

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Date of Incident:	February 2, 2019
Time of Incident:	9:33 pm
Location of Incident:	██
Date of COPA Notification:	February 2, 2019
Time of COPA Notification:	9:45 pm

On February 2, 2019, off-duty Sergeants (Sgts.) Robert Garza and Lori Rice spent the evening together at the Chicago Ale Fest. The couple had been dating for approximately three years, and Sgt. Rice had recently moved out of her marital residence and into an apartment at ██████████. At approximately 9:05 pm, Sgts. Rice and Garza left Ale Fest and were returning to Sgt. Rice's apartment. Sgt. Garza was driving Sgt. Rice's Jeep, and she was the front seat passenger. Sgt. Garza stated he was in the process of maneuvering the Jeep into Sgt. Rice's garage when he heard a gunshot. He looked to his right and saw Sgt. Rice bleeding from her nose and mouth. Sgt. Garza immediately called 911 and requested an ambulance, but Sgt. Rice was pronounced deceased at the scene. An evidence technician (ET) recovered Sgt. Rice's Ruger LCP, 380 semi-automatic pistol from the driver's seat of the Jeep, and a single fired cartridge case from the front passenger's side floorboard. The Medical Examiner (ME) determined Sgt. Rice's manner of death was an intraoral gunshot wound, and her cause of death was Suicide. COPA's investigation into this incident concurs Sgt. Rice's death was the result of a self-inflicted gunshot.

During the course of this investigation, COPA did refer allegations of misconduct against Sgt. Garza involving matters that COPA does not have investigative jurisdiction of, to the Office of Inspector General.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Sergeant #1:	RICE, Lori; Star #2067; Employee ID # ██████████; Date of Appointment: September 2, 1997; Sergeant; Unit 012; DOB: ██████████ 1971; Female; White.
Involved Sergeant #2:	GARZA, Robert; Star #1105; Employee ID # ██████████; Date of Appointment: November 29, 1999; Sergeant; Unit 010; DOB: ██████████ 1970; Male; Hispanic.

III. ALLEGATIONS

Any discharge of an officer's firearm results in a mandatory notification to COPA. This investigation was initiated pursuant to such notification. Upon conclusion of the investigation, COPA concurs with the ME's ruling that Sgt. Rice died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS

General Orders

1. G03-02-03, Firearms Discharge Incidents Involving Sworn Members (Eff. Oct. 16, 2017)

V. INVESTIGATION¹

COPA obtained and reviewed the relevant physical, medical, video, audio, and documentary evidence associated with this officer-involved firearm discharge. Additionally, COPA interviewed more than a dozen individuals, including Sgt. Rice's friends and family members, responding CPD members, and Sgt. Garza. COPA also referred allegations of misconduct involving Sgt. Garza to the Office of Inspector General.² The following is a summary of the material evidence obtained and analyzed by COPA in this investigation.

a. Interviews

i. Interviews Regarding the Incident

In a **statement to COPA on January 7, 2020, Sgt. Robert Garza³** provided his account of the incident. Sgt. Garza stated he met Sgt. Rice when they were both detectives at Area Central, and they had been dating for two or three years at the time of her death. The couple originally planned to spend the weekend of the incident in Atlanta, but they got into an argument earlier in the week and Sgt. Rice told Sgt. Garza she did not want to go on the trip. They later reconciled and decided to attend the Chicago Ale Fest on Saturday, February 2, 2019.

On the morning of the incident, Sgt. Garza went to work to execute two search warrants. He spoke to Sgt. Rice multiple times during the day, and he stopped by her apartment in the morning. Sgt. Garza noticed Sgt. Rice was very quiet that morning, but she was otherwise behaving normally. He swiped out of work at 4:53 pm and drove back to Sgt. Rice's apartment, where he found her laying on the couch. Sgt. Garza changed clothes and left his duty weapon on the bedroom nightstand, as he did not want to bring it to Ale Fest. He stated Sgt. Rice always carried a weapon when she was off duty, but she normally kept it in her purse. That evening, he observed that her weapon was in a holster.

Sgt. Garza drove Sgt. Rice's Jeep to Ale Fest, and they attended the event from approximately 6:30 pm to 9:05 pm. Sgt. Garza noticed Sgt. Rice was acting different than normal, and he repeatedly asked her what was bothering her. She responded she did not want to discuss it

¹ COPA conducted a thorough and complete investigation. The following is a summary of the material evidence gathered and relied upon in our analysis.

² In the course of this investigation, COPA uncovered evidence of possible time theft and falsified overtime slips by Sgt. Garza. These matters fall outside the scope of COPA's jurisdiction, and COPA referred them to the OIG for a full investigation. COPA also made referrals to the OIG regarding Deputy Chief Francis Valadez's failure to breathalyze Sgt. Garza, as well as Commander James Sanchez's attempted interference with COPA's investigation. COPA referred these matters to the OIG because COPA personnel were witnesses to the alleged misconduct by Deputy Chief Valadez and Commander Sanchez.

³ Atts. 146-147, 150. COPA investigators made multiple attempts to interview Sgt. Garza at an earlier date; however, he was on medical leave and unavailable to provide a statement. Atts. 140-145; Investigator's Case Log, pgs. 1-13.

and became upset as Sgt. Garza continued to ask her questions. According to Sgt. Garza, Sgt. Rice had been unusually quiet over the past several days, ever since she returned to her marital residence to drop off her dogs to her husband. Sgt. Garza stated he could not recall how much he or Sgt. Rice had to drink at Ale Fest. The only alcoholic beverage they consumed was beer and Sgt. Garza did not see any signs Sgt. Rice was intoxicated. The couple originally planned to go out to dinner after Ale Fest, but Sgt. Rice changed her mind and stated she wanted to go home. As Sgt. Garza drove Sgt. Rice's Jeep toward her apartment, he again asked her what was going on. She again stated she did not want to talk about it, and they spent the remainder of the drive in silence.

Sgt. Garza stated he drove into the alley behind Sgt. Rice's apartment and pulled up to her garage. She pressed the garage door opener, which was clipped to the passenger's side visor. Sgt. Garza asked Sgt. Rice if she had her keys to the apartment, and she responded she did. As Sgt. Garza began to maneuver the Jeep into the garage, he heard a gunshot. Sgt. Garza stated he could not see Sgt. Rice in his peripheral vision, so he did not see her unholster her weapon, hold the weapon in her hand, or discharge the weapon. He could not recall the last thing she said to him, or that he said to her.

Sgt. Garza stated he exited the Jeep, ran around to the passenger's side, and opened the front passenger's side door. He immediately called 911 and reported Sgt. Rice shot herself. Sgt. Garza stated he did not attempt to render medical aid, as the 911 call taker told him to wait for EMS. He could not recall where Sgt. Rice's weapon was, but he denied moving or touching the weapon after the incident. Sgt. Garza stated he waited near the Jeep and attempted to talk to Sgt. Rice until EMS arrived. He also called numerous CPD members and Sgt. Rice's friend, [REDACTED], and notified them Sgt. Rice shot herself. After several hours at the scene, Sgt. Garza accompanied detectives to the 11th District, where ETs collected his jacket and administered a gunshot residue (GSR) kit to his hands before they allowed him to use the bathroom. Dep. Chief Francis Valadez also asked Sgt. Garza to submit to a breathalyzer, but he declined to do so.

