

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident:	January 1, 2018
Time of Incident:	6:00 p.m.
Location of Incident:	██████████- backyard
Date of COPA Notification:	January 2, 2018
Time of COPA Notification:	11:22 a.m.

██████████ stated that she and ██████████ Officer Sidronio Almazan, have been having ██████████ problems for quite a while. In December 2017, Officer Almazan moved out of their house, a three-story apartment building. In January 1, 2018, Officer Almazan brought his new girlfriend, ██████████ to their property when he was picking up the children to have them for the holiday. ██████████ and ██████████ upon seeing each other engaged in a verbal dispute that escalated into a physical altercation between them in the backyard of their building. In the process, Officer Almazan grabbed ██████████ by the arm and threw her to the ground then held ██████████ down by placing his knee on her neck. While ██████████ was held down on the ground, she was struck about the face and body by ██████████. It was further alleged that Officer Almazan refused to allow ██████████ to obtain and receive medical attention when the paramedics responded to the scene.

██████████ and ██████████ both called the police and Officer Guzman responded. Officer Guzman did not arrest ██████████ but provided ██████████ with a police report. Sergeant Gorzkowski responded to the scene and failed to take any action against Officer Almazan or log a complaint register number against him.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Sergeant #1:	Timothy Gorzkowski, Star #1126, Employee # ██████████, Sergeant, Date of Appointment: March 16, 2017, DOB: ██████████, 1981, Male / White
Involved Officer #2:	Sidronio Almazan Jr., Star #5011, Employee # ██████████, Police Officer, Date of Appointment: March 25, 2002 DOB: ██████████ 1971, Male / Hispanic
Involved Officer #3:	Danny Guzman, Star #17279, Employee # ██████████, Police Officer, Date of Appointment: November 16, 2015 DOB: ██████████, 1990, Male / Hispanic
Involved Individual #1:	██████████ DOB: ██████████, 1985, Female / Hispanic

## III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Sergeant Timothy Gorzkowski	<p>It is alleged that on or about January 1, 2018, at approximately 5:56 pm, on or about [REDACTED] S. [REDACTED] Sgt. Gorzkowski committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions, by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Failing to conduct a thorough investigation regarding the Domestic incident involving Officer Sidronio Almazan [REDACTED]</li> <li>2. Violating Special Order 04-04(III)(B)(4) and General Order 08-01-02(II)(B)(2), in that he failed to initiate a complaint register number and follow the procedures outlined in the Department Directives entitled "Complaint and Disciplinary Procedures,"</li> </ol>	<p>Sustained</p> <p>Not Sustained</p>
Officer Sidronio Almazan Jr.	<p>It is alleged that on or about January 1, 2018, at approximately 5:40 pm, on or about [REDACTED] S. [REDACTED] Officer Almazan committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions, by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engaging in an unjustified verbal altercation with [REDACTED]</li> <li>2. Grabbing [REDACTED] by the arm and threw her to the ground.</li> <li>3. It is alleged that Officer Almazan held Ms. [REDACTED] down by placing his knee on her neck.</li> <li>4. It is alleged that Officer Almazan refused to allow [REDACTED] to obtain and receive medical attention.</li> </ol>	<p>Sustained</p> <p>Not Sustained</p> <p>Not Sustained</p> <p>Not Sustained</p>
Officer Danny Guzman	<p>It is alleged that on or about January 1, 2018, at approximately 5:50 pm, on or about [REDACTED] S. [REDACTED] Officer Guzman committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions, by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Failing to report police misconduct involving Officer Almazan to Sergeant Gorzkowski after being made aware that Officer Almazan battered [REDACTED]</li> </ol>	<p>Not Sustained</p>

#### IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS

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##### Rules

1. Rule 6: Disobedience of any directive or order, whether written or oral.
2. Rule 8: Disrespect or maltreatment to a person, while on or off-duty.
3. Rule 9: Engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.

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##### General Orders

1. General Order 08-01-02 - Complaint and Disciplinary Procedures.

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##### Special Order

1. Special Order 04-04 Domestic Incident.
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#### V. INVESTIGATION

##### a. Interviews

In her interview to COPA on January 4, 2018, ██████████ ██████████ stated she is ██████████ to Officer Sidronio Almazan and they have two kids together: ██████████ ██████████ said that although she and Officer Almazan were separated, they were still residing in the same home. On January 1, 2018, ██████████ came home from picking up ██████████<sup>2</sup>, her youngest daughter, from her sister's house. ██████████ said she walked to the rear of her building and found Officer Almazan and his new girlfriend, ██████████ in the back yard. A verbal altercation ensued between her and ██████████ that escalated and turned physical. ██████████ said Officer Almazan grabbed her by the arms, threw her down onto the ground, placed his knee on her neck while holding her down as if he was going to arrest her as ██████████ struck her about the head and face.

