

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION¹

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	January 16, 2020 / 3:53 p.m. / [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	April 21, 2021 / 12:35 p.m.
Involved Officer #1	Officer Jason Bala; Star #9112; Employee ID# [REDACTED]; Date of Appointment: October 28, 2002; Rank: Police Officer; Unit of Assignment: 189; Unit of Detail:193; DOB: [REDACTED], 1978; Gender: Male; Race: White
Involved Officer #2:	Officer Angel Collazo; Star #4679; Employee ID# [REDACTED]; Date of Appointment: July 28, 2008; Rank: Police Officer; Unit of Assignment: 189; Unit of Detail: 193; DOB: [REDACTED], 1983; Gender: Male; Race: Hispanic
Involved Officer #3:	Sergeant Eduardo Escalante; Star #2295; Employee ID#[REDACTED]; Date of Appointment: September 11, 2000; Rank: Sergeant; Unit of Assignment: 020; DOB: [REDACTED] [REDACTED], 1978; Gender: Male; Race: Hispanic
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED], 1984; Gender: Male; Race: Black
Case Type:	Fourth Amendment

I. ALLEGATIONS²

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer Jason Bala	It is alleged by the complainant, [REDACTED] that on or about January 16, 2020, at approximately 3:53 pm, at or [REDACTED] [REDACTED], the accused committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions: 1. Detained [REDACTED] without justification;	Exonerated

¹ COPA investigated this complaint. As part of COPA’s ongoing efforts to increase case closure capacity, certain cases, such as this one, are summarized more succinctly in a Modified Summary Report of Investigation.

² Formal allegations were not served on any involved officers.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Arrested [REDACTED] without justification; 3. Entered the residence at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] without justification; and 4. Searched the residence at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] without justification 	<p>Exonerated Exonerated</p> <p>Exonerated</p>
<p>Officer Angel Collazo</p>	<p>It is alleged by the complainant, [REDACTED] that on or about January 16, 2020, at approximately 3:53 pm, at or [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Chicago, IL, the accused committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Detained [REDACTED] without justification; 2. Arrested [REDACTED] without justification; 3. Entered the residence at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] without justification; and 4. Searched the residence at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] without justification 	<p>Exonerated Exonerated Exonerated</p> <p>Exonerated</p>
<p>Sergeant Eduardo Escalante</p>	<p>It is alleged by the complainant, [REDACTED] that on or about January 16, 2020, at approximately 3:53 pm, at or [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Chicago, IL, the accused committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Detained [REDACTED] without justification; 2. Arrested [REDACTED] without justification; 3. Entered the residence at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] without justification; and 4. Searched the residence at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] without justification 	<p>Exonerated Exonerated</p> <p>Exonerated</p> <p>Exonerated</p>

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE³

On April 21, 2021, COPA received a complaint on behalf of the Complainant, [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] via the Bureau of Internal Affairs (“BIA”)⁴. [REDACTED] alleges that Chicago Police Officers Jason Bala (“Officer Bala”), Angel Collazo (“Officer Collazo”) and Eduardo Escalante (“Sergeant Escalante”) detained and arrested [REDACTED] without justification. It is further alleged that the involved officers entered and searched the residence at [REDACTED] without justification.

On January 16, 2020, at or around 3:53 pm, CPD officers, members of the 6731 team Area North Gang Enforcement, executed search warrant # [REDACTED] at [REDACTED].⁵ CPD officers initially set up mobile surveillance in the area of Augusta/Massasoit where they observed [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] the complainant herein and target of the warrant, traveling westbound on Augusta and southbound on Menard in a 2002 Bronze Buick. Surveillance officers observed [REDACTED] pulled his vehicle to the curb at [REDACTED]. These officers then heard [REDACTED] yelling, “what’s up baby girl...you need some rocks,” to an unidentified black female at the location.⁶ This street term “rocks” is commonly used in the solicitation of the sale of crack and/or cocaine.⁷ Surveillance officers then alerted enforcement officers who approached [REDACTED] and placed him into custody before transporting him to Area North for processing.

Additionally, at Area North, Sergeant Escalante provided [REDACTED] with the search warrant and advised [REDACTED] of his Miranda rights before relocating him to the targeted address in the search warrant. CPD officers then arrived at [REDACTED] where they conducted a systematic search of the residence. During this search, Officer Collazo found and recovered a firearm and loaded ammunition in a bedroom closet of the apartment. Officers also conducted a custodial search of [REDACTED] person and recovered apartment keys along with (17) zip lock baggies of a white chunky rock like substance that was suspected of crack/cocaine.⁸

Finally, the relevant search warrant documentation⁹ indicates that Officer Collazo recovered (1) loaded 9mm Taurus semiautomatic handgun, (2) 9mm magazine, 4 grams of suspected crack cocaine estimated to be \$400, and \$1232 in United States currency from the targeted person ([REDACTED] and residence at [REDACTED]. A name search of the complainant was conducted on LEADS¹⁰ which revealed that [REDACTED] listed address is [REDACTED]

III. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

COPA recommends a finding of **EXONERATED** for **Allegations #1- 4** against both Officers Bala and Collazo and Sergeant Escalante. [REDACTED] alleged that he was detained and arrested without justification. According to Department reports, there was evidence that the officers had reasonable

³ This section contains a summary of the material evidence gather during the investigation.

⁴ Further investigation revealed that Sergeant Keisha Frieson, Star# 2362, received the BIA complaint from Mr. [REDACTED] but was not involved in the alleged incident.

⁵ See Attachment 5

⁶ Page 12 of Attachment 5.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Page 12 of Att. 5.

⁹ *Id* at pg. 1.

¹⁰ *Id* at pg. 33.

suspicion to form the basis to stop and detain [REDACTED] because a surveillance team observed him in the solicitation of the sale of crack and/or cocaine with an unidentified black female at [REDACTED]. Furthermore, at the time [REDACTED] was detained and searched a valid search warrant was in effect permitting the search on [REDACTED]. Thus, COPA finds the detained and subsequent search of [REDACTED] was with justification.

Additionally, [REDACTED] alleged that the officers entered and searched the residence at [REDACTED] without justification. According to Department reports, the officers were lawfully present at [REDACTED] and had a reasonable basis to search the residence pursuant to a valid search warrant. Here, the search warrant listed [REDACTED] and his residence at [REDACTED] as the targeted person and address in search of items that constitute evidence of possession of a controlled substance.¹¹ The items in the valid search warrant were corroborated by Officer Jason Bala (“Officer Bala”) and John Doe and was subsequently signed and issued by Judge [REDACTED] on January 16, 2020. Furthermore, [REDACTED] waived his Miranda rights and informed officers that his grandmother and sister were inside his apartment, and that he also had a pole (“pistol”) inside a yellow envelope in his bedroom closet.¹² The volunteered statements made by [REDACTED] along with apartment keys, suspected crack/cocaine, firearm, and ammunition recovered from his person and residence further corroborated the warrant. Thus, COPA finds that CPD officer were permitted search the residence at [REDACTED] Apt #2.

For these reasons, COPA finds that **Allegations #1-4** is **EXONERATED**.

Approved:

[REDACTED]

12/21/2021

Matthew Haynam
Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

Date

¹¹ *Id* at pg. 3.

¹² *Id* at pg. 17.