

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION¹

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	07/07/2020 11:07 AM 7700 S Morgan St.
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	07/07/2020 3:35 PM
Involved Officer #1:	Cesar Astorga, star# 14757, employee ID# [REDACTED], DOA: February 2, 2015, PO, Unit of Assignment: 716, DOB: [REDACTED], 1993, Male, Hispanic
Involved Officer #2:	Michael Conroy, star# 11332, employee ID# [REDACTED], DOA: December 14, 2012, PO, Unit of Assignment: 716, DOB: [REDACTED], 1985, Male, White
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED], [REDACTED], 1996, Male, Black
Case Type:	False Arrest, Vehicle collision

I. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer Astorga	It is alleged that on or about July 7, 2020, at or after approximately 11:07pm, at 7700 S Morgan St, Officer Cesar Astorga # 14757, committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions:	
	1. Falsely arrested the complainant.	Exonerated
	2. Failed to properly document a motor vehicle crash involving a department vehicle.	Exonerated
Officer Conroy	It is alleged that on or about July 7, 2020, at or after approximately 11:07pm, at 7700 S Morgan St, Officer Michael Conroy#11332, committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions:	

¹ On September 15, 2017, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) replaced the Independent Police Review Authority (IPRA) as the civilian oversight agency of the Chicago Police Department. Therefore, this investigation, which began under IPRA, was transferred to COPA on September 15, 2017, and the recommendation(s) set forth herein are the recommendation(s) of COPA.

1. Falsely arrested the complainant.	Exonerated
2. Failed to properly document a motor vehicle crash involving a department vehicle.	Exonerated

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE²

COPA received a complaint from Mr. [REDACTED] on July 7, 2020. According to [REDACTED], he was pulled over by police in the area of 7700 S Morgan St. During this traffic investigation, [REDACTED] was unable to produce a driver’s license when requested by the police officers. [REDACTED] stated that he was then detained with handcuffs and placed in the back of the patrol vehicle while officers attempted to identify him. Officers have issues with receiving accurate information on [REDACTED] and decide to release him with a warning about his license. Shortly after releasing [REDACTED], he observes the patrol vehicle strike the rear bumper of his vehicle with the passenger door that was left open on the officers’ patrol vehicle. [REDACTED] requests the officers provide him with an accident report for damage done to his vehicle, but when officers return, they advise him that he was under arrest for driving without a license. [REDACTED] stated that he never received an accident report for this incident and believes that he was arrested by officers in retaliation for wanting the collision documented.

COPA conducted interviews of the accused officers involved (Astorga and Conroy). Speaking with Astorga, he stated that he and Conroy conducted a traffic stop on [REDACTED] for weaving between lanes and failing to stop at a stop sign. During the stop, [REDACTED] advised Astorga that he did not have his license with him, so he was detained while they attempted to identify [REDACTED]. Astorga, stated that they were unable to identify him in their systems and decided to exercise officer discretion by releasing [REDACTED] with a warning. Astorga then began to drive away after releasing [REDACTED], but he struck the rear bumper of [REDACTED] vehicle with an open passenger door of the patrol vehicle. Astorga stated that as they stopped to speak with [REDACTED] again, they received a LEADS alert showing [REDACTED] driver’s license was revoked out of Alabama.³ After receiving this alert, Astorga advised [REDACTED] that he was under arrest for driving on a revoked license. [REDACTED] was then transported to the 6th district for processing. Conroy’s interview did not yield pertinent information due to a lack of recollection. COPA provided him with the arrest report from this incident, but without any video or audio, Conroy was unable to recall most of the incident. Conroy would only refer to what was documented on the arrest report.

COPA was unable to obtain body-worn camera footage or in-car camera footage due to both officers not having them assigned at the time of this incident. COPA obtained the crash report

²COPA 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, pursuant to COPA Guideline Modified Summary Report of Investigation Template and Approvals, effective February 13, 2019.

³ Att. 16

detailing the collision that occurred.⁴ COPA was also able to obtain the OEMC plate search that confirms that [REDACTED] driver’s license was revoked.⁵

III. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

For **Allegation 1** and **Allegation 2**, COPA finds **Officer Astorga** and **Officer Conroy Exonerated.**

Considering the above, there is not enough evidence to fully substantiate [REDACTED] allegations. [REDACTED] alleges that he was falsely arrested because it occurred following the collision of their vehicles and it was a form of retaliation by Astorga and Conroy. [REDACTED] also alleged that Astorga and Conroy did not properly document the collision of their vehicles because they were trying to cover it up through his arrest.

COPA was able to confirm that Astorga and Conroy did document the collision that occurred involving their patrol vehicle. According to Astorga, this was reported to their supervisor after the processing of [REDACTED]. Astorga also stated that [REDACTED] never requested an accident report, so he was not advised of the report number while in custody.

COPA was also able to confirm that the arrest of [REDACTED] was lawful based on the OEMC plate search information Astorga and Conroy received during their investigation. Astorga stated that they tried to exercise discretion and release [REDACTED], but the collision incidentally allowed them time to receive the OEMC alert for [REDACTED]’s revoked license status.

Approved:

[REDACTED]

Angela Hearts-Glass
Deputy Chief Investigator

10-26-2021

Date

⁴ Att. 6
⁵ Att. 16

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad#:	16
Investigator:	Kyle Caldwell
Supervising Investigator:	Deborah Talbert
Deputy Chief Administrator:	Angela Hearts-Glass