██████████ said Officer Almazan grabbed ██████████ to remove her from being on top of her and she ran toward the second-floor apartment where the babysitter, ██████████, was located with her other children. ██████████ then knocked on the second-floor apartment door in an attempt to enter and leave the area. However, Officer Almazan grabbed her by the arms and jacket, then pulled her back toward the stairwell preventing her from reaching the apartment. ██████████ said she yelled for ██████████ to open the door and for her to come outside. When ██████████ came out she told Officer Almazan to let go of ██████████. She then grabbed and pulled ██████████ toward her as Officer Almazan had ██████████ by the arms and her jacket, pulling her down. Officer Almazan then released ██████████ after ██████████ told him that she would bring ██████████ downstairs when the officers' arrived on the scene.

██████████ said she called the police and asked for an ambulance. Upon the paramedics' arrival, Officer Almazan told her that she better not get medical attention because he was not paying for it. ██████████ said she refused medical attention from the paramedics. Uniformed

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<sup>1</sup> Att. 11.

<sup>2</sup> ██████████ youngest child, is not Officer Almazan's biological daughter.

officers arrived at the scene shortly thereafter and was identified as Officers Guzman and Bonsonto. ██████ said she spoke with Officer Guzman in Spanish and told him what occurred with ██████ and Officer Almazan. ██████ said she also told Officer Guzman that Officer Almazan pulled her down to the ground and struck her.

██████ said she requested for ██████ to be arrested, however Officer Guzman informed her that she and ██████ were mutual combatants and if they both signed complaints they were both going to be arrested. ██████ said they decided not to sign complaints against each other but she requested for ██████ to leave her property. Officer Guzman then provided her with a police report against ██████ but did not provide her a report regarding Officer Almazan's actions. Officer Guzman told her that he could not arrest or file a complaint against Officer Almazan because he was her ██████. ██████ said she sustained scratches to her face, soreness to the side of her body, arms, and loss of hair from being pulled. She did not seek outside medical treatment but said ██████ was a witness to Officer Almazan actions. She said ██████ was also a witness to the conversation between her and the officers. ██████ said she did not know of any other witnesses to the altercation. Additionally, she saw a sergeant at the scene but he did not speak with her. ██████ said she obtained an Order of Protection against Officer Almazan.

In her interview to COPA on August 3, 2018, **Witness ██████**, stated she is a live-in babysitter for ██████ and Officer Almazan. ██████ said she was not a witness to the verbal and physical altercation between ██████ and Officer Almazan, but she did hear a commotion at the rear of the apartment and knocking on the door. She said when she opened the apartment door she saw ██████ crying and pulling away from Officer Almazan who was holding her by the arms and jacket while on the stairwell. ██████ said she told Officer Almazan to release ██████ as he pulled her down the stairs to the first-floor landing. ██████ followed them down the stairs and ██████ told her that Officer Almazan brought his mistress (██████) to the house. ██████ yelled to her that ██████ struck her on her face. ██████ said she then observed a woman outside the rear door (██████ and ██████ youngest daughter, ██████) on the steps. Officer Almazan told ██████ that the police had been called and he wanted ██████ downstairs upon their arrival. ██████ then told ██████ that Officer Almazan placed his foot on her neck and allowed ██████ to strike her.

██████ said she observed ██████ attempt to use her phone and Officer Almazan push her hand, refusing to allow ██████ to use her phone. ██████ said she told Officer Almazan to release ██████ and he complied. ██████ then went up the stairs and ran into the apartment in the bathroom. She learned later that ██████ called the police. ██████ said she did observe that ██████ sustained scratches to her face and her clothes were disheveled.

She said when the police arrived, she heard ██████ tell the responding officers that Officer Almazan grabbed her and pushed her down onto the ground and placed his foot on her neck. In addition, ██████ said she heard ██████ tell the responding officer that Officer Almazan allowed ██████ to strike her and she wanted ██████ out of the house. ██████ recalled that ██████ was not arrested by the responding officers. ██████ stated that she did not speak with the responding officers or any police supervisor. When Officer Almazan returned to the home

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<sup>3</sup> Att. 30.

after the officers left, he and ██████ talked for several hours and she witnessed the conversation. Officer Almazan moved out of the home upon the request of ██████

In her interview to COPA on July 11, 2018, Witness ██████ ██████, went with her boyfriend, Officer Almazan, to drop off food for his children because they were with the babysitter since early afternoon and they were crying. She said she was in the back yard of the building when ██████ arrived home with ██████ (the youngest child). ██████ said almost immediately ██████ approached them yelling at Officer Almazan, punched her in the face and called her a “bitch.” ██████ said she and ██████ engaged in a physical fight and fell to the ground. She saw Officer Almazan ██████ over to the stairwell area at the rear of the building as she was screaming and crying. He returned over to where she and ██████ were fighting outside and told them to stop.