Sgt. Garza stated he did not know what prompted Sgt. Rice to take her own life, but she was very depressed and had been sleeping a lot in the months prior to the incident. At one point, Sgt. Garza reached out to peer support to ask questions about getting Sgt. Rice help, but she told him she was fine.⁴ Sgt. Garza attributed Sgt. Rice's depression to her impending divorce, and all the financial demands her husband was making of her. Sgt. Garza assumed that was the issue bothering Sgt. Rice, which she would not discuss, on the night she died. When COPA investigators asked Sgt. Garza if Sgt. Rice had ever previously attempted suicide, he described an incident several years earlier in which she fell and broke her ribs. He stated some people speculated it was a suicide attempt, but Sgt. Rice told him it was only an accident. Sgt. Garza also vaguely recalled hearing Sgt. Rice make comments about wanting to harm herself, but he could not provide any specifics. He stated Sgt. Rice was taking Zoloft, but he did not believe she was seeing a therapist or being treated for any mental health issues. He denied she had any alcohol or substance abuse issues.

⁴ Sgt. Garza's cell phone records confirm he placed a 2:37 minute phone call to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) on August 2, 2019. Att. 78, pg. 4, line 27.

In statements to COPA on February 11, 2019 and March 21, 2019, Captain (Cpt.) Michael Barz⁵ stated he was the 10th District tactical lieutenant and Sgt. Garza's direct supervisor from October 2016 until February 2019. On the date of the incident, Sgt. Garza swiped in at 8:18 am and swiped out at 4:54 pm. While Sgt. Garza was at work, Lieutenant (Lt.) Fred Ulleweit obtained a CR number against him for insubordination. Sgt. Garza called Cpt. Barz multiple times after he left work regarding Lt. Ulleweit's complaint. At 9:37 pm, Cpt. Barz received another phone call from Sgt. Garza. This time, however, Sgt. Garza was crying, distraught, and almost hysterical. He mumbled, "Lori got shot. Lori got shot."⁶ Sgt. Garza repeated the address [REDACTED] multiple times, then terminated the call. Sgt. Garza did not provide any additional information about the incident, and Cpt. Barz did not have a clear understanding of what happened. Only later did Cpt. Barz learn the name Lori was a reference to Sgt. Rice.⁷

Cpt. Barz stated he responded to the scene, but Sgt. Garza did not provide him with a more detailed account of the incident. The following day, Cpt. Barz spoke with Sgt. Garza by phone, and Sgt. Garza admitted he was having an extramarital affair with Sgt. Rice. He did not provide any further details about the relationship and stated no one else was aware of the affair.

In a statement to COPA on March 7, 2019, Officer Nicholas Mukite⁸ stated he is a tactical team officer in the 10th District, and Sgt. Garza was his direct supervisor at the time of the incident. On February 2, 2019, Officer Mukite reported to work on his day off in order to execute a search warrant. Sgt. Garza was present during the search warrant and left after he approved the paperwork related to the warrant. Officer Mukite stated nothing out of the ordinary happened at work, and he left the district shortly after Sgt. Garza. Later that evening, Officer Mukite was at dinner with his family when he received a phone call from Sgt. Garza. Sgt. Garza told him, "Lori shot herself. I need you."⁹ Sgt. Garza gave Officer Mukite an address on Bell Ave. and immediately terminated the call. Sgt. Garza did not provide any additional information regarding the incident, and the entire call lasted approximately twenty seconds. Officer Mukite stated he believed the name Lori was a reference to Lori Rice. He was familiar with Sgt. Rice and knew she and Sgt. Garza were friends. Officer Mukite stated he did not know if their relationship was romantic in nature, as Sgt. Garza did not talk about his personal life at work.

After Officer Mukite spoke with Sgt. Garza, he responded to the scene and located Sgt. Garza sitting in an unmarked vehicle, distraught and crying. Officer Mukite stood outside the vehicle and attempted to reassure Sgt. Garza. He did not discuss the incident with Sgt. Garza and was present in a supportive capacity only. When COPA investigators asked Officer Mukite why he believed Sgt. Garza called him, he responded that he worked for Sgt. Garza for approximately three years, on two different tactical teams, and Sgt. Garza trusted him.

⁵ Atts. 37, 94, 98-99.

⁶ Att. 98, pg. 9, line 9.

⁷ Cpt. Barz stated he did not know Sgt. Rice personally, but he knew of her because of her husband, [REDACTED]. When Cpt. Barz was assigned to the Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA), [REDACTED] was an accused officer in a case Cpt. Barz investigated. [REDACTED] resigned from the Department in 2016.

⁸ Atts. 85, 134.

⁹ Att. 134, pg. 12, lines 19-20.

In a **statement to COPA on February 12, 2019**, ██████████¹⁰ stated she resides at ██████████. On the date and time of the incident, she was doing homework in her bedroom on the second floor of her house. She heard shouting outside her bedroom window, which faces the alley behind her house. A male voice was screaming the name Lori over and over again, and yelling, “It’s going to be okay, and they’re on their way.”¹¹ ██████████ did not recognize the voice, and she did not hear any other voices or loud noises. She looked out her bedroom window, but she did not see any people or vehicles in the alley, as her line of sight was blocked by the garages. As the shouting grew louder and louder, ██████████ became worried. She went downstairs and told her parents, and they also looked out her bedroom window in an attempt to see what was happening. ██████████ stated the police arrived in the alley less than three minutes after she heard the shouting. She never actually saw the man who was yelling, and she did not know Lori Rice.

In a **body worn camera (BWC) recorded interview on February 2, 2019**, ██████████¹² told responding officers she lives on the second floor of ██████████. On the date and time of the incident, ██████████ heard multiple loud bangs, as if someone was kicking or hitting a door. She did not hear a gunshot or anyone shouting, and she did not see what happened.

On February 11, 2019, COPA investigators conducted a **canvass**¹³ of the area near ██████████. During the canvass, investigators made contact with Sgt. Rice’s sister, ██████████, who was moving Sgt. Rice’s belongings out of her apartment at ██████████. Investigators also spoke to ██████████ of ██████████. He reported that his fifteen-year-old daughter, ██████████ overheard a portion of the incident from her bedroom window. Investigators arranged interviews with ██████████ and ██████████, which are summarized in other sections of this report. Investigators did not locate any other witnesses during the canvass.

ii. Interviews with Sgt. Rice’s Friends and Family

In **statements to COPA on February 20, 2019 and March 6, 2019**, ██████████¹⁴ stated she was Sgt. Rice’s hairdresser and close friend. In September 2018, Sgt. Rice told ██████████ she had been having an affair with Sgt. Garza for approximately three years. Sgt. Rice’s husband, ██████████, had recently discovered the affair, and Sgt. Rice wanted to move out of the marital residence. Sgt. Rice asked ██████████ if she could stay with her on a temporary basis, and ██████████ agreed. From mid-September 2018 through November 2018, Sgt. Rice lived with ██████████ in her Des Plaines home.

██████████ stated Sgt. Garza was a frequent visitor to her house. She described him as controlling and verbally abusive toward Sgt. Rice, and he wanted to know where Sgt. Rice was and what she was doing at all times. For example, Sgt. Garza made Sgt. Rice turn on the GPS on her phone so he could track her location, and he attempted to download the app ██████████ uses to

¹⁰ Atts. 38, 133. ██████████ was a 15-year-old juvenile on the date she provided a statement to COPA. As a result, COPA investigators obtained the consent of ██████████ parents, ██████████ and ██████████, prior to taking her statement, and both parents were present during the interview. Atts. 40, 138, pg. 2, line 11 – pg. 3, line 14.

