Account

COPA does not find Officer Hughes' Account to be credible. Officer Hughes' account of event varies vastly from ██████ account, and Officer Hughes' account is inconsistent with the evidence. Specifically, his claim that the encounter was consensual, his account of the events proceeding this incident, and his text messages diminish his credibility. First, Officer Hughes claims that on the date of the incident the two had consensual intercourse. However, the medical records document that there was bruise to the lateral aspect of her left thigh, a hand-sized bruise to the right mid-thigh, and bruise to the right superior aspect of the tibia. Furthermore, ██████ was diagnosed with Post Concussive Syndrome and Sexual Assault of an Adult. This is inconsistent with Officer Hughes' account of a consensual sexual interaction and does not account for the injuries to ██████

Officer Hughes claims that prior to the incident he was not intoxicated, and that ██████ children were dropped off by ██████ However, ██████ claims Officer Hughes was so intoxicated that he was laying on her floor at one point. This seems likely given ██████ credibility overall and given other accounts that Officer Hughes was often intoxicated. ██████ also claims that she took Office Hughes with her to pick up her children, but he alleges they were dropped off by ██████ At no point during her statement did ██████ claim to be present on the date of the incident. In fact, ██████ stated that although she could not definitively recall if she picked up the children, it was unlikely since ██████ would not have wanted her around if Officer Hughes was present, as ██████ did not like Officer Hughes. Although these are seemingly minor details, they diminish Officer Hughes' credibility. COPA must question if his level of intoxication impacted his ability to accurately recall these events.

Furthermore, Officer Hughes' text messages are incriminating. Officer Hughes told ██████ that he sent these text messages to apologize for leaving ██████ when she was upset. However, COPA does not find it plausible that Officer Hughes was apologizing for merely leaving ██████. ██████ was accusing Officer Hughes of physically and sexually assaulting her and he apologizes and admits wrongdoing. He does not state that he is only apologizing for leaving her. It is unlikely that someone wrongfully accused of such actions would not object to the accusation, especially if that person is a police officer. When ██████ accused him of physically assaulting her, he replied within minutes stating, "I'm so sorry. I love u so much." The morning after she texts him accusing him of sexually assaulting her, Officer Hughes says, "I'm embarrassed and very disappointed in myself in regards to the other night. I have no idea what came over me, but [it's] clear that I have some problems going on within myself. Not sure what it is but I've made steps to work see whats going on. There are no words I can express of how sorry I am." It is noteworthy that in this text Officer Hughes notes that he does not know "what came over" him. This corroborates ██████ account that Officer Hughes seemed to be blacked out and not in his right state of mind. He goes on to say, "I know that you are tired of me trying to reach out. But I just need u to know that I'm truly sorry about [what] happened. I feel like total and utter dog shit. I just hope that u can forgive my actions both emotionally and physically. And [if] there is anything u need me to do I will." In this text, Officer Hughes' admission of some sort of physical encounter undermines his claim that the sex was consensual. COPA does not find his explanation of these text messages credible. Rather, the text messages support ██████ claims.

Therefore, COPA finds that Officer Hughes is not credible.

b. Allegations

COPA finds that **Allegations 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10** against Officer Hughes, that on June 25, 2018, at approximately 5:00 p.m. through 10:00 p.m., at the location of ██████ he (1) was intoxicated, (2) verbally abused ██████ in that he stated words to the effect of, "You disrespectful little bitch," among other vulgarities; and also stated, "What's wrong, you know you like this rough shit anyway," (3) slapped ██████ on the face, (4) struck ██████ about her head with an open hand and caused her to strike her head against a wall, (6) strangled ██████ in that he put at least one of his hands around her neck and applied pressure, (7) spit on ██████ (8) punched ██████ on the head, (9) sexually assaulted ██████ in that the accused vaginally penetrated her without her consent, (10) forced unwanted sexual contact on ██████ without her consent, (11) pulled ██████ by the hair are **Sustained**. As previously discussed, COPA finds ██████ credible and does not find Officer Hughes' account credible. ██████ claims are supported by her consistent statements on her Facebook post, to Officer Singleton, ██████ COPA, the police department, and medical personnel. Furthermore, the medical records support ██████ account, documenting bruising to her inner thigh and a concussion. Moreover, Officer Hughes' text messages to ██████ support her account and were significantly incriminating. Therefore, based on a preponderance of the evidence, COPA finds it more likely than not, Allegations 1-10 are **Sustained**.

COPA finds that **Allegations 12 and 13** against Officer Hughes, that on December 17, 2017, at an unspecified time, inside the residence located at ██████ the accused was intoxicated and displayed his weapon without justification are **Sustained**. ██████ and

██████████ all recalled an incident where Officer Hughes displayed his weapon when they were at his home and was intoxicated. ██████████ recalled becoming concerned because her daughter was present, and ██████████ also recalled ██████████ daughter being present. All the women agreed that although he did not pull the gun out in a threatening manner, the behavior was concerning to them. Although Officer Hughes denied the allegation, he did recall hosting the painting party in December 2017. COPA found Officer Hughes to be not credible overall. The recollection of the other witnesses is sufficient to meet the preponderance standard, that it is more likely than not to sustain these allegations. Therefore, COPA finds these allegations are **Sustained**.