██████ said she was on top of ██████. When ██████ released her hair, she got off her and stepped to the side. Officer Almazan then helped ██████ up from the ground. She said she did not observe any physical altercation between Officer Almazan and ██████ and she did not see him hold ██████ down on the ground and place his knee on her neck. She did hear Officer Almazan tell ██████ to stay downstairs because the police had been called as he grabbed her by the jacket to prevent her from leaving, but ██████ was able to go upstairs prior to the officer’s arrival.

██████ said she sustained scratches to her face and her hair was pulled out. When paramedics arrived she did not seek medical treatment and she did not see ██████ treated. ██████ stated she never heard Officer Almazan tell ██████ that she could not be seen by the paramedics. When the officers arrived, she and Officer Almazan briefly spoke with them, then the officers had them go inside the enclosed porch area of the building due to the cold weather. The officers spoke with ██████ on the first-floor porch area.

██████ requested for ██████ to be arrested but Officer Guzman explained that crossed complaints could not be filed unless both parties were placed under arrest. Officer Guzman explained that since ██████ and ██████ were mutual combatants and had similar injuries, they would file a complaint if they both agreed to be arrested. ██████ and ██████ agreed that no complaint was going to be filed to avoid being arrested. ██████ stated that a sergeant responded to the scene and spoke with Officer Almazan. Sergeant Gorzkowski told Officer Almazan not to bring ██████ to the premises, but she could not recall if Sergeant Gorzkowski asked or knew that Officer Almazan was a police officer because she could not hear their conversation or the conversation he had with the other officers.

██████ said she was not close enough to hear whether ██████ complained to the responding officers about Officer Almazan physically mistreating her, or that she wanted to file a complaint against him. She did have knowledge that ██████ obtained an Order of Protection against Officer Almazan, in which ██████ told him when he attempted to schedule a pick-up time of his children. ██████ forwarded a text message with a photograph of the Order of Protection. ██████ said Officer Almazan was never served in court or in person by anyone other than through a text message.

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<sup>4</sup> Att. 50.

In his interview to COPA on August 14, 2018, **Officer Vincent Bonsonto**<sup>5</sup> stated he was working with Officer Guzman when they responded to a battery call. While at the scene, Officer Almazan identified himself as an off-duty officer, ██████████ as his ██████████ and ██████████ as his girlfriend. Officer Guzman translated the conversations between all of the involved parties because Officer Bonsonto did not speak or understand Spanish. Officer Bonsonto learned that no cross complaints were going to be filed, and ██████████ was provided with a police report. Officer Bonsonto was not aware of any physical altercations between Officer Almazan and ██████████ or if any allegations was made against him by ██████████. Officer Bonsonto could not recall what Officer Guzman told Sergeant Gorzkowski about the details of the incident, however he believes Officer Guzman provided Sergeant Gorzkowski with what happened.

Officer Bonsonto said that while at the station, Officer Guzman completed the case report and told Sergeant Gorzkowski that the incident involved an off-duty officer. Officer Bonsonto said he realized at that time that Officer Guzman never told Sergeant Gorzkowski on the scene that Officer Almazan was an off duty officer. Sgt. Gorzkowski made remarkable expressions at them and verbally reprimanded them for failing to inform him the domestic incident involved an off-duty officer.

In his interview to COPA on March 28, 2018, **Officer Danny Guzman**<sup>6</sup> responded to a domestic disturbance with a new officer<sup>7</sup> (Officer Bonsonto) and spoke with all the involved parties including off-duty Officer Almazan. Officer Guzman said he learned that ██████████ and ██████████ engaged in a verbal and physical altercation after Officer Almazan brought his mistress (██████████) to the home. While at the scene, ██████████ informed him that Officer Almazan pulled her by the hair which was confirmed by Officer Almazan. Officer Guzman said he was told by Officer Almazan that he pulled ██████████ by the hair to disengage her and ██████████ from fighting.

Officer Guzman said when ██████████ told him that Officer Almazan dragged her while she was on the ground, he understood that this information was no different from her telling him that Officer Almazan pulled her by the hair while she was on the ground. He said ██████████ told him she wanted ██████████ arrested and out of the premises, but because he could not determine who the main aggressor of the altercation was, he explained to ██████████ and ██████████ that they were both mutual combatants. Additionally, they both would be subject to arrest under cross complaints, at which time, both parties decided that no complaints were going to be filed to avoid arrest.

