

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	April 8, 2019 at 9:00PM
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	April 9, 2019 at 3:03PM
Involved Officer #1:	Marvin [REDACTED] Star 9663, Employee Number [REDACTED], DOA: May 10, 1999, Police Officer, Unit 121, DOB: [REDACTED], 1973, Male, Black
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED], 2005, Male, Black
Case Type:	Domestic Related

I. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer Randolph	1. It is alleged that on April 8, 2019, at approximately 9:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED], the accused pulled/threw the victim, [REDACTED] to the floor in violation of Rule 9.	Sustained / 30-Day Suspension
	2. It is alleged that on April 8, 2019, at approximately 9:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED], the accused struck the victim, [REDACTED] about the face with an open hand in violation of Rule 9.	Sustained / 30-Day Suspension
	3. It is alleged that on April 8, 2019, at approximately 9:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED], the accused struck the victim, [REDACTED] about the face with his fist in violation of Rule 9.	Sustained / 30-Day Suspension
	4. It is alleged that on April 8, 2019, at approximately 9:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED], the accused engaged in a physical altercation with [REDACTED] causing him to strike his head in violation of Rule 9.	Sustained / 30-Day Suspension

	5. It is alleged that on April 8, 2019, at approximately 9:00 p.m., at the location of [REDACTED], the accused directed profanities at [REDACTED] in violation of Rules 8 & 9.	Not Sustained
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II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE¹

On April 9, 2019, Chicago Police Department (CPD) Detectives responded to a Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) report of child abuse at [REDACTED]. Prior to their arrival, a school counselor observed visible injuries to [REDACTED] (a 13-year-old student. [REDACTED] reported that the previous night while arguing with his father, Officer Marvin Randolph (Officer Randolph), about the contents in his cell phone Officer Randolph struck him several times about the face and head and threw him onto the floor. These allegations were documented in Case Incident Report² and in an Initiation Report.³

[REDACTED]⁴ school counselor at [REDACTED], related to CPD Detectives, DCFS employees, and later to COPA investigators that on April 9, 2019 [REDACTED] came to school with marks and bruises on his right cheek, a cut on his nose with dried blood, and a broken blood vessel in his left eye. When asked about his injuries, [REDACTED] reported that he and Officer Randolph were involved in a verbal altercation the previous night regarding his cell phone. The altercation turned physical and Officer Randolph threw him to the floor and hit him on the face with both an open-hand and closed-hand strikes. [REDACTED] further reported that his jaw was sore and difficult to open. [REDACTED] described [REDACTED] as tearful and sad during her conversations with him. Additionally, [REDACTED] submitted photographs⁵ to COPA of [REDACTED] taken on April 9, 2019, depicting what appears to be redness/blood in his left eye and abrasions to the right side of his face.

According to the Detective Supplemental Report,⁶ [REDACTED] told CPD Detectives that Officer Randolph became angry when [REDACTED] would not unlock his cellphone to allow Officer Randolph access to certain applications. Nevertheless, Officer Randolph did observe a video of [REDACTED] using profanity. [REDACTED] and Officer Randolph then began to argue and directed profanity toward each other. During this time, [REDACTED] was lying on his bed under a blanket when Officer Randolph grabbed the blanket and attempted to pull [REDACTED] from of the bed. The two then struggled to gain control of the blanket and [REDACTED] hit his head on the bed post and fell to the floor. Officer Randolph then struck [REDACTED] several times about the face with an open hand strikes and also punched [REDACTED] once. [REDACTED] was unsure if Officer Randolph punched him intentionally. [REDACTED] reported that while he was trying to get away from Officer Randolph, he scraped his head against the base of the wall, which is how he sustained the scratches on his nose and cheek. [REDACTED] believed his other injuries were from the physical altercation.

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. 8,15

³ Att. 1

⁴ Att. 4, 15

⁵ Att. 6

⁶ Att. 15

In a statement with CPD Detectives, ██████████ (██████████⁷ ██████████ 9-year-old brother, related that he was initially in ██████████ bedroom when his Officer Randolph entered. ██████████ and Officer Randolph began swearing at each other and arguing about ██████████ cell phone. A physical altercation followed, and he saw ██████████ face scrape the wall. Soon thereafter, ██████████ left the room and went to his own bedroom. From his bedroom, ██████████ could hear Officer Randolph and ██████████ continue to argue.

On April 11, 2019, ██████████ (██████████⁸ ██████████ mother, met with CPD Detectives and provided her account of the incident. She told the detectives that on the date of the incident she and ██████████ had a verbal disagreement, in which ██████████ became extremely disrespectful, belligerent, and used profanity. Hours later when Officer Randolph came home, Officer Randolph went to ██████████ room to talk with ██████████ about his earlier behavior. At the time, ██████████ was in the basement and could hear the two of them yelling at each other. She further heard a commotion, as if things were being knocked over. When ██████████ went to ██████████ room she observed a garbage can knocked over and ██████████ was sitting on the bed with a bloody nose. Officer Randolph and ██████████ were talking calmly, and Officer Randolph gave ██████████ a tissue for his nose. ██████████ did not ask what happened to ██████████ nose, because ██████████ is susceptible to nose bleeds when he gets upset. When asked if she ever disciplines the children physically, ██████████ related that Officer Randolph usually handles the discipline. Finally, ██████████ related that she did not observe any additional injuries to ██████████ and that she took ██████████ to Advocate Christ Hospital as instructed by DCFS.

