

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	December 12, 2019 12:25 a.m., [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	December 12, 2019, 2:01 a.m.
Involved Officer #1:	Frank Doyle, Star #2926, Employee ID # [REDACTED], Date of Appointment: 24-Feb-2003, Rank: Officer, Unit of Assignment: 018, DOB: [REDACTED]1967, Gender: Male, Race: White
Involved Officer #2:	Johnathan Espinoza, Star#7890, Employee ID# [REDACTED] Date of Appointment: 17-July-2017, Rank: Officer, Unit of Assignment: 008, DOB: [REDACTED]1994 Gender: Male, Race: White Hispanic
Involved Officer #3:	Erik Saucedo, Star #7271, Employee ID# [REDACTED] Date of appointment: 18-Sept-2017, Rank: Officer, Unit of Assignment: 008, DOB: [REDACTED]1989 Gender: Male, Race: White Hispanic
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED]1992, Gender: Female Race: Hispanic
Case type:	Domestic Incident

I. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer Frank Doyle	1. It is alleged that on or about December 12, 2019 at [REDACTED], at approximately 12:25 a.m., the accused engaged in an unjustified physical altercation.	Not Sustained
	2. It is alleged that on or about December 12, 2019 at [REDACTED] at approximately 12:25 a.m., the accused threatened to harm a rodent with a knife without justification.	Not Sustained

3. It is alleged that on or about December 12, 2019 at [REDACTED] at approximately 12:25 a.m., the accused displayed a knife causing [REDACTED] to fear for her safety.	Not Sustained
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II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE¹

On December 12, 2019 at approximately 12:25 a.m., [REDACTED] called 911² for police assistance and reported that her boyfriend, Officer Frank Doyle, “pulled a knife on [her].”³ In response, multiple CPD members arrived at the scene. According to the **Initiation Report**,⁴ [REDACTED] reported that she and Officer Doyle were engaged in a verbal altercation, when he threatened to kill her pet rat. At some point during the altercation, the accused brandished a knife at her causing her to fear for her safety. Officer Doyle was not on scene when officers arrived. However, the incident was documented under **Case Report, RD#J**[REDACTED]⁵

After several failed attempts, COPA was unable to reach [REDACTED]. Therefore, COPA obtained an **Affidavit Override** from the Chicago Police Department in order to proceed with this investigation.⁶

Responding officers initially activated their **Body-worn cameras**⁷ as they investigated the incident and interviewed [REDACTED]. The footage shows a visibly upset and crying [REDACTED] who relates that she was fearful and unsure of how to handle the situation. [REDACTED] relates that she and Officer Doyle were arguing, and Officer Doyle had a temper. The footage also reveals that a female neighbor was present in the home when officers arrived. The neighbor states she was not present during the incident. However, the neighbor relates that [REDACTED] called her crying and Officer Doyle kicked [REDACTED] while she was on the floor. No further details of the incident from [REDACTED] or the neighbor are captured on body-worn camera, because shortly after arriving, the officers turned off their cameras at [REDACTED] request.⁸ It should be noted that no identifying information for the neighbor was placed in the case report or initiation report. COPA made several attempts to identify the neighbor but was unsuccessful.⁹

Officers **Espinoza**¹⁰ and **Saucedo**¹¹ provided statements to COPA on September 3, 2020. They related essentially the same information. On the date of the officers were assisting Sgt. Gentile¹² with a domestic call involving an off-duty officer (Frank Doyle). Upon arrival, [REDACTED]

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. 3-4

³ Att. 4 at 1:25

⁴ Att. 1

⁵ Att. 2

⁶ Att. 5

⁷ Att. 6-10

⁸ Att. 6

⁹ See Att. 23 and Case Notes.

¹⁰ Att. 15

¹¹ Att. 16

¹² Att. 17 - It should be noted, Sgt. Gentile was unavailable for interview due to medical leave and was not ambulatory.

reported she was in a verbal altercation with her boyfriend, who had since left the apartment. ██████ related that when it came time to feed her pet snake, Officer Doyle retrieved a knife to kill her rat for feeding. While trying to stop him, he turned toward her with the knife in hand. However, she did not allege any physical altercation. Both officers stated an unknown friend/neighbor was present when they responded. The neighbor related that Officer Doyle kicked ██████ but stated she heard a commotion but did not witness the incident.

In a statement to COPA on November 13, 2020 **Officer Frank Doyle**¹³ denied all allegations. He stated he and ██████ were in a dating relationship at the time of incident but have since ended the relationship. Although she did not reside at his residence, she often slept over and brought her python snake with her. Officer Doyle explained, a normal feeding for the snake was a rat. He further explained that it was typical for ██████ to feed the snake dead rats and that this situation was a one-time incident. He related that they attempted to feed the same rat to the snake three to four times prior to incident.¹⁴

On the night of incident, they discussed trying to feed the pet python, who had not eaten for approximately a month and had since begun to lose weight. Since this was a concern for ██████ the two visited a pet store approximately a week prior to incident, where ██████ purchased the feeding rat in question. Approximately a week after purchase, ██████ attempted to feed the rat to her snake. However, the snake still would not eat. At that time, ██████ suggested that they kill the rat in order to entice the snake to eat it. Ultimately, they both decided to use a knife to kill the rat. However, once Officer Doyle proceeded to retrieve the knife, ██████ immediately “freaked out.”¹⁵ Shortly thereafter, he left his residence to avoid further confrontation.

Officer Doyle asserted that he made no threats to ██████ verbal, physical, or otherwise. Moreover, he reported that he never pulled or displayed a knife toward ██████ because he never had a knife in his hand.¹⁶ He related that due to ██████ emotional state, he left the apartment in order to de-escalate the situation.¹⁷ Upon his return a few hours later, he learned that ██████ had called the police. Officer Doyle attributed ██████ emotional reaction to the fact that the she was nervous because the snake had not eaten for a few months.¹⁸

III. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

COPA finds that **Allegations #1-3** that Officer Doyle engaged in an unjustified physical altercation with ██████ threatened to harm a rodent with a knife, and displayed a knife at ██████ causing her to fear for her safety are **Not Sustained**. The evidence available does not support the allegations by a preponderance of evidence. COPA was unable to obtain statements from ██████ and the unknown neighbor. Additionally, their accounts were not fully captured on body-worn camera. Officer Doyle denied the allegations as alleged. As mentioned above, Officer Doyle reported that their argument was about killing the rat and ██████ had a change of heart,

¹³ Att. 22

¹⁴ Id. at 27:40-28:25

¹⁵ Id. at 8:30-13:45

¹⁶ Id. at 17:05-19:29

¹⁷ Id. at 19:30-20:25

¹⁸ Id. at 24:30-25:15

which caused her to react emotionally. Officer Doyle further denied ever having a knife in hand and adamantly denied any physical contact between the two. Therefore, there is insufficient evidence to support the allegations, and these allegations are Not Sustained.



James Murphy-Aguilu
Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

12/11/20

Date

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad#:	9
Investigator:	Chantelle Hill
Supervising Investigator:	Sharday Jackson
Deputy Chief Administrator:	James Murphy-Aguilu