Officer Guzman provided ██████████ with a case report and domestic violence information card. Officer Guzman called the paramedics when he observed visible injuries to both ██████████ and ██████████ but neither one of the two parties sought medical treatment from the paramedics.

Officer Guzman could not recall any other allegations made against Officer Almazan by ██████████. Upon Sergeant Gorzkowski's arrival to the scene, Officer Guzman found him standing outside near the gangway talking to Officer Almazan. Officer Guzman was not a witness to that conversation. Sergeant Gorzkowski remained outside and did not speak with ██████████ due to the

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<sup>5</sup> Att. 64 – Officer Bonsonto completed his probation as a probationary police officer in September 16, 2018.

<sup>6</sup> Att. 26.

<sup>7</sup> It was later learned that Officer Vincent Bonsonto responded to the incident with Officer Guzman.

language barrier, but he informed him of the details of the incident. Officer Guzman stated that after the incident, outside in the front of the building, he informed Sergeant Gorzkowski that Officer Almazan was an off-duty officer. He further told him about [REDACTED] allegations against Officer Almazan and that [REDACTED] recanted her statements regarding the allegations against Officer Almazan after the body worn cameras were turned off.

Officer Guzman said while at the station, he re-informed Sergeant Gorzkowski about the details of the incident and requested to watch his body worn camera to complete the case report. He said Sergeant Gorzkowski read and approved the case report and he is not aware of further actions taken by Sergeant Gorzkowski regarding the incident or the allegation made against Officer Almazan. Officer Guzman denied hearing or being a witness to Officer Almazan telling [REDACTED] she could not receive medical treatment by the paramedics. Officer Guzman stated that Officer Bonsonto did not have any verbal conversations with any of the involved parties and did not complete any reports. Officer Guzman denied the allegation made against him.

In his interview to COPA on June 21, 2018, **Officer Sidronio Almazan<sup>8</sup>** stated he and [REDACTED] are [REDACTED] and have two kids together, [REDACTED]. On January 1, 2018, he went to the house to drop off food for his children after the babysitter, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] called to inform him that the children were crying. Officer Almazan went to the house and was accompanied by his girlfriend, [REDACTED]. Officer Almazan said he and [REDACTED] still reside in the same house but are separated. He said when he got to his residence he and [REDACTED] were in the backyard when he observed [REDACTED] walk down the gangway towards them from the front [REDACTED] to the rear, with their daughter [REDACTED]<sup>9</sup>. [REDACTED] asked Officer Almazan who [REDACTED] was, then called her a “bitch” and punched her in the face. He said [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] ended on the ground during the physical altercation, at which time he grabbed [REDACTED] and sat her inside the porch area by the rear stairs because she began screaming and crying.

Officer Almazan said he tried to break up the physical altercation between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He grabbed them both by their arms and jackets to separate them. He said [REDACTED] had [REDACTED] by the hair as [REDACTED] was on top of her as they punched, kicked and grabbed each other's hair. When he separated them, [REDACTED] called the police. He said [REDACTED] got off the the ground and cried. When she tried to leave the scene he attempted to stop her and told her the police had been called and to wait downstairs. [REDACTED] ignored him and tried going up the stairs, so he grabbed her by the jacket to stop her from leaving. [REDACTED] came out of the apartment and told him to let her go, and he complied and waited for the police to arrive.

Upon the officers' arrival, Officer Almazan identified himself as an off-duty officer and explained the situation. [REDACTED] came downstairs with [REDACTED] and spoke with Officer Guzman. He said it was determined that no charges were going to be placed against [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] at which time [REDACTED] asked for [REDACTED] to leave her house. Sergeant Gorzkowski arrived at the scene, spoke briefly with him, [REDACTED] and then with the officers.

Sergeant Gorzkowski told him that he should have never brought [REDACTED] to his [REDACTED] home and to provide the responding officers with his star and police information. Officer Almazan

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<sup>8</sup> Att. 46.

<sup>9</sup> [REDACTED] youngest daughter from relationship with another man.

said Sergeant Gorzkowski did not speak with [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] nor did he request an Evidence Technician for their injuries. Officer Almazan stated that [REDACTED] told Officer Guzman that he pulled her hair when he tried to separate her and [REDACTED] during the fight, and that he tried to throw her down the stairs. Officer Almazan said the responding officers left the scene along with Sergeant Gorzkowski. He was not given any specific instructions by the responding officers or Sgt. Gorzkowski, other than for [REDACTED] to leave the premises.