In an interview with CPD Detectives on April 11, 2019, Officer Randolph⁹ related that after learning that ██████████ became disrespectful with his wife earlier that day, he decided to have a talk with ██████████. He also wanted to see ██████████ cell phone, because he had been previously contacted by the school and informed that some students were downloading and disseminating inappropriate images via their cell phones. On ██████████ cell phone, Officer Randolph observed a video of ██████████ using profanity. Next, Officer Randolph and ██████████ began to argue. At this time, ██████████ was sitting on the bed facing Officer Randolph, who was sitting on a chair. At some point, ██████████ stood up from the bed and lunged at Officer Randolph. Officer Randolph jumped up from the chair, knocking over the garbage can. He then grabbed ██████████ by both arms and pushed him back on the bed. Officer Randolph stated that when he pushed ██████████ back onto the bed it was possible that he contacted ██████████ face, but it was not intentional. He also added that ██████████ could have sustained his injuries from contact with the bed frame. Finally, Officer Randolph denied ever punching and striking ██████████ in the past, adding that that he normally takes away ██████████ electronic devices as a form of punishment.

In a statement to COPA on June 24, 2020, Officer Randolph¹⁰ related essentially the same information that he previously told CPD Detectives. Officer Randolph stated that when he entered ██████████ bedroom, ██████████ was fully clothed sitting with his back to the wall. Officer Randolph did not recall if ██████████ was wearing his glasses when he first entered the room and could not recall if he was wearing his glasses when he went to school the following morning. Officer

⁷ Att. 15

⁸ Att. 15

⁹ Att. 15

¹⁰ Att. 13

Randolph pulled a chair closer to [REDACTED] bed and sat down. Officer Randolph then asked [REDACTED] for his phone. [REDACTED] was initially hesitant and cursed at him, but he eventually complied with the request. Following what of Officer Randolph characterized as an inappropriate comment, Officer Randolph cursed at [REDACTED] stating something to the effect of, "What the hell is going on?" Officer Randolph instructed [REDACTED] to unlock the phone. As Officer Randolph looked through the phone, he realized that he did not have complete access to view all of the contents on [REDACTED] phone.¹¹ At some point, [REDACTED] stood up and lunged at Officer Randolph. Officer Randolph related that they were in close proximity of each other, and that he believed [REDACTED] struck his head on the wooden bedpost or ladder as he lunged towards Officer Randolph. [REDACTED] lunge shocked Officer Randolph, catching him off guard. Officer Randolph then stood up from the chair he was sitting in, threw his arms around [REDACTED] shoulders (in a manner similar to a bear hug), and pushed [REDACTED] back onto the bed. Both Officer Randolph and [REDACTED] fell onto the mattress of the lower bunk bed. Officer [REDACTED] related that he kept [REDACTED] in a bear hug until [REDACTED] calmed down, as suggested by [REDACTED] therapist. Officer Randolph suggested that [REDACTED] could have possibly stuck his head on the bed post when the two of them fell back onto the bed. He recalled seeing [REDACTED] strike his head during the incident but did not know if it was when [REDACTED] lunged at him or when they fell back onto the bed. After [REDACTED] calmed down, Officer Randolph noticed that [REDACTED] nose was bleeding. [REDACTED] went to the bathroom, cleaned up, and returned to his bedroom. When [REDACTED] returned to the room, he was calmer, and they continued the conversation without incident. Officer [REDACTED] explained that both of his sons are prone to nosebleeds due to iron deficiency and often experience nosebleeds when they are excited.

After the incident, [REDACTED] ate dinner, went to bed, and did not complain of any injuries. Officer Randolph was unaware that [REDACTED] had sustained bleeding to his eye until he was notified by a DCFS social worker the next day. Officer Randolph stated that He drove [REDACTED] to school that morning and did not notice the injuries.

Officer Randolph explained he was at [REDACTED] school earlier that day due to [REDACTED] disruptive behavior and the school was threatening to suspend/expel [REDACTED]. Officer Randolph added that [REDACTED] has been in counseling since 2017 following the death of his grandmother and that [REDACTED] suffers from depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Officer Randolph stated that [REDACTED] has been kicked out of several schools and was at the time, near expulsion at his current school. Officer Randolph stated that when [REDACTED] misbehaves, his personal belongings, such as his cell phone and video games, are taken away. He added that both he and his wife are responsible for disciplining [REDACTED] and they do not administer physical discipline.

Officer Randolph stated that the DCFS notified him that he was indicated for child abuse but never provided the family with any resources or recommendations to follow. Officer Randolph added that he is currently appealing the decision. Lastly, Officer Randolph stated [REDACTED] apologized to him some time after the incident.

¹¹ Officer Randolph later found out that [REDACTED] had switched had taken the SIM card out of the phone and switched it to another, denying Officer Randolph the opportunity to look at the contents of his phone.

Officer Randolph and Mrs. ██████ declined to give COPA permission to interview their children and further declined to give COPA consent to access DCFS records.¹²

The allegations of physical abuse, logged under ██████, were investigated, and “Indicated” by DCFS.

No criminal charges were filed against Officer Randolph due to the detective’s determination that there was “no criminal intent to support the allegation.”¹³

According to Medical Records¹⁴ obtained from Advocate Christ Hospital, on April 4, 2019, ██████ was treated by emergency room personnel. ██████ complained of a head injury and reported that his father pulled him in the covers off his bed causing him to strike the right side of his head on the bedpost. ██████ also reported that his father then struck him on the face several times until ██████ nose began to bleed. A physical examination of ██████ revealed bruising under ██████ right eye with a superficial abrasion on the right side of the nose and broken blood vessel in his left eye.

III. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

COPA finds **Allegations 1 – 4**, that Officer Marvin Randolph pulled/threw ██████ to the floor, struck him about he face with an open hand, struck him about the face with his fist, and engaged in a physical altercation causing ██████ to strike his head, are **Sustained**. ██████ gave consistent accounts of the incident to ██████ Detectives, and medical personnel, reporting that after an argument regarding his cell phone, he fell to the floor after his father grabbed a blanket and attempted to remove him from the bed, was slapped and punched, and struck his head on a bed post and wall during the physical altercation. These statements were corroborated by his injuries which were photographed and documented by hospital staff. Additionally, ██████ described ██████ demeanor during their conversation as sad and tearful. Furthermore, ██████ corroborated ██████ account, reporting a physical altercation between his father and ██████ during which ██████ head scraped the wall. Though ██████ did not observe the entire altercation, he alleged that he was able to hear the fight continue after leaving the room. Furthermore, DCFS “Indicated” the allegations of child abuse against Officer Randolph. Officer Randolph denies the allegations and denies ██████ presence during the incident. Based on the preponderance of the evidence obtained, COPA finds that it is more likely than not that this incident occurred as alleged. Therefore, the allegations are Sustained.

COPA finds **Allegation 5**, that Officer Marvin Randolph directed profanities at ██████ is **Not Sustained**. The reports from the assigned detectives did not specify what profanities were directed at ██████ and COPA was unable to interview ██████ to obtain further information. While Officer Randolph admitted cursing at ██████ he explained that he may have stated words to the effect of, “What the hell is going on?” Without further specificity regarding the alleged profanity, there is insufficient evidence to determine the allegation occurred as alleged. Therefore, this allegation is **Not Sustained**.

¹² See case notes.

¹³ Att. 15 at 14.

¹⁴ Att. 7

IV. RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE FOR SUSTAINED ALLEGATIONS

a. Officer Marvin Randolph

i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History

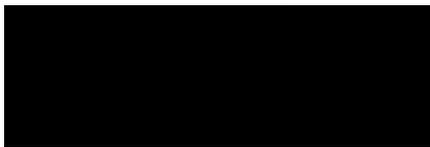
- 1. Complimentary:** 3 Crime Reduction Awards (2004, 2009, 2019), 1 Annual Bureau Award of Recognition, 4 Attendance Recognition Awards, 4 Complimentary Letters, 8 Department Commendations 112 Honorable Mentions, 1 Joint Operations Award, 1 Life Saving Award, 1 NATO Summit Service Award, 1 2008 Presidential Election Deployment Award, 1 Problem Solving Award, 1 Recognition/Outside Governmental Agency Award, 2 Unit Meritorious Performance Awards
- 2. Disciplinary:** None

ii. Recommended Penalty, by Allegation

- 1. Allegation No. 1:** 30-day Suspension & Parenting Classes
- 2. Allegation No. 2:** 30-day Suspension & Parenting Classes
- 3. Allegation No. 3:** 30-day Suspension & Parenting Classes
- 4. Allegation No. 4:** 30-day Suspension & Parenting Classes

Physical abuse of a child is serious misconduct and unbecoming of a Chicago Police Officer. Officer Randolph did not take accountability for his actions. Based on his statements to COPA, there is a history of tension within the home with respect to [REDACTED] Therefore, COPA recommends a suspension and parenting classes, which COPA believes Officer Randolph could benefit from.

Approved:



2/24/2021

Matthew Haynam
Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

Date

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad#:	9
Investigator:	Shykela Carter
Supervising Investigator:	Sharday Jackson
Deputy Chief Administrator:	Matthew Haynam