

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	September 21, 2020/ 06:04PM / 11839 S. State Street
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	September 30, 2020 / 03:30PM
Involved Officer #1:	GORDILS, Joel; Star #8451; Employee ID# [REDACTED]; Date of Appointment: August 29, 2016; Police Officer; Unit of Assignment: 005; Gender: Male; Race: White.
Involved Officer #2:	SMITH, Anatheia; Star# 19338; Employee ID# [REDACTED]; Date of Appointment: November 24, 2014; Police Officer; Unit of Assignment: 005; Gender: Female; Race: White.
Involved Officer #3:	CAVANAUGH, Ronald; Star# 3274; Employee ID# [REDACTED]; Date of Appointment: March 18, 1996; Police Officer; Unit of Assignment: 005; Gender: Male; Race: White.
Involved Officer #4:	HEYWOOD, Kevin; Star# 19195; Employee ID# [REDACTED]; Date of Appointment: May 16, 2018; Police Officer; Unit of Assignment: 005; Gender: Male; Race: White.
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED], 1985; Gender: Male; Race: Black.
Case Type:	Civil Rights Violation

I. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer Joel Gordils	1. Falsely arrested [REDACTED]	Unfounded
Officer Anatheia Smith	1. Falsely arrested [REDACTED]	Unfounded

Officer Ronald Cavanaugh	1. Handcuffed/shackled Mr. [REDACTED] too tightly causing injury.	Unfounded
Officer Kevin Heywood	1. Handcuffed/shackled Mr. [REDACTED] too tightly causing injury.	Unfounded

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE¹

On the date of the incident, Mr. [REDACTED] stated he went to [REDACTED] residence to drop off medication for his eight-year-old daughter. Mr. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED] have two children and are no longer in a relationship. As Mr. [REDACTED] was leaving, Ms. [REDACTED] other child’s father, [REDACTED] arrived. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that as he was leaving Ms. [REDACTED] residence, Mr. [REDACTED] approached him and struck him on the face. Instead of hitting Mr. [REDACTED] back, Mr. [REDACTED] retrieved his handgun out of his glove compartment box and placed the handgun on his front passenger seat to protect himself if Mr. [REDACTED] struck him again. Mr. [REDACTED] then called "911" and reported that he had an Order of Protection (OOP) against Mr. [REDACTED] who had just struck him. The police arrived and Officers Gordils and Smith² arrested Mr. [REDACTED] and transported him to the 005th District Station.

At the 005th District Station, Mr. [REDACTED] complained that his sugar and blood pressure levels were too high.³ Officers Heywood and Cavanaugh⁴, handcuffed Mr. [REDACTED] hands and ankles and transported him to [REDACTED]. Mr. [REDACTED] stated he sustained a swollen foot from the tightness of the ankle cuffs. He went to [REDACTED] in Michigan City for a swollen foot after he was released from Cook County Jail.⁵

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. 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.

² Attachment #1 – The Arrest Report documented that Officers Gordils and Smith were the arresting officers.

³ Attachment #1 – The Arrest Report documented that Mr. [REDACTED] was taken to the hospital to take his medication and for diabetes.

⁴ Attachment #2 – The Original Case Incident Report documented that Beat #571 took Mr. [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]. Attendance and Assignment (A & A) Sheets for the date of the incident (Attachment #43) documented that Officers Heywood and Cavanaugh were working Beat #571 at the time of the incident. The A & A Sheets also documented that Officer Cavanaugh was working on his scheduled day-off.

⁵ Mr. [REDACTED] declined to sign a medical release form and stated he would mail his medical records to COPA.

Ms. [REDACTED] Mr. [REDACTED] and witness [REDACTED] refuted the incident as described by Mr. [REDACTED] and stated that there was justification for the arrest of Mr. [REDACTED] Mr. [REDACTED] stated that when he arrived at his fiancé's, Ms. [REDACTED] residence he observed Mr. [REDACTED] Mr. [REDACTED] called his friend, Mr. [REDACTED] to come over for moral support and be a witness. Mr. [REDACTED] stated Mr. [REDACTED] allegedly has an OPP against him for making threats. Mr. [REDACTED] stated he exited his vehicle because he presumed Mr. [REDACTED] was about to leave. As Mr. [REDACTED] was about to remove his two-year-old son from his vehicle, Mr. [REDACTED] approached Mr. [REDACTED] and they got into a verbal altercation. During the altercation, Mr. [REDACTED] went to his vehicle, grabbed his handgun, approached Mr. [REDACTED] again, and pointed the handgun at Mr. [REDACTED] The police arrived and spoke to Mr. [REDACTED] Ms. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED] who all stated that Mr. [REDACTED] pointed a handgun at Mr. [REDACTED] Mr. [REDACTED] stated Ms. [REDACTED] did not observe Mr. [REDACTED] strike him because she was in the house.

Mr. [REDACTED] Arrest Report documented he told officers that he had an Indiana Conceal Carry⁶, but he did not have a valid Illinois Conceal Carry or FOID Card. Mr. [REDACTED] was charged with Aggravated Assault/Use Deadly Weapon and Aggravated Unlawful Use of Weapon/Person/Threat of Violence.⁷ Additionally, Body Worn Camera (BWC) footage depicts responding officers telling Mr. [REDACTED] the reason why he was being arrest. BWC also captures officers telling Mr. [REDACTED] that there was no OOP paperwork against Mr. [REDACTED] in the system⁸ and they could not go off a picture in Mr. [REDACTED] cellphone showing a copy of an OOP.

III. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

COPA finds that Allegation #1 against Officers Gordils and Smith, in that they arrested Mr. [REDACTED] without justification, be classified as **Unfounded**. Mr. [REDACTED] stated he was falsely arrested after he was the one that called the police. The Arrest Report documented that Mr. [REDACTED] was arrested on signed complaints after officers spoke to the witnesses. Mr. [REDACTED] admitted he was in possession of a handgun that he was only authorized to carry in the state of Indiana. Mr. [REDACTED] did not have an Illinois Conceal Carry or FOID Card and was charged with Aggravated Assault/Use Deadly Weapon and Aggravated Unlawful Use of Weapon/Person/Threat of Violence. Based on the available evidence, Mr. [REDACTED] was not falsely arrested as he claimed. Therefore, this allegation is Unfounded.

COPA finds that Allegation #1 against Officers Cavanaugh and Heywood, in that they handcuffed/shackled Mr. [REDACTED] too tightly causing injury, be classified as **Unfounded**. There was no evidence to establish that the officers caused any injury to Mr. [REDACTED] Mr. [REDACTED]

⁶ Attachment #31 – Mr. [REDACTED] had a State of Indiana License to Carry Handgun card with no expiration.

⁷ Attachment #34 - The charges against Mr. [REDACTED] were Nolle Prosequi (dismissed).

⁸A Case Supplementary Report dated September 23, 2020, documented that Mr. [REDACTED] filed a supplementary report for the same incident. The report added that Mr. [REDACTED] had a no contact order against Mr. [REDACTED] which was served on September 9, 2020.