Officer Almazan denied placing his knee on [REDACTED] neck or about her body. He also denied pushing [REDACTED] down onto the ground or that he allowed [REDACTED] to batter [REDACTED]. Officer Almazan admitted that he grabbed [REDACTED] by her jacket, first to separate her from fighting [REDACTED] and later from leaving the scene. Officer Almazan also admitted that in the process of separating [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] he grabbed and pulled [REDACTED] up from the ground and may have pulled her hair in the process when separating them, but that the action was not intentional. Officer Almazan denied engaging in any other physical contact with [REDACTED] or denying her from obtaining medical attention from the responding paramedics. Officer Almazan stated that he identified himself as a police officer to Sergeant Gorzkowski and the responding officers.

In his interview to COPA on July 12, 2018, **Sergeant Timothy Gorzkowski**<sup>10</sup> could not recall if he was assigned to respond to the battery call as a supervisor or if he responded because it involved two of his assigned officers. Upon arrival, Sergeant Gorzkowski said he saw paramedics leaving the rear area of the building. He did not have a conversation with the paramedics, other than them telling him the incident occurred in the rear as they left the scene.

Sergeant Gorzkowski said when he walked through the gangway and reached the rear of the building he observed a Hispanic male who we now know as Officer Almazan and a female we now know as [REDACTED] in the gangway. He spoke briefly with Officer Almazan who indicated he and [REDACTED] were involved in an incident with [REDACTED]. Sergeant Gorzkowski said he asked Officer Almazan where his officers were located. While he waited for the officers who were inside the building with [REDACTED] he learned of some of the details of the incident from Officer Almazan. Sergeant Gorzkowski stated that Officer Almazan did not identify himself as a Chicago Police Officer and he did not ask him if he was an officer.

Sergeant Gorzkowski recalled telling Officer Almazan that he should not have brought [REDACTED] to the [REDACTED] home and to leave her somewhere else to avoid future problems.

Shortly thereafter, Officers Guzman and Bonsonto exited the building. Officer Guzman provided him with details of the incident between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He said Officer Guzman stated that he was not sure who the aggressor was between the two ladies and that no arrest was going to be made. According to Sergeant Gorzkowski, he never spoke with [REDACTED] due to the language barrier. It was Officer Guzman who translated to him that [REDACTED] wanted [REDACTED] off of [REDACTED]. Sergeant Gorzkowski said he did not speak with [REDACTED].

Sergeant Gorzkowski said that during his conversation with Officer Guzman, he was not made aware that Officer Almazan was a Chicago Police Officer or that [REDACTED] made allegations

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<sup>10</sup> Att. 56.

against him. Sergeant Gorzkowski said he learned from Officer Guzman that [REDACTED] initially accused Officer Almazan of pulling her hair during separating [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] fight. He said he was not told about Officer Almazan pushing [REDACTED] while on the stairs or that any other physical contact was made by Officer Almazan to [REDACTED]. Further, Sergeant Gorzkowski said he was informed that [REDACTED] recanted her allegation about Officer Almazan pulling her hair and that she only wanted [REDACTED] off of the premises.

Sergeant Gorzkowski stated he is not sure if Officer Guzman made him aware of Officer Almazan's status as a CPD officer at the scene or the station. Sergeant Gorzkowski denied seeing in the PDT message screen or the event queries regarding details about the call that he responded to. Sergeant Gorzkowski stated the call was dispatched as a battery not and not a domestic incident involving an officer.

Sergeant Gorzkowski stated that he admonished the officers for not informing him immediately that Officer Almazan was a police officer and for leaving him and [REDACTED] outside without one of the officers guarding them. In addition, he did not approve of Officer Guzman and Officer Bonsonto tactics or the actions taken at the scene of a battery [REDACTED]. Further, Sergeant Gorzkowski denied the allegations made against him because of the above reasons and because he was not told about any allegations made against Officer Almazan.

#### b. Digital Evidence

The **Body Worn Camera (BWC)**<sup>11</sup> videos for this incident captured the conversations between all the involved parties with Officer Guzman and the allegations made by [REDACTED] against Officer Almazan. The BWC of Sergeant Gorzkowski captured him talking to Officer Almazan where he instructed him not to bring [REDACTED] to the house again to avoid domestic problems. The video also captured Officer Guzman briefly providing Sergeant Gorzkowski with an account of the incident, but it did not capture whether he told Sergeant Gorzkowski about the allegations made by [REDACTED] or that Officer Almazan was a police officer.

#### c. Documentary Evidence

The **Case Report**<sup>12</sup> documented that [REDACTED] was named as a victim of simple battery by [REDACTED] and that [REDACTED] legal [REDACTED] Officer Almazan, was a witness to the incident. [REDACTED] stated that Officer Almazan engaged in some physical contact with her during the incident. Officer Almazan was identified as an off-duty officer and that he was separated from [REDACTED] was identified as Officer Almazan's girlfriend. [REDACTED] accompanied Officer Almazan to the [REDACTED] home to drop off his children and they were confronted by [REDACTED] in the back yard. According to the report, [REDACTED] struck [REDACTED] with an open hand and a fight ensued between the two. Officer Almazan intervened and broke up the fight between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. In the process, Officer Almazan pulled [REDACTED] by the hair to disengage the two combatants. [REDACTED] later recanted her allegation against Officer Almazan and stated she wanted [REDACTED] to leave and not return [REDACTED]. Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] sustained injuries to their faces, but they both refused medical attention. The responding officers were unable to

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<sup>11</sup> Att. 22.