¹¹ Att. 138, pg. 9, lines 12-13.

¹² Att. 18 at 9:52:22 pm. COPA investigators attempted to reach ██████████ by phone and in person, to no avail. Att. 46, pg. 2; Investigator’s Case Log, pg. 1.

¹³ Att. 46.

¹⁴ Atts. 53-54, 83-84, 91.

watch her dogs inside her house when she is not home. Additionally, Sgt. Garza instructed Sgt. Rice to stay in her bedroom with the door shut anytime [REDACTED] boyfriend came over. Sgt. Rice told [REDACTED] Sgt. Garza never struck her, but they pushed and shoved each other during fights. After Sgt. Rice moved into her own apartment, she told [REDACTED] about one incident when a drunken Sgt. Garza ransacked her apartment, then passed out. In another incident, Sgt. Garza took both of their firearms into the bedroom, waived one of the weapons in the air, and yelled that he wanted to end his own life. [REDACTED] stated Sgt. Garza was a heavy drinker, and Sgt. Rice drank wine on a daily basis.

[REDACTED] remained in close communication with Sgt. Rice after she moved into her own apartment. She stated Sgt. Rice seemed depressed and frequently slept all day. Sgt. Rice was dealing with numerous stressors, including divorce negotiations, attending sergeant's school, and Sgt. Garza constantly yelling at her. She took 50 mg of Sertraline (generic Zoloft) for depression and anxiety. [REDACTED] stated she and Sgt. Rice sometimes joked about suicide, with [REDACTED] saying, "Dude, if I was you and Robert I'd kill myself too because he's fucking crazy."¹⁵ During more serious conversations, Sgt. Rice denied she would ever commit suicide. She did, however, describe a prior suicide attempt approximately one year earlier. Sgt. Rice stated she took a large number of pills in an attempt to kill herself following an argument with Sgt. Garza. She fell over a nightstand and broke her ribs, and Sgt. Garza found her passed out in her home. He took her to the hospital where her friend, [REDACTED], worked as the head nurse. Sgt. Rice was treated and released, and she went on medical leave for six to eight weeks while her ribs healed.

The weekend of Sgt. Rice's death, Sgts. Rice and Garza planned to drive to Atlanta to watch the Super Bowl. On Thursday, January 31, 2019, Sgt. Rice told [REDACTED] the trip was cancelled because she and Sgt. Garza had broken up. [REDACTED] described it as "like the hundredth time they've broken up. Like I said, it's that high school relationship, break up, get back together, break up, get back together."¹⁶ [REDACTED] called Sgt. Rice the following day, and Sgt. Rice said she was at home and had been sleeping all day. At 8:30 pm on Saturday, February 2, 2019, Sgt. Rice sent [REDACTED] a text message stating she bought her something from Ale Fest. [REDACTED] asked her who she was with, and Sgt. Rice responded, Robert.

At approximately 11:30 pm, Sgt. Rice's sister [REDACTED] notified [REDACTED] of Sgt. Rice's death. [REDACTED] stated she repeatedly called Sgt. Garza, and when she finally spoke to him, he claimed Sgt. Rice's death was an accident. According to Sgt. Garza, Sgt. Rice's gun accidentally discharged when it fell out of the car.¹⁷ [REDACTED] accused Sgt. Garza of murdering Sgt. Rice, stating, "You're fucking crazy. You're a psychopath. And if you didn't do it. You made her do it. You told her to do it."¹⁸ Sgt. Garza called [REDACTED] the following day and reiterated the story that the gun accidentally discharged. He stated he loved Sgt. Rice and would never hurt her.

¹⁵ Att. 84, pg. 40, lines 12-13.

¹⁶ Att. 84, pg. 33, lines 13-16.

¹⁷ When COPA investigators asked Sgt. Garza about this conversation, he stated he told [REDACTED] he did not want to believe Sgt. Rice committed suicide. He speculated to [REDACTED] that Sgt. Rice might have drawn her weapon to get his attention, and the weapon might have accidentally discharged due to a speed hump in the alley. Sgt. Garza told COPA he preferred to believe Sgt. Rice's death was an accident, not a suicide, due to his religious beliefs and for the sake of his own sanity.

¹⁸ Att. 84, pg. 53, lines 3-5.

In a statement to COPA on February 28, 2019, ██████████¹⁹ stated he was Sgt. Rice's husband at the time of her death. He met Sgt. Rice in 1999 and they married on May 16, 2003. The couple resided at ██████████ until September 2018, when Sgt. Rice moved out of the marital residence and into ██████████ home in Des Plaines. ██████████ stated he filed for divorce in January 2019, but Sgt. Rice passed away before she was served with the papers.

According to ██████████, the primary cause of the couple's separation was Sgt. Rice's affair with Sgt. Garza. ██████████ discovered the affair on August 21, 2018, when he came home from work and discovered Sgt. Rice and a Hispanic male, now identified as Sgt. Garza, inside the house. Sgt. Rice was in the guest bedroom, naked in bed, and her clothes were on the floor beside the bed. Several feet away, ██████████ observed a man's pants and shirt on the floor, and a semi-automatic pistol on top of them. ██████████ did not see Sgt. Garza in the bedroom, so he searched for him throughout the house. ██████████ then went outside and waited next to Sgt. Garza's unmarked police SUV, which was parked directly in front of the house.²⁰ After a few minutes, ██████████ saw Sgt. Garza exit the side door of the house and run into the alley. ██████████ pursued Sgt. Garza on foot but lost sight of him and returned home. Sgt. Rice subsequently admitted she had been having an affair with Sgt. Garza since January 2017, but she refused to provide her husband with any further details about the relationship. She moved out of the marital residence approximately five to six weeks after he discovered the affair.

██████████ stated the last time he spoke to Sgt. Rice was on January 31, 2019, three days before she died. She returned to the marital residence to drop off the couple's dogs and stayed for approximately 45 minutes. They had a good conversation, got along well, and did not discuss the divorce. According to ██████████, "Even through this whole terribleness, there wasn't any fighting. There wasn't any yelling. There was no—I didn't even use, believe it or not, a foul language towards her over this whole thing."²¹ ██████████ stated Sgt. Rice's mood seemed normal when she was at the house on January 31, 2019. However, he acknowledged Sgt. Rice was taking an antidepressant for anxiety, and he believed she may have been self-medicating with alcohol. He never heard Sgt. Rice threaten to harm herself and was not aware of any prior suicide attempts.

██████████ stated Sgt. Rice was right-handed, and she would sometimes carry a weapon in her purse when she was off duty. It was not normal for her to carry a weapon if she planned on consuming alcohol.

In a statement to COPA on February 26, 2019, ██████████²² stated she and Sgt. Rice went to high school together, and they were best friends for approximately 35 years. At the time of Sgt. Rice's death, Sgt. Rice was going through a divorce and had recently moved into the apartment on Bell Ave. ██████████ stated Sgt. Rice was struggling with the divorce, including decisions about splitting marital property. During their last communications, Sgt. Rice related she was stressed out and had a lot going on, but she did not go into specifics. ██████████

¹⁹ Atts. 74, 90.

²⁰ While ██████████ was waiting, he took photos of Sgt. Garza's vehicle so he would have proof of the affair. The photos show the CPD vehicle assigned to Sgt. Garza was parked in front of the Rice's marital residence at 4:45 pm on August 21, 2018. See Att. 77.

²¹ Att. 90, pg. 28, lines 3-6.

²² Atts. 64, 89.

