

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident:	October 22, 2017.
Time of Incident:	12:15 pm.
Location of Incident:	██. <sup>1</sup>
Date of COPA Notification:	October 23, 2017.
Time of COPA Notification:	12:38 pm.

On October 22, 2017, Officer William Singer #12021, and his ██████████ were experiencing marital problems and had been living separately for a few months.<sup>2</sup> That afternoon, Officer Singer made an unannounced visit to the marital home located at ██████████ ██████████, to retrieve some clothing.<sup>3</sup> He entered the home through the side door, with his own keys, to find Mrs. ██████████ and a male, later identified as ██████████ inside. Startled at the presence of this unknown man in his home, Officer Singer and Mr. ██████████ engaged in a brief verbal altercation, and Officer Singer ultimately left the premises. A short time later, when he returned to the home to speak with his estranged ██████████ he found Mr. ██████████ still there, sitting in his car with Mrs. ██████████. Officer Singer and Mr. ██████████ then engaged in a physical altercation on the street outside the home, and minor injuries were sustained by both parties. The police were called by Mrs. ██████████ and two officers responded to the scene, but no arrests were made. An Initiation Report was filed later that day by Sgt Gilfillan #1228, in District 016 when Officer Singer reported the incident.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Officer #1 (Accused):	<b>William Singer</b> , Star #12021, Employee # ██████████, Appointed 5/5/97, Police Officer, Unit 016, DOB: ██████████, 1970, White, Male.
Subject #1 (Reporting Party Victim):	██████████ DOB ██████████ 81, White, Male.
Subject #2 (Witness):	██████████ DOB ██████████ 83, White, Female.

<sup>1</sup> The Case Report documented ██████████ as the street name of this incident, but ██████████ is the correct name.  
<sup>2</sup> Officer Singer was temporarily residing with his ██████████, and he maintained ownership of the home and still had his own keys. The ██████████ have two minor ██████████ together. Shortly after this incident, the ██████████ filed for divorce (see Attachment #30).  
<sup>3</sup> Officer Singer was in uniform because he was going to work later that evening but was off duty at the time.

**III. ALLEGATIONS**

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer William Singer	1. It was alleged that on October 22, 2017, Officer Singer entered the residence at [REDACTED] without permission.	Exonerated.
	2. It was alleged that on October 22, 2017, Officer Singer threw a punch at [REDACTED]	Not Sustained.
	3. It was alleged that on October 22, 2017, Officer Singer said words to the effect of, "You're fucking dead" to [REDACTED]	Not Sustained.

**IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS**

**RULES**

**Rule 2:** Any action or conduct which impedes the Department’s efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.

**Rule 8:** Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty.

**Rule 9:** Engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.

**V. INVESTIGATION<sup>4</sup>**

**a. Interviews**

**Complainant** [REDACTED]

In his interview with COPA on November 30, 2017, Mr. [REDACTED] stated that at the time of this incident, he had been dating Mrs. [REDACTED] who had claimed to be divorced from her [REDACTED], and was living with her in her home at [REDACTED]. On October 22, 2017, Mr. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] were sitting in the living room when Officer Singer suddenly entered the home through

<sup>4</sup> COPA conducted a thorough and complete investigation. The following is a summary of the material evidence gathered and relied upon in our analysis.

<sup>5</sup> Attachment #10.

a side door and confronted the couple, identifying himself as a police officer.<sup>6</sup> Mr. █████ did not recognize this man and told him to leave the home. They exchanged words before Officer Singer finally left. When questioning Mrs. █████ about this man, Mr. █████ was told that it was her █████. A short time later, Mr. █████ attempted to leave in his car, which was parked in front of the home. Mrs. █████ went after him, and during this time, Officer Singer returned in his car and saw Mr. █████ still there. Officer Singer walked toward Mr. █████ and said, “You’re fucking dead.”<sup>7</sup> And proceeded to swing at him with a closed fist. Mr. █████ dodged the strike, and the two men began fighting in the street. Mr. █████ sustained cuts to his face as well as an injury to his right shoulder.<sup>8</sup> He was in fear of Officer Singer and in fear of his life. The police were called, and two officers arrived at the scene approximately eight minutes later. An ambulance was called but Mr. █████ did not want to go to the hospital and just got bandages from the ambulance.

During his statement, he claimed that Officer Singer had been abusing Mrs. █████ for several months but did not clarify what type of abuse was occurring and could not present evidence to support this.

### **Accused Officer William Singer<sup>9</sup>**

In his interview with COPA on December 6, 2018, Officer Singer stated that, although he was staying with his █████ while he and █████ were separated, he had been maintaining ownership of the mortgage and access to the home. He visited the home, while off-duty,<sup>10</sup> to retrieve some clothing and found Mrs. █████ and a man he did not recognize, in the living room. The man told him to get out, and Officer Singer identified himself as a police officer. After the two men exchanged words, Officer Singer ultimately left the premises. Approximately forty minutes later, he returned to find Mrs. █████ and Mr. █████ outside, sitting in what appeared to be Mr. █████ car. When Officer Singer called for Mrs. █████ to speak to him, Mr. █████ exited the car and approached Officer Singer in a threatening manner on the street. When Mr. █████ reached Officer Singer, Mr. █████ punched him in his face two times. Officer Singer again identified himself as a police officer, and in defending against Mr. █████ attacks, he struck Mr. █████ causing him to fall; to the ground as they continued to fight. At this time, Mrs. █████, who was still outside, yelled to the men that she had just called the police. Responding officers arrive less than ten minutes later and Officer Singer immediately identified himself as a police officer and informed them that he was armed, handing over his service weapon, and demanding a supervisor immediately. Shortly thereafter, a male supervising officer arrived at the scene and recommended that Officer Singer file a report at District 016.