<sup>12</sup>Att. 4.

determined who was the predominant aggressor due to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] accounts and injuries. Both parties were mutual combatants and a cross complaint was not allowed to be filed by [REDACTED]. The officers told [REDACTED] to leave the premises and Officer Almazan was advised to refrain from bringing [REDACTED] to his residence to avoid any more confrontations. Officer Guzman translated the conversations to Officer Bonsonto and Sgt. Gorzkowski.

A **Petition for Order of Protection**<sup>13</sup> filed by [REDACTED] on January 2, 2018, against Officer Almazan for being physically, emotionally and verbally abusive toward [REDACTED]. The petition documented that on January 1, 2018, [REDACTED] accused Officer Almazan of bringing his girlfriend, [REDACTED] to their home and when asked by [REDACTED] to leave the premises, [REDACTED] stated, “fucken whore bitch you have to leave,” then smacked [REDACTED] in the face. [REDACTED] documented that Officer Almazan grabbed her by the arms and threw her to the ground, kneeled on her neck with his knee and held her down by both wrists while [REDACTED] struck her about the face. The petition documented that the four-year-old daughter, [REDACTED] was present during the altercation. The petition documented that Officer Almazan called [REDACTED] “perra,” meaning female dog or “bitch,” as he grabbed and pulled [REDACTED] who held on to the stairwell and called her neighbor [REDACTED]<sup>14</sup> to assist her. The police responded and Officer Almazan told the officers that [REDACTED] attacked [REDACTED] documented in the petition that the officers refused to make a report against Officer Almazan because he was a police officer. The responding officers also told [REDACTED] that she and [REDACTED] would be arrested if they filed complaints on each other. The petition documented additional incidents regarding Officer Almazan talked about taking the children away from [REDACTED] and calling immigration on [REDACTED].

An **Emergency Order of Protection**<sup>15</sup> was obtained and it documented that Officer Almazan was ordered to stay away from [REDACTED] and the children. It further documented that Officer Almazan had reserved visitations and was prohibited from removing the children from Illinois.

The **OEMC 911 calls**<sup>16</sup> and the **Event Queries**<sup>17</sup> documented a call from [REDACTED] who reported that she was visiting a friend when a woman named [REDACTED]<sup>18</sup> slapped and punched her. [REDACTED] refused EMS and was waiting in the back yard for the police. On another 911 call, the caller [REDACTED] reported that [REDACTED] who is a CPD officer<sup>19</sup>, brought his mistress to their house and the mistress bit her on her face. [REDACTED] told 911 that she was bleeding and the [REDACTED] pushed her into the stairs. [REDACTED] asked for EMS while the husband and the mistress were still at the scene, and they refused to leave upon her request.

The **Supervisor’s Management Log**<sup>20</sup> from Sergeant Gorzkowski documented that he responded to the domestic incident involving Officer Almazan and [REDACTED] Sergeant

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<sup>13</sup> Att. 15.

<sup>14</sup> [REDACTED] was identified as the second-floor tenant of [REDACTED] Officer Almazan [REDACTED].

<sup>15</sup> Att. 16.

<sup>16</sup> Att. 33 – 37.

<sup>17</sup> Att. 5 – 7.

<sup>18</sup> [REDACTED] called [REDACTED] at the time of the 911 call as [REDACTED] has been identified as [REDACTED].

<sup>19</sup> The involved officer was identified as Officer Sidronio Almazan #5011.

<sup>20</sup> Att. 57

Gorzkowski documented that he verbally admonished Officers Guzman and Bonsonto for failure to notify a supervisor and reviewed General Order 04-04<sup>21</sup> with each of the officers.

#### d. Additional Evidence

COPA received numerous **emails**<sup>22</sup> from Officer Almazan documenting various incidents with [REDACTED] conversations and screenshots of numerous text messages between them. Officer Almazan provided copies of medical records, case reports, school documents and other paperwork of allegations and incidents against [REDACTED]

### VI. ANALYSIS

COPA finds **Allegation #1** against **Sergeant Gorzkowski** that he failed to conduct a thorough investigation regarding the domestic incident involving Officer Sidronio Almazan and [REDACTED] a violation of Rule 6, be close with a finding of **SUSTAINED**. Officer Guzman stated that although Sergeant Gorzkowski did not speak Spanish, he informed the sergeant of the details regarding the domestic altercation involving Officer Almazan and [REDACTED] Officer Almazan stated that he spoke with Sergeant Gorzkowski about the incident and identified himself as a police officer. [REDACTED] also stated that Officer Almazan and Sergeant Gorzkowski had a conversation while outside in the gangway about the incident. Sergeant Gorzkowski stated that he did not know that the call he responded to involve a police officer and was not made aware of that information, however, the PDT messages and Event Queries documented that information.