██████████ recalled a day approximately a month before Sgt. Rice's death, when Sgt. Rice told her she could not get out of bed. ██████████ stated there were indications Sgt. Rice was struggling with depression, but she did not know if she was seeing a therapist or taking medication.

██████████ did not know if Sgt. Rice had previously attempted suicide, but she described an incident that occurred approximately two years before Sgt. Rice died. ██████████ stated she received a phone call from Sgt. Garza, who told her Sgt. Rice had drunk a bottle of wine and taken some pills. Sgt. Garza stated Sgt. Rice fell, had a bruise, and needed medical treatment. ██████████ spoke to Sgt. Rice and convinced her to go to Advocate Christ Medical Center, where ██████████ worked as a nurse. Sgt. Garza drove Sgt. Rice to the hospital, and Sgt. Rice assured ██████████ she did not try to commit suicide. She stated she drank a bottle of wine and took pills to fall asleep. Sgt. Rice had a large bruise on her side, near her kidney, which she claimed was from falling over a nightstand. ██████████ accepted the explanation at the time, but in retrospect she believed Sgt. Rice's injuries were more consistent with someone kicking or punching Sgt. Rice than a fall.

██████████ stated Sgts. Rice and Garza had been having an extramarital affair for approximately two and a half years. ██████████ became aware of the relationship in August 2018, and ██████████ believed that was the main cause of their divorce.²³ ██████████ described Sgt. Garza as controlling, and stated he frequently monitored Sgt. Rice's locations and activities. Additionally, Sgt. Rice told ██████████ that Sgt. Garza had a bad temper, and ██████████ often heard them arguing on the phone. However, Sgt. Rice never stated Sgt. Garza threatened her or put hands on her.

At 9:58 pm on February 2, 2019, ██████████ received a phone call from Sgt. Garza. He stated either "Lori's been shot" or "Lori shot herself."²⁴ ██████████ asked what happened, and Sgt. Garza responded that he and Sgt. Rice were arguing in the car. As they pulled into Sgt. Rice's garage, she reached into her purse, retrieved her gun, and shot herself. Throughout the call, ██████████ described Sgt. Garza as speaking in a monotone voice, in a matter-of-fact manner. He did not sound distraught, was not crying, and was not slurring his voice. ██████████ confirmed Sgt. Rice occasionally carried a small handgun when she was off duty, and always kept it in her purse. She stated Sgt. Rice was right-handed.

In a **statement to COPA on February 13, 2019**, ██████████²⁵ stated Sgt. Rice was her younger sister by eight years. According to ██████████ Sgt. Rice was devoted to her work and was excited about her recent promotion to sergeant. She struggled, however, because ██████████ hated CPD and wanted her to take a position with the federal government. The couple were in the process of getting a divorce, and ██████████ helped her sister move into the apartment at ██████████ in November 2018. ██████████ stated she knew Sgt. Garza and thought of him as her sister's "work husband."²⁶ She was not aware their relationship was romantic in nature.

²³ ██████████ related essentially the same account of ██████████'s discovery of the affair that ██████████ and ██████████ told COPA.

²⁴ Att. 89, pg. 23, line 13.

²⁵ Atts. 42-43, 112.

²⁶ Att. 112, pg. 14, line 24.

On the night of the incident, Sgt. Rice texted [REDACTED] around 6:00 pm, explaining she had not answered [REDACTED] earlier texts because she was asleep. [REDACTED] was about to go into a movie so she told her sister she would call her later. Later that evening, [REDACTED] received a call from [REDACTED], who stated Sgt. Rice might be injured. [REDACTED] rushed to the scene and detectives notified her of Sgt. Rice's death. [REDACTED] did not have any contact with Sgt. Garza following her sister's death, but their mutual friend, [REDACTED], recorded a phone call she had with Sgt. Garza. [REDACTED] summarized the call for COPA investigators, stating Sgt. Garza first claimed the gun discharged when it fell on the ground. He then changed his story, telling [REDACTED] "We were driving along, everything was fine, we had a great night, and then I asked her for the keys, and she just pulled out a gun and killed herself."²⁷ He added the gun might have hit the ground after Sgt. Rice pulled it out. [REDACTED] accused Sgt. Garza of murdering Sgt. Rice, and he responded, "No, I think she just had an accident."²⁸ [REDACTED] denied Sgt. Rice had ever threatened to commit suicide or previously attempted suicide.

In a statement to COPA on April 22, 2019, [REDACTED]²⁹ stated she works at the City of Chicago building at 2350 W. Ogden Ave. She was familiar with Sgt. Rice because Sgt. Rice used to work in the polygraph department on the second floor of the building. At the end of 2018, [REDACTED] observed a physical altercation between Sgt. Rice and an unknown male. [REDACTED] stated she was standing just inside the main entrance door of the building when she observed Sgt. Rice approaching the outside of the door. At the same time, a dark gray Jeep pulled up on the sidewalk and stopped in front of the door. A short man exited the vehicle and engaged in a verbal altercation with Sgt. Rice. [REDACTED] could not hear what they were saying, but based on their gestures and facial expressions, she believed they were arguing. Sgt. Rice tried to enter the building and the man grabbed her and physically blocked her from going inside. [REDACTED] stated the man stood directly in front of Sgt. Rice, placed both of his hands on her shoulders, and pushed her away from the door and out of [REDACTED] line of sight.

Sgt. Rice finally entered the building, and the man waited approximately ten to fifteen minutes before he drove away. He then returned with two cups of coffee, made a phone call, and took the elevator upstairs. The elevator requires a code to operate, so [REDACTED] believed Sgt. Rice either gave him the code or entered it for him from the second floor. [REDACTED] stated Sgt. Rice and the man appeared to know one another, and she characterized the entire incident as "something like a domestic."³⁰

b. Digital Evidence

The **Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) Event Queries³¹, 911 Calls³², and Radio Transmissions³³** include the following relevant and material communications. At 9:30:54 pm, Sgt. Garza calls 911 and requests an ambulance at [REDACTED], in the alley. He reports that off duty Officer Lori Rice shot herself, but he does not know

²⁷ Att. 112, pg. 32, lines 4-7.

²⁸ Att. 112, pg. 32, line 14.

²⁹ Atts. 114, 135.

³⁰ Att. 135, pg. 5, line 2.

³¹ Atts. 14-15.

³² Atts. 106-108.

³³ Att. 109.

where she is shot. Sgt. Garza is crying and distraught throughout the call, and he hangs up abruptly. At 9:33:12 pm, the dispatcher calls a 10-1³⁴ at [REDACTED], reporting an off-duty officer discharged her weapon and EMS is in route. At 9:33:51 pm, Sgt. Garza places a second call to 911 to repeat his request for an ambulance. His voice sounds calmer and more composed than the first 911 call. At 9:36 pm, responding officers arrive at the scene and confirm to the dispatcher, “Apparently a female shot herself, we need an ambulance over here in the alley.”³⁵

COPA obtained and reviewed the **BWC video of Sgt. Jose Lule #2380**³⁶, the first responding supervisor to arrive at the scene. The video captures Sgt. Lule approach Sgt. Garza, who is standing in the alley approximately twenty to thirty feet from the Jeep. Sgt. Garza is speaking to someone on a cell phone, whom he identifies as his lieutenant. Sgt. Lule asks Sgt. Garza to get off the phone, but Sgt. Garza refuses. Sgt. Lule states he needs to know what happened, and Sgt. Garza yells, “She shot herself...that’s what you need to know.”³⁷ The interaction becomes heated as Sgt. Garza continues to refuse to get off the phone. Sgt. Lule instructs a responding officer to put Sgt. Garza in a car, causing Sgt. Garza to yell, “You ain’t putting me in the car. Put you in the fucking car!”³⁸ Sgt. Lule approaches an unidentified supervisor and informs him Sgt. Garza is being uncooperative, then deactivates his BWC at 9:39:51 pm.