COPA finds **Allegation 5** against Officer Hughes, that on June 25, 2018 he restrained ██████████ by getting on top of her and using his body weight to keep her from standing, is **Unfounded**. Although ██████████ described Officer Hughes as being on top of her, striking her and sexually assaulting her, she did not specifically describe being unable to move do to his body weight. Therefore, there is no factual basis to support this allegation and it is Unfounded.

COPA finds that **Allegations 14** against Officer Hughes, that on December 17, 2017, at an unspecified time, inside the residence located at ██████████ the accused failed to properly secure his weapon is **Not Sustained**. COPA finds there is insufficient evidence to sustain this allegation. Although ██████████ and ██████████ agreed that Officer Hughes was intoxicated and displayed his weapon, they were not consistent regarding where he retrieved the weapon from. ██████████ recalled him retrieving it from a dresser or nightstand, but ██████████ believed it was on his person. Therefore, there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the weapon was not secured, and the allegation is Not Sustained.

VIII. CONCLUSION

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

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer Robert Hughes,	1. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, at approximately 5:00 p.m. through 10:00 p.m., at the location of ██████████ the accused was intoxicated.	SUSTAINED
	2. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the location of ██████████ the accused verbally abused ██████████ in that he stated words to the effect of, “You disrespectful little bitch,” among other vulgarities; and also stated, “What’s wrong, you know you like this rough shit anyway.”	SUSTAINED

<p>3. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED] the accused slapped [REDACTED] on the face.</p>	<p>SUSTAINED</p>
<p>4. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED] the accused struck [REDACTED] about her head with an open hand and caused her to strike her head against a wall.</p>	<p>SUSTAINED</p>
<p>5. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED] the accused restrained [REDACTED] by getting on top of her and using his body weight to keep her from standing.</p>	<p>UNFOUNDED</p>
<p>6. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. at the location of [REDACTED] the accused strangled [REDACTED] in that he put at least one of his hands around her neck and applied pressure.</p>	<p>SUSTAINED</p>
<p>7. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED] the accused spit on [REDACTED]</p>	<p>SUSTAINED</p>
<p>8. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED] the accused punched [REDACTED] on the head.</p>	<p>SUSTAINED</p>
<p>9. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED] the accused sexually assaulted [REDACTED] in that the accused vaginally penetrated her without her consent.</p>	<p>SUSTAINED</p>
<p>10. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the residence, located at [REDACTED]</p>	<p>SUSTAINED</p>

<p>██████████, the accused forced unwanted sexual contact on ██████████ without her consent.</p>	
<p>11. It is alleged that on June 25, 2018, between approximately 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., at the location of ██████████ the accused pulled ██████████ by the hair.</p>	<p>SUSTAINED</p>
<p>12. It is alleged that on December 17, 2017, at an unspecified time, inside the residence located at ██████████ the accused was intoxicated.</p>	<p>SUSTAINED</p>
<p>13. It is alleged that on December 17, 2017, at an unspecified time, inside the residence located at ██████████ the accused displayed his weapon without justification.</p>	<p>SUSTAINED</p>
<p>14. It is alleged by COPA that on December 17, 2017, at an unspecified time, inside the residence located at ██████████ the accused failed to properly secure his weapon.</p>	<p>SUSTAINED</p>
	<p>NOT SUSTAINED</p>

IX. RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE FOR SUSTAINED ALLEGATIONS

a. Officer Robert Hughes #4637

i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History

1. Complimentary History: 1 Problem Solving Award, 1 Deployment Operations Center Award, 1 Other Award, 1 Presidential Election Award (2008), 4 Attendance Recognition Award, 1 Special Commendation, 2 Crime Ribbon Award (2004; 2009; 2019), 58 Honorable Mentions, 1 Complimentary Letter, 1 NATO Summit Service Award, 1 Unit Meritorious Performance Award

2. Disciplinary History: None

ii. Recommended Penalty - Separation

Officer Hughes physically and sexually assaulted [REDACTED] despite her constant pleas for him to stop. Officer Hughes caused [REDACTED] to sustain bruising and a concussion due to his actions. He also appears to have significant problems with alcohol that have caused him to display his firearm unnecessarily. Officer Hughes did not take responsibility for his actions during his statement to COPA. His conduct is severe and egregious. The conduct is unbecoming of any individual and especially a sworn member of the Chicago Police Department charged with protecting and serving the public. Such conduct warrants separation from the Department.

Approved:

[REDACTED]

Andrea Kersten
Chief of Investigative Operations

January 29, 2021

Date

[REDACTED]

Sydney R. Roberts
Chief Administrator

January 29, 2021

Date

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

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