Sergeant Gorzkowski denied seeing the PDT messages or the Event Queries regarding information that a CPD police officer was involved in the battery call. Sergeant Gorzkowski could not explain why he did not register a complaint against Officer Almazan after receiving knowledge that he was a police officer. The evidence and witnesses indicated that Sergeant Gorzkowski had knowledge of Officer Almazan's position as a police officer and that allegations were made by [REDACTED] against Officer Almazan. Sergeant Gorzkowski admitted that after he was made aware of the information, he did not obtain a complaint register against Officer Almazan, and that he only spoke with the officers about their lack of proper tactics in handling the Domestic incident. Therefore, COPA finds the allegation be closed Sustained.

COPA recommends that **Allegation #2 against Sergeant Gorzkowski** violated Special Order 04-04(III)(B)(4) and General Order 08-01-02(II)(B)(2), in that he failed to initiate a complaint register number and follow the procedures outlined in the Department Directive entitled "Complaint and Disciplinary Procedures, a violation of Rule 6, be closed with a finding of **SUSTAINED**.

The preponderance of evidence and the accounts of Officer Guzman, Officer Almazan and Officer Bonsonton indicated that whether at the scene or at the station, Sergeant Gorzkowski learned that Officer Almazan was a CPD officer and allegations were made against him by [REDACTED] Event queries and PDT messages documented the fact that the incident involved an officer. Sergeant Gorzkowski also learned of the details from the case report, which he approved.

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<sup>21</sup> General Order regarding Department Members responsibilities when responding to Domestic Violence Incidents.

<sup>22</sup> Atts. 59 – 62.

Therefore, COPA finds that Sergeant Gorzkowski failed to initiate a complaint registered number and follow the procedures outlined in the Department Directives above.

COPA finds **Allegation #1** that **Officer Almazan** engaged in an unjustified verbal altercation with [REDACTED] a violation of Rule 9, be closed with a finding of **SUSTAINED**. Officer Almazan brought [REDACTED] over to the [REDACTED] home that he and [REDACTED] reside in. His actions caused a verbal and physical altercation between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to which their live-in babysitter [REDACTED] was present for. Officer Almazan admitted that he did engage in a verbal altercation with [REDACTED] that escalated into physical contact between them, and between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Additionally, police responded to the scene to control the situation. The incident could have been avoided if he Officer Almazan did not bring [REDACTED] to the shared [REDACTED]

COPA finds **Allegation #2** against **Officer Almazan** that he grabbed [REDACTED] by the arm and threw her to the ground, a violation of Rule 8, be closed with a finding of **NOT SUSTAINED**. [REDACTED] stated that Officer Almazan committed this act, but there are no witnesses or evidence to support her account. Officer Almazan denied the allegation and his account was supported by [REDACTED]. Officer Almazan admitted that he grabbed [REDACTED] to pull her up as she was on the ground fighting [REDACTED] and that he only grabbed [REDACTED] to pull her away from [REDACTED]

COPA finds **Allegation #3** against **Officer Almazan** that he held [REDACTED] down by placing his knee on her neck, a violation of Rule 8, be closed with a finding of **NOT SUSTAINED**. There is insufficient objective verifiable evidence, witnesses or facts to support this allegation. Officer Guzman said he understood [REDACTED] telling him that Officer Almazan dragged and pulled her hair when she was on the ground as the same event. Officer Almazan stated he grabbed [REDACTED] by the hair to separate her and [REDACTED] as they were fighting on the ground. [REDACTED] stated she and [REDACTED] fell to the ground when they started fighting. There is no other objective verifiable evidence to support the allegation.

COPA finds **Allegation #4** against **Officer Almazan** that he refused to allow [REDACTED] to obtain and receive medical attention, a violation of rule 6, with a finding of **NOT SUSTAINED**. There is no evidence, witnesses or facts to support the allegation. Officer Guzman could not recall hearing Officer Almazan make the statement to [REDACTED]. Officer Almazan denied the allegation and his account was supported by [REDACTED]

COPA finds **Allegation #1** against **Officer Guzman** that he failed to report police misconduct involving Officer Almazan to Sergeant Gorzkowski after being made aware that Officer Almazan battered [REDACTED] a violation of Rule 6, be closed with a finding of **NOT SUSTAINED**. Officer Guzman stated that he did inform Sergeant Gorzkowski while at the scene, while at the station and after completing the Department reports about informing him that Officer Almazan was a CPD officer and the allegations made against him by [REDACTED]. Further, the PDT messages and the Event query remarks all documented that the incident involved a police officer. In addition, Officer Bonsonto stated that Sergeant Gorzkowski had knowledge of the information because he reprimanded him and Officer Guzman for not taking the proper steps [REDACTED]

## VII. RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE FOR SUSTAINED ALLEGATIONS

**a. Sergeant Timothy Gorzkowski****i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History**

Sergeant Timothy Gorzkowski complimentary history consists of the following: (1) 2004 Crime Reduction Award, (1) 2009 Crime Reduction Award, (1) 2019 Crime Reduction Award, (1) Annual Bureau Award of Recognition, (4) Attendance Recognition Award, (2) Complimentary Letter, (11) Department Commendation, (6) Emblem of Recognition-Physical Fitness, (144) Honorable Mention, (1) Honorable Mention Ribbon, (3) Joint Operations Award, (1) Life Saving Award, (1) NATO Summit Service Award, (1) Other Awards, (1) Presidential Election Deployment Award, 2008, (2) Problem Solving Award, (1) Recognition/Outside Governmental Agency Award, (2) Special Commendation, (2) Unit Meritorious Performance Award. (186) Total Awards.

No SPAR history or other additional complaints as September 9, 2021.

**ii. Recommended Penalty**

Copa recommends a penalty of Violation Noted for allegations 1 and 2.

**b. Officer Sidrino Almazan****i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History**

Sergeant Timothy complimentary history consists of the following: (1) 2004 Crime Reduction Award, (1) 2009 Crime Reduction Award, (1) 2019 Crime Reduction Award, (1) Annual Bureau Award of Recognition, (4) Attendance Recognition Award, (2) Complimentary Letter, (11) Department Commendation, (6) Emblem of Recognition-Physical Fitness, (144) Honorable Mention, (1) Honorable Mention Ribbon, (3) Joint Operations Award, (1) Life Saving Award, (1) NATO Summit Service Award, (1) Other Awards, (1) Presidential Election Deployment Award, 2008, (2) Problem Solving Award, (1) Recognition/Outside Governmental Agency Award, (2) Special Commendation, (2) Unit Meritorious Performance Award. (186) Total Awards.

No SPAR history or other additional complaints as September 9, 2021.

**ii. Recommended Penalty**

COPA recommends a Reprimand for allegation 1 engaging in a verbal altercation.

**VIII. CONCLUSION**

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

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Sergeant Timothy Gorzkowski	<p>It is alleged that on or about January 1, 2018, at approximately 5:56 pm, on or about [REDACTED] S. [REDACTED] Sgt. Gorzkowski committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions, by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Failing to conduct a thorough investigation regarding the Domestic incident involving Officer Sidronio Almazan and [REDACTED]</li> <li>2. Violating Special Order 04-04(III)(B)(4) and General Order 08-01-02(II)(B)(2), in that he failed to initiate a complaint register number and follow the procedures outlined in the Department Directives entitled "Complaint and Disciplinary Procedures."</li> </ol>	<p>Sustained</p> <p>Sustained</p>
Officer Sidronio Almazan Jr.	<p>It is alleged that on or about January 1, 2018, at approximately 5:40 pm, on or about [REDACTED] S. [REDACTED] Officer Almazan committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions, by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engaging in an unjustified verbal altercation with [REDACTED]</li> <li>2. Grabbing [REDACTED] by the arm and threw her to the ground.</li> <li>3. Held [REDACTED] down by placing his knee on her neck.</li> <li>4. Refused to allow [REDACTED] to obtain and receive medical attention.</li> </ol>	<p>Sustained</p> <p>Not Sustained</p> <p>Not Sustained</p> <p>Not Sustained</p>
Officer Danny Guzman	<p>It is alleged that on or about January 1, 2018, at approximately 5:50 pm, on or about [REDACTED] S. [REDACTED] Officer Guzman committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions, by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Failing to report police misconduct involving Officer Almazan to Sergeant Gorzkowski after being made aware that Officer Almazan battered [REDACTED]</li> </ol>	<p>Not Sustained</p>

Approved:



10-7-2021

Angela Hearts-Glass  
*Deputy Chief Investigator*

Date

**Appendix A**

Assigned Investigative Staff

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<b>Squad#:</b>	11
<b>Investigator:</b>	Maira Webb
<b>Supervising Investigator:</b>	Valiza Nash
<b>Deputy Chief Administrator:</b>	Angela Hearts-Glass
<b>Attorney:</b>	