COPA obtained and reviewed the **BWC videos of Officers Matthew Ramirez, Gerald Kush, Daniel Sanchez, and Vincente Diaz**³⁹. Officer Ramirez’s BWC video shows the first responding officers arrive at the scene at approximately 9:36:00 pm. Sgt. Garza immediately identifies himself as CPD, states Sgt. Rice shot herself, and requests an ambulance. Officer Ramirez checks Sgt. Rice for a pulse and looks for her identification, and his BWC captures Sgt. Garza arguing with Sgt. Lule in the background.

Officer Kush’s BWC video shows the arrival of EMT firefighters at approximately 9:39:00 pm. The firefighters examine Sgt. Rice but cannot immediately determine where she is shot, and Officer Kush speculates that the entry or exit wound is to the back of her head. As multiple officers and firefighters examine the scene, including Sgt. Rice’s position and the location of the weapon, they appear to express doubt that the wound is self-inflicted. Officer Kush yells for someone to handcuff Sgt. Garza.

The BWC videos of Officers Sanchez and Diaz capture responding members’ interactions with Sgt. Garza. After Sgt. Garza argues with Sgt. Lule, he abruptly hangs up the phone and walks further down the alley, away from the scene. Multiple supervisors and officers accompany him, which Sgt. Lule explains is necessary because, “If he’s got a weapon on him, and he shot, we don’t know.”⁴⁰ Sgt. Garza is visibly distraught, and at times he is doubled over and appears to be choking

³⁴ A 10-1 is a radio call indicating an officer in need of emergency assistance.

³⁵ Att. 109 at 46:02.

³⁶ Att. 19. COPA also reviewed Sgt. Lule’s in-car camera (ICC) video, but it did not contain any relevant footage. Att. 29.

³⁷ Att. 19 at 9:37:47 pm.

³⁸ Att. 19 at 9:37:56 pm.

³⁹ Atts. 18, 30-31. COPA also reviewed the BWC videos of eight responding officers that are either duplicative or do not contain any relevant footage. Att. 31.

⁴⁰ Att. 31, Officer Diaz’s BWC video at 9:40:39 pm. Sgt. Lule’s BWC did not capture this statement, as he deactivated his camera at 9:39:51 pm.

back sobs. At approximately 9:41:00 pm, Sgt. Lule instructs all of the officers standing near Sgt. Garza to deactivate their BWCs.

COPA obtained and reviewed the **Third-Party Video from the 2019 Chicago Ale Fest**⁴¹, which was held at Lacuna Lofts on February 2, 2019, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The video shows hundreds of people walking around a large event area with beer tasting stations. Sgts. Rice and Garza are captured on camera multiple times throughout the three-hour event. They are tasting beer and engaging in conversation with each other, and they do not appear to be arguing.

COPA obtained and reviewed the **Third-Party Video from [REDACTED]**.⁴² The camera is located on the rear of the residence and faces west, capturing a portion of the rear yard of [REDACTED]. There are two motion-activated video clips from the date of the incident, but neither captures the firearm discharge. At 5:05 pm, the video shows Sgt. Garza walk through the rear yard of [REDACTED] and enter the door to Sgt. Rice's garden-level apartment. At 11:45 pm, the video captures members of CPD and COPA enter the same door.⁴³

COPA obtained and reviewed the **Third-Party Video from [REDACTED]**.⁴⁴ The camera is located on the garage in the rear of the residence, facing the west alley of Bell Ave. At 9:30:44 pm, the video captures a dark colored Jeep driving southbound in the alley at a slow rate of speed. The video is not clear enough to determine the Jeep's license plate number or the number of occupants in the vehicle.

c. Physical Evidence

i. Forensic Evidence

The **ET's Photographs**⁴⁵ and **ME's Investigator's Photographs**⁴⁶ document the shooting scene at [REDACTED]. They include images of the Jeep facing southeast in the alley, stopped in front of the open garage door at [REDACTED]. The photos document Sgt. Rice's position in the front passenger's seat of the Jeep. She is sitting in an upright position, with her head and body tilted slightly toward the driver's side of the vehicle. One hand is resting on each leg, and the palms of her hands are facing each other. There is blood coming from her nose, mouth, and possibly her left ear. An empty black holster is affixed to the inside of Sgt. Rice's right waistband and a Chicago

⁴¹ Att. 51.

⁴² Att. 52.

⁴³ In addition to the 5:05 pm and 11:45 pm video clips, the final detective's supplementary report references a 5:45 pm video clip. It reportedly shows Sgt. Garza exit the rear door of Sgt. Rice's apartment and walk toward the garage. Twenty-four seconds later, Sgt. Rice exits the rear door and follows in the same direction as Sgt. Garza. The video reportedly does not capture the firearm discharge. According to the detective's supplementary report, detectives watched this video on-site with the homeowner of [REDACTED]. However, it does not appear this video file was downloaded from the homeowner's security system; it was not included on the DVDs detectives provided to COPA or inventoried at ERPS. See Att. 121, pg. 12; Investigator's Case Log.

⁴⁴ Att. 20. The detective who recovered the video noted the timestamp was off by one hour and six minutes. All times have been adjusted for accuracy. See Att. 118, pgs. 14-15.

⁴⁵ Att. 113.

⁴⁶ Att. 63.

Ale Fest lanyard around her neck. Her purse is located next to her feet, on the front passenger's side floor of the Jeep.

The photos also document a black Ruger pistol on the inside corner of the driver's seat, next to the seat belt release, and one fired cartridge case on the left side of the front passenger's floorboard. ETs photographed the Ruger pistol, a magazine with five live rounds, and one live round recovered from the chamber of the weapon. Additionally, the photos include images of Sgt. Garza's weapon, magazine, and holster inside Sgt. Rice's apartment.



Figure 1. ET's photo showing the position of the Jeep in the alley at the time of the incident.

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Figure 2. Photo taken by the ME's investigator showing the position of Sgt. Rice in the passenger's seat and her Ruger pistol on the driver's seat.

The **Inventory Sheets**⁴⁷ and **Crime Scene Processing Reports**⁴⁸ document the recovery of evidence from the shooting scene. The Jeep, which was parked in the alley behind [REDACTED], was a black 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee registered to Sgt. Rice, bearing IL law enforcement license plates "[REDACTED]." An ET recovered the Ruger pistol from the driver's seat and one fired cartridge case (headstamped "F C 380 auto") from the front passenger's side floorboard. An ET also recovered Sgt. Rice's purse from the front passenger's side floor and turned it over to Sgt. William Svilar #1961, along with Sgt. Rice's cell phone, keys, and star.

An ET processed Sgt. Rice's Ruger LCP, .380 semi-automatic pistol (Serial #3702048777) at the scene. The weapon, which had six-round capacity magazine, was found to have five live rounds of ammunition in the magazine and one live round in the chamber of the weapon (all "F C 380 auto"). An ET swabbed the pistol's slide, frame, grip, and trigger for the presence of DNA.

At the 11th District, an ET administered a GSR kit to Sgt. Garza's hands at 11:50 pm on February 2, 2019. An ET also collected and inventoried Sgt. Garza's black Northface jacket. At the Cook County ME's Office, an ET administered a GSR kit to Sgt. Rice's hands and inventoried her clothing and personal property, including a black holster and a magazine with an unknown number of live rounds. The ME also recovered one fired bullet from Sgt. Rice's head.

⁴⁷ Att. 10.

⁴⁸ Atts. 11-12, 34.

Illinois State Police (ISP) Forensic Science Laboratory Reports #C19-007917⁴⁹ document the examination of recovered firearms and biological evidence in this investigation. An analysis of the reports resulted in the following relevant facts:

The examination of Sgt. Rice's weapon determined it to be operable as received and it was test fired using the magazine submitted with the weapon. Five cartridges (live rounds) recovered from the magazine and one cartridge recovered from the chamber of the weapon were examined for caliber and type.

One fired cartridge case recovered from the passenger's side floorboard of the Jeep and one fired bullet fragment recovered from Sgt. Rice's head were determined to have been fired by Sgt. Rice's weapon. Two lead fragments were unsuitable for comparison.

A forensic scientist extracted and amplified DNA from the swabs of Sgt. Rice's weapon and compared it to the standard from Sgt. Rice. The swabs from the front of the weapon's slide and frame contained a mixture of DNA profiles from two people. One was a major female profile from which Sgt. Rice could not be excluded (is included), while the second was a minor unidentified profile.⁵⁰ The swabs from the rear slide, grip and trigger contained a mixture of DNA profiles from at least two people. One was a major female profile from which Sgt. Rice could not be excluded (is included), and the other(s) were minor inconclusive profiles not suitable for comparison.

ii. Medical Evidence

The **Chicago Fire Department (CFD) Ambulance Report⁵¹** states paramedics from Ambulance 65 arrived at [REDACTED] at 9:39:12 pm. They found Sgt. Rice sitting in the front passenger seat of a vehicle parked in the alley. She was not breathing, did not have a pulse, and showed no signs of life. Paramedics observed a large amount of blood in Sgt. Rice's mouth, and upon further assessment, they located a small wound to the left occipital region of her head. They did not observe any other obvious injuries. The report notes CPD members at the scene were unsure if Sgt. Rice's injury was self-inflicted. Prior to the arrival of EMS personnel, CPD members located and secured a weapon on the driver's seat. Paramedics contacted Northwestern Hospital and Sgt. Rice was pronounced deceased via telemetry at 9:54 pm.

⁴⁹ Att. 136. During a major case meeting on February 14, 2019, COPA and CPD agreed to defer testing of the GSR kits pending the results of the DNA testing. An ISP supervisor reported the agency does not conduct GSR testing in suicide investigations. Additionally, he stated if the firearm discharge occurred inside of a closed vehicle, it would not be unusual for both Sgts. Rice and Garza to test positive for GSR. Att. 124, pgs. 87, 93-96, 103-108; Investigator's Case Log, pg. 2.

⁵⁰ Detectives interviewed ISP Forensic Scientist Debra Klebacha, who conducted the DNA testing in this case. Klebacha reported she could not determine if this minor profile belonged to a male or a female, but the profile was suitable for comparison if CPD submitted a DNA standard to compare it to. Att. 120, pg. 6. COPA asked CPD to submit Sgt. Garza's DNA standard for comparison, but CPD denied the request, stating it could not compel Sgt. Garza to provide a DNA sample without a search warrant. Att. 138.

⁵¹ Att. 23. EMS personnel from Engine 26 also responded to the scene and assisted paramedics in pronouncing Sgt. Rice. Although the ambulance report categorizes the cause of Sgt. Rice's injury as a firearm discharge with "undetermined intent," the report completed by Engine 26 lists the cause as "intentional self-harm" by firearm discharge. Att. 23, pgs. 4, 7.

The **Report of Postmortem Examination**⁵² states Dr. Kirstin Howell performed the autopsy of Sgt. Lori Rice in the morgue of the Cook County ME's Office on February 3, 2019. The autopsy determined Sgt. Rice sustained a single intraoral gunshot wound, which entered the back of her mouth approximately six inches below the top of her head. The projectile perforated her left temporal bone, left temporal lobe, and left parietal lobe before lodging in the dura. The direction of the wound track was front to back, right to left, and upward. Dr. Howell observed soot deposition and gunpowder stippling on Sgt. Rice's tongue and the back of her mouth, and she recovered a red and gray projectile from Sgt. Rice's head. The report does not note any other evidence of trauma. The toxicology results reveal Sgt. Rice's Blood Alcohol Concentration (B.A.C.) was .092 at the time of her death. Dr. Howell determined Sgt. Rice's cause of death was an intraoral gunshot wound, and her manner of death was Suicide.

The **ME Investigations Case Report**⁵³ reveals a CPD member notified the ME's Office of Sgt. Rice's death at 10:36 pm on February 2, 2019. The ME's investigator responded to the scene and observed Sgt. Rice sitting in the passenger's seat of the Jeep with an apparent penetrating gunshot wound to the left side of her head. Her head was tilted to the left, and there was a copious amount of blood on the back of her head. Blood was also emanating from Sgt. Rice's mouth and nostrils, and the flow pattern was consistent with how she was discovered. The ME's investigator did not observe any high velocity blood spatter droplets, commonly known as "back spatter" or "blow back," on either of Sgt. Rice's hands. Additionally, no high velocity forward blood spatter droplets were observed inside the vehicle.

The report states Sgt. Rice was wearing an empty nylon holster on the inside of her right waistband, and a weapon was on the driver's seat. The ME's investigator learned Sgt. Rice's dominant hand was her right hand. There was no suicide note or other indication of self-destruction at the scene, and no indication of illicit drug or alcohol use.

Sgt. Rice's Medical Records⁵⁴ indicate she was treated at Advocate Christ Medical Center on January 18, 2017. Sgt. Rice told doctors she came home from work and drank two bottles of wine and a bottle of liquid Norco. She blacked out and was awoken in bed by a coworker who could not reach her. Sgt. Rice stated she must have fallen because she had a bruise on her right flank. She denied suicidal ideations; however, when doctors asked Sgt. Rice if she was trying to harm herself, she responded, "not really."⁵⁵ Laboratory tests revealed she was positive for opiates and B.A.C. was .084 at 4:00 pm.⁵⁶ Sgt. Rice received a psychiatric consultation and an abdomen and pelvic CT examination (with negative results), and she was discharged from the hospital at 8:57 pm the same day.

COPA obtained and reviewed **photographs taken by** [REDACTED]⁵⁷ in August and September 2018. A photo dated September 14, 2018, shows two of Sgt. Rice's prescription pill

⁵² Att. 105, pgs. 1-12.

⁵³ Att. 105, pgs. 13-17.

⁵⁴ Att. 123.

⁵⁵ Att. 123, pg. 44.

⁵⁶ Att. 123, pg. 59. This is approximately 16 hours after Sgt. Rice's shift ended, and approximately one and a half hours after she arrived at the hospital. See Att. 137, pg. 1.

⁵⁷ Att. 77.

bottles. One of the prescriptions is for Sertraline 50 mg, which is a generic version of the antidepressant Zoloft.

According to the **Synoptic Report**⁵⁸, at approximately 12:15 am on February 3, 2019, a Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) sergeant arrived at the 11th District to conduct the drug and alcohol testing of Sgt. Garza. At approximately 2:00 am, Deputy Chief Francis Valadez #484 informed the BIA sergeant there were no allegations against Sgt. Garza and the need for drug and alcohol testing did not exist.⁵⁹

d. Documentary Evidence

i. Department Reports

The **Detectives' Supplementary Reports and General Progress Reports (GPRs) for RD #JC138110/Death: Investigation**⁶⁰ document detectives' interview with Sgt. Garza, which occurred at 2:10 am on February 3, 2019. Sgt. Garza related essentially the same account of the incident to detectives that he subsequently provided to COPA, with one material difference. Sgt. Garza told detectives he and Sgt. Rice got into multiple arguments the week of her death, including while they were at Ale Fest, but he could not recall what they were fighting about. However, Sgt. Garza told COPA the source of contention between the couple in the week prior to Sgt. Rice's death was her refusal to tell him why she was acting different than normal. He insisted this was what led to the cancellation of the Atlanta trip and why Sgt. Rice was upset with him at Ale Fest.

In addition to Sgt. Garza's statement, the supplementary reports document detectives' interviews with [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and the first responding officers at the scene. All the information they provided is consistent with their COPA statements or, in the case of the first responding officers, is captured in their BWC videos.

Finally, the supplementary reports contain additional information regarding the ME's findings.⁶¹ After the autopsy, Dr. Howell informed detectives the gunshot wound was the only evidence of trauma to Sgt. Rice's body. Sgt. Rice did not have any chipped teeth, abrasions to the lips, bodily bruising, or broken fingernails. However, Dr. Howell deferred ruling on the cause and manner of death pending the toxicology results and the police investigation. After detectives

⁵⁸ Att. 67.

⁵⁹ Immediately after the incident, Dep. Chief Valadez informed a COPA investigator that Sgt. Garza would be drug and alcohol tested. COPA personnel made repeated follow-up requests to ensure Sgt. Garza was tested, but when they relocated to the 11th District, Sgt. Svilar related BIA could not compel Sgt. Garza to submit to drug and alcohol testing unless there were allegations against him. COPA Acting Deputy Chief Robert Coleman informed Sgt. Svilar and Dep. Chief Valadez that COPA was officially alleging Sgt. Garza was intoxicated, based on: 1) the unusual circumstances of Sgt. Rice's death; 2) the fact that Sgt. Garza had just attended a beer festival; 3) Sgt. Garza's refusal to cooperate with first responding officers; and 4) Sgt. Garza's erratic behavior at the shooting scene, as captured on BWC. Dep. Chief Valadez responded that when he spoke to Sgt. Garza during the public safety interview, he observed Sgt. Garza to be distraught but not drunk, and he did not smell alcohol on him. As a result, Dep. Chief Valadez informed COPA personnel he would not order Sgt. Garza to submit to a breathalyzer and urinalysis. Att. 138. This appears to directly contradict Sgt. Garza's statement to COPA that Dep. Chief Valadez asked him to submit to a breathalyzer, and he declined. See Att. 150, pg. 30, lines 5-17. In May 2019, COPA referred the investigation into CPD's failure to breathalyze Sgt. Garza to the Office of Inspector General for the City of Chicago.

⁶⁰ Atts. 48, 117-122, 124. For Sgt. Garza's statement, see Att. 124, pgs. 29-30, 125-126.

⁶¹ See Att. 124, pgs. 31, 62, 66, 124.

provided Dr. Howell with a summary of Sgt. Garza's statement, she ruled Sgt. Rice's manner of death was suicide.

The **Attendance & Assignment (A & A) Sheets for Sgt. Rice**⁶² indicate she was a sector relief sergeant in the 12th District at the time of her death. She was scheduled to work on February 2, 2019, but she used compensatory time to take the day off.

The **A & A Sheets and Overtime Slips for Sgt. Garza**⁶³ indicate he was a tactical team sergeant in the 10th District on the date of the incident. He was not scheduled to work on February 2, 2019, but he worked overtime between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm to execute a search warrant in a narcotics case.

ii. Additional Documentary Evidence

COPA's Preliminary Report⁶⁴ restates essentially the same information as the Introduction of this report, with fewer details. The report also describes the processing of Sgt. Garza's weapon, which is not fully documented in CPD's reports. Following the incident, COPA investigators observed Sgt. Svilar locate Sgt. Garza's weapon and holster on the bedroom nightstand inside Sgt. Rice's apartment. The weapon was a Smith & Wesson Model 5943, 9mm semi-automatic pistol (Serial #VHN9253). The magazine was fully loaded with fifteen live rounds, and there was one live round in the chamber of the weapon. An ET photographed the weapon and turned it over to Sgt. Svilar at the scene.

The **Firearm Receipt**⁶⁵ and **Firearm Registration**⁶⁶ reveal Sgt. Rice purchased the Ruger pistol from Ray O'Herron Co., Inc. on December 29, 2017. She paid cash for the weapon and registered it with the City of Chicago on January 8, 2018.

COPA obtained and reviewed **Sgt. Garza's cell phone records**⁶⁷ from January 1, 2018 to March 22, 2019, and **Sgt. Rice's cell phone records**⁶⁸ from February 3, 2018 to February 3, 2019. The records indicate that between January 1, 2018 and the date of the incident, Sgt. Garza and Sgt. Rice placed a total of 10,269 phone calls to one another, and they exchanged 63,029 text messages. On average, those numbers equate to approximately 25 phone calls and 158 text messages per day. The records also include all of Sgt. Garza's communications on the date of the incident. For a detailed list of the relevant phone calls, see Appendix B.

A **COPA investigative report**⁶⁹ details CPD and COPA's attempts to gain access to the text messages, voicemails, and other data in Sgt. Rice's cell phone. Following the incident, an ET recovered the phone from Sgt. Rice's purse and turned it over to detectives, who brought it to the Chicago Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory (RCFL) for examination. On March 1, 2019,

⁶² Att. 33.

⁶³ Atts. 32, 96, pg. 93.

⁶⁴ Att. 21.

⁶⁵ Att. 131; see also Att. 124, pg. 98-99.

⁶⁶ Att. 110.

⁶⁷ Atts. 49, 73, 78, 92, 148.

⁶⁸ Atts. 149, 151.

⁶⁹ Att. 139; see also Investigator's Case Log, pgs. 4-5.

the RCFL director notified detectives the phone was locked and RCFL was unable to bypass the security on the device. RCFL submitted a request to the FBI's cryptology unit in Quantico, but no solution was available.

COPA investigators subsequently contacted Sgt. Rice's friends and family members to determine if they knew Sgt. Rice's passcode. Sgt. Garza⁷⁰, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] all responded they did not know the code. At COPA's request, [REDACTED] contacted Google and asked the company to unlock Sgt. Rice's phone and/or reset the password to her email account. Google refused the request, citing legal and privacy concerns.

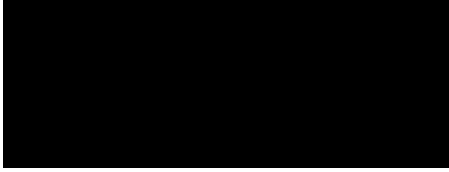
VI. CONCLUSION

COPA carefully reviewed all of the available evidence in this case, including Sgt. Garza's account of the incident, the background information provided by Sgt. Rice's friends and family, and the physical evidence recovered from the scene. In general, the evidence is consistent with the ME's ruling that Sgt. Rice died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. At the time of her death, Sgt. Rice was undergoing significant life stressors, including a divorce, a recent move, and a new job at CPD. She was engaged in an emotionally volatile relationship with Sgt. Garza and had a documented history of depression and anxiety. Additionally, the ME noted the gunshot wound was the only evidence of trauma to Sgt. Rice's body. She did not have any chipped teeth, abrasions to the lips, bodily bruising, broken fingernails, or any other injuries that might indicate the involvement of a third party.

