

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	March 22, 2019 / 12:30 pm / 7651 S. Homan Ave., Chicago, IL 60652 (Sarah Goode STEM Academy).
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	March 25, 2019 / 5:16 pm.
Involved Officer #1:	Officer Bhakti Dasi, Star#7809 / Employee ID# [REDACTED] / DOA: April 28, 2008 / Unit: 022 / Female / Black.
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] / Female / Black. ²
Case Type:	05A – Excessive Force.

I. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Officer Bhakti Dasi	1. Grabbing [REDACTED] without justification.	Not Sustained.
	2. Using an emergency take-down on Ms. [REDACTED] without justification.	Not Sustained.

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE³

Ms. [REDACTED] attempted to enter a restricted access door on the campus of Goode STEM Academy. As she was attempting to enter the door, Officer Bhakti Dasi⁴ and [REDACTED] informed [REDACTED] that she was not permitted to enter the door and needed to take an alternate path. [REDACTED] did not comply with the instructions and attempted to enter the door. Officer Dasi again informed [REDACTED] she was not permitted to enter the door and needed to take an alternate path. [REDACTED] did not comply and instead forcefully opened the door and entered.

Once [REDACTED] entered the door, it is unclear in what order the events unfolded. According to [REDACTED] an unprovoked Officer Dasi approached her, grabbed her by the hair and arm, and threw her to the ground. Once on the ground [REDACTED] threatened to spit on [REDACTED] and was ultimately arrested. According to Officer Dasi, [REDACTED] walked towards her while directing profanities at her.

¹ [REDACTED] a juvenile, was accompanied by her father, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who also signed the Affidavit.

² [REDACTED] first name is spelled several different ways on the various records collected. However, COPA determined that each record was referring to [REDACTED]

³ 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. As part of COPA’s ongoing efforts to increase case closure capacity, certain cases opened under IPRA are summarized more succinctly in a Modified Summary Report of Investigation.

⁴ Officer Dasi was working in an off-duty capacity as a Chicago Public Schools Security Guard. Because this incident occurred during secondary employment, Officer Dasi was not outfitted with a body-worn camera.

⁵ [REDACTED] did not respond to COPA’s requests and subpoena for a statement. In addition, COPA subpoenaed CPS for any relevant surveillance footage, however CPS did not produce any video (see Att. 20).

Officer Dasi responded by grabbing ██████ informed Officer Dasi she was pulling her hair, Officer Dasi released ██████ and grabbed her backpack. ██████ threatened to spit on Officer Dasi and Officer Dasi used a takedown to gain control of ██████ and prevent any spitting. ██████ was secured in handcuffs and processed for an assault against Officer Dasi.

III. 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 occurred and violated 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 misconduct occurred, 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 "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.

IV. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

COPA finds that both allegations against Officer Dasi are **not sustained**. While it is undisputed that Officer Dasi grabbed ██████ and used an emergency takedown; the order of events is in dispute limiting COPA's ability to assess the reasonableness of Office Dasi's actions. Due to the lack of evidence other than the parties' statements, COPA is unable to determine whether the incident occurred ██████ alleged.

Approved:



Angela Hearts-Glass
Deputy Chief Investigator

10-26-2021

Date

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad#:	8
Investigator:	Garrett Schaaf
Supervising Investigator:	Jessica Ciacco
Deputy Chief Administrator:	Angela Hearts-Glass