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<sup>6</sup> Mr. █████ stated that Officer Singer identified himself as an officer when first entering the home, but later stated he did not identify himself as police until after the argument in the street.

<sup>7</sup> Attachment #10 at 1 hr.

<sup>8</sup> Mr. █████ stated he started receiving physical therapy at Pinnacle Chiropractic for the injury he sustained from this incident. A Treatment Synopsis obtained by COPA confirmed that █████ received treatment from █████ from November 7<sup>th</sup> to November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, due to pain in his right shoulder and neck, as a result of a physical altercation on 22 October 2017 (Attachment #23).

<sup>9</sup> Attachments #27-28.

<sup>10</sup> Officer Singer confirmed that he was wearing his police uniform with a civilian shirt over it. He also had his service weapon attached to his holster. He did not remove it at any time.

Multiple attempts to interview Ms. [REDACTED] were negative.<sup>11</sup>

#### b. Digital Evidence

The Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) **Radio Transmissions, 911 Call recordings**<sup>12</sup> and associated **Event Queries**<sup>13</sup> reflects responding officers from District 016 who responded to a Domestic Battery in progress at [REDACTED] on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The information provided to officers from Dispatch was that a female, identified as [REDACTED] was screaming hysterically on the phone that her [REDACTED] were physically fighting. An ambulance was called to the scene for a hand injury and cut on the head to a male victim.

There is no **Body Worn Camera (BWC)** for this incident since Officer Singer was off-duty.<sup>14</sup>

#### c. Physical Evidence

A **Canvass**<sup>15</sup> of the block was conducted on December 8, 2017, two witnesses one named [REDACTED], who lived two doors down from the accused officer's address; and another named [REDACTED], a minor who lived directly across the street from the accused officer, were interviewed briefly. Both parties knew Officer Singer personally and stated that they did not witness the beginning of the fight, but that they saw Officer Singer and another unknown male fighting in the street for approximately five minutes. The two men then separated on their own, and police and an ambulance arrived on the scene.

#### d. Documentary Evidence

The **Case Reports and Supplementary Reports**,<sup>16</sup> documented that when Officer Singer arrived at the home, he was confronted by Mr. [REDACTED] who became "verbally and physically aggressive" toward him. The two men exchanged punches after Mr. [REDACTED] initiated a physical altercation, and both parties sustained minor abrasions. Police officers responded to the scene and an ambulance was also called, but both parties refused treatment.

An **Initiation Report**<sup>17</sup> was filed in the 016<sup>th</sup> District on Officer Singer's behalf the same day of the incident. At that time, **Photographs**<sup>18</sup> of Officer Singer were also taken, which depicted minor redness on his left forearm and above his right eye.

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<sup>11</sup> See ICP notes regarding trying to contact Ms. [REDACTED].

<sup>12</sup> Attachments #19-21.

<sup>13</sup> Attachments #15-16.

<sup>14</sup> There is no BWC for PO Singer or this incident since PO Singer was off duty.

<sup>15</sup> Attachment #24.

<sup>16</sup> Attachments #12-14.

<sup>17</sup> Attachment #11.

<sup>18</sup> Attachments #17, 31.

The **Ambulance Report**<sup>19</sup> documented that EMS responded to a request by CPD and observed superficial lacerations to Mr. ██████ hand, reportedly as a result of shielding himself during a fight. Mr. ██████ refused treatment and signed a release attesting to this.

## VI. 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 reviewed complied with 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 conduct complied with Department policy than that it did not, 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.

## VII. ANALYSIS

### Officer Singer

In regard to the allegation that Officer Singer entered the residence at ██████ without permission, in violation of Rules 2, 8 and 9, COPA recommends a finding of **Exonerated**. Although he was not living with his ██████ in the home, he maintained ownership and access; therefore, he possessed a legal right to be in the home and did not trespass to the property. Additionally, Officer Singer admitted to entering the home without first obtaining verbal permission from Mrs. ██████, even though the circumstance did not legally require it. Based on the totality of the evidence and Officer Singer's own testimony, this act did occur, but was lawful and proper and did not constitute misconduct.

In regard to the allegation that Officer Singer threw a punch at ██████ in violation of Rules 2, 8 and 9, COPA recommends a finding of **Not Sustained**. The totality of the evidence,

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<sup>19</sup> Attachment #22.

namely the inconsistencies throughout his testimony, demonstrated that [REDACTED] credibility was questionable. Officer Singer said he was defending himself when he struck Mr. [REDACTED] but only in response to his attack. Since there is no private video or Body Worn Camera (BWC) available, there is insufficient evidence to prove the allegations by a preponderance of the evidence.

In regard to the allegation that Officer Singer said words to the effect of “You’re fucking dead” to [REDACTED] in violation of Rules 2, 8 and 9, COPA recommends a finding of **Not Sustained**. Officer Singer denied using profanity or threatening Mr. [REDACTED] in any way. Although Mr. [REDACTED] stated that Officer Singer threatened him, it has already been established that Mr. [REDACTED] credibility is in question. There were no additional witnesses to attest to Mr. [REDACTED] claim; therefore, there is not sufficient evidence to prove or disprove this allegation.

**VIII. CONCLUSION**

Based on the analysis set forth above, COPA makes the following findings:

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer William Singer	1. It was alleged that on October 22, 2017, Officer Singer entered the residence at [REDACTED] without permission.	Exonerated.
	2. It was alleged that on October 22, 2017, Officer Singer threw a punch at [REDACTED]	Not Sustained.
	3. It was alleged that on October 22, 2017, Officer Singer said words to the effect of, "You're fucking dead" to [REDACTED]	Not Sustained.

Approved:

[REDACTED]

6/30/2022

Matthew Haynam  
Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

Date