COPA recognizes there are inconsistencies between Sgt. Garza's account and the evidence recovered from the scene, most notably the location of Sgt. Rice's weapon on the driver's seat of the Jeep. COPA is also troubled by Sgt. Garza's inability to recall critical details from the incident, including what was said inside the vehicle immediately before Sgt. Rice's death. Although many questions remain unanswered, on balance, COPA finds the available evidence is consistent with a suicide. For these reasons, COPA concurs with the ME's ruling that Sgt. Rice died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

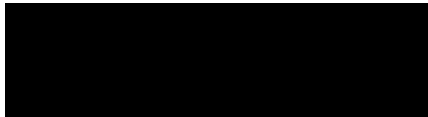
⁷⁰ Att. 150, pg. 53, lines 20-22.

Approved:



Matthew Haynam
Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

4/12/2021
Date:



Sydney Roberts
Chief Administrator

4/12/2021
Date:

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad#:	6
Supervising Investigator:	Steffany Hreno ⁷¹
Deputy Chief Administrator:	Matthew Haynam

⁷¹ At the time of the incident, SI Hreno was a major case specialist at COPA. She investigated the incident under the supervision of SI Sherry Daun and SI Robert Coleman.

Appendix B

**Relevant phone calls made to or from Sgt. Garza
2/1/2019, 9:30 pm to 2/4/2019, 9:30 pm⁷²**

Date	Time	Call Placed By	Call Placed To	Duration of Call
2/1/2019	10:17:22 pm	Sgt. Garza	Sgt. Rice	44:46 minutes
2/1/2019	11:59:38 pm	Sgt. Garza	Sgt. Rice	56 seconds
2/2/2019	9:48:01am	Cpt. Barz	Sgt. Garza	22 seconds
2/2/2019	2:25:26 pm	Sgt. Garza	Officer Jacob Garza (son)	1:00 minutes
2/2/2019	2:26:55 pm	Sgt. Garza	Sgt. Juan Perez	2:06 minutes
2/2/2019	4:15:20 pm	Sgt. Garza	Cpt. Barz	1:09 minutes
2/2/2019	5:33:53 pm	Sgt. Garza	Cpt. Barz	Voicemail
2/2/2019	5:34:22 pm	Sgt. Garza	Officer Mukite	3 seconds
2/2/2019	5:59:03 pm	Sgt. Garza	Cpt. Barz	Voicemail
2/2/2019	7:01:35 pm	Sgt. Garza	Cpt. Barz	1:50 minutes
2/2/2019	7:07:48 pm	Sgt. Garza	Cpt. Barz	Voicemail
2/2/2019	7:08:14 pm	Sgt. Garza	Sgt. Rice	No answer
2/2/2019	7:09:17 pm	Sgt. Garza	Cpt. Barz	1:25 minutes
2/2/2019	7:14:50 pm	Sgt. Garza	Sgt. Rice	1:08 minutes
2/2/2019	8:07:51 pm	Sgt. Garza	Cpt. Barz	6:53 minutes
2/2/2019	9:30:42 pm	Sgt. Garza	911	1:43 minutes
2/2/2019	9:33:04 pm	Sgt. Garza	Officer Mukite	19 seconds
2/2/2019	9:33:26 pm	Sgt. Garza	911	1:08 minutes
2/2/2019	9:37:14 pm	Sgt. Garza	Cpt. Barz	57 seconds
2/2/2019	9:47:05 pm	Sgt. Garza	Cpt. Barz	11 seconds
2/2/2019	9:48:55 pm	Sgt. Garza	[REDACTED]	49 seconds
2/2/2019	10:01:22 pm	[REDACTED]	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/2/2019	10:09:37 pm	[REDACTED]	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/2/2019	11:03:11 pm	Sgt. Velma Guerrero	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/2/2019	11:37:04 pm	[REDACTED]	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/2/2019	11:37:32 pm	[REDACTED]	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/2/2019	11:37:57 pm	[REDACTED]	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/2/2019	11:38:23 pm	[REDACTED]	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/2/2019	11:38:53 pm	[REDACTED]	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/2/2019	11:39:25 pm	[REDACTED]	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/2/2019	11:41:26 pm	[REDACTED]	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/2/2019	11:42:13 pm	[REDACTED]	Sgt. Garza	No answer
2/2/2019	11:42:41 pm	[REDACTED]	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/2/2019	11:57:15 pm	Officer Joel Soto	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/2/2019	11:59:42 pm	Officer Jacob Garza	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/3/2019	12:27:54 am	[REDACTED]	Sgt. Garza	No answer
2/3/2019	12:28:14 am	[REDACTED]	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/3/2019	12:34:58 am	Sgt. Garza	[REDACTED]	6:17 minutes
2/3/2019	12:43:09 am	Sgt. Garza	[REDACTED]	No answer

⁷² This is not a complete call log, and it does not include calls placed to/from unknown numbers, toll-free numbers, or other numbers registered to Sgt. Garza (possibly used by his family members).

2/3/2019	12:43:33 am	Sgt. Garza		4:14 minutes
2/3/2019	2:42:19 am	Sgt. Garza	Officer Jacob Garza	1:26 minutes
2/3/2019	3:31:01 am	Cpt. Barz	Sgt. Garza	1:08 minutes
2/3/2019	8:56:18 am	Det. Audie Manaois	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/3/2019	8:56:28 am	Det. Manaois	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/3/2019	12:14:07 pm	Cpt. Joseph Brennan	Sgt. Garza	15 seconds
2/3/2019	12:56:30 pm	Officer Jacob Garza	Sgt. Garza	24 seconds
2/3/2019	2:09:27 pm	Sgt. Garza	Officer Jacob Garza	12 seconds
2/3/2019	2:33:27 pm	Cpt. Barz	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/3/2019	3:53:15 pm	Officer Brian Collins	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/3/2019	4:10:47 pm	Det. Daniel Frausto	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/3/2019	5:52:40 pm	Cmdr. James Sanchez	Sgt. Garza	No answer
2/3/2019	7:50:09 pm	Officer Jacob Garza	Sgt. Garza	59 seconds
2/3/2019	9:33:33 pm	Officer Collins	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/4/2019	10:31:43 am	Cpt. Barz	Sgt. Garza	5:44 minutes
2/4/2019	10:41:08 am	Sgt. Garza		21:07 minutes
2/4/2019	11:12:02 am	Sgt. Garza		6:30 minutes
2/4/2019	11:20:14 am	Sgt. Garza	Sgt. Guerrero	2 seconds
2/4/2019	11:39:33 am	Officer Collins	Sgt. Garza	19 seconds
2/4/2019	11:48:02 am	Sgt. Garza	PBPA (sergeant's union)	1:34 minutes
2/4/2019	12:20:15 pm	Attorney Donna Dowd	Sgt. Garza	4:55 minutes
2/4/2019	12:27:31 pm	Sgt. Garza	COPA	1:22 minutes
2/4/2019	1:10:54 pm	Sgt. John Poulos	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/4/2019	1:29:47 pm	Cmdr. Sanchez	Sgt. Garza	1:45 minutes
2/4/2019	2:57:40 pm	Cmdr. Sanchez	Sgt. Garza	3:51 minutes
2/4/2019	3:35:08 pm	Cpt. Barz	Sgt. Garza	25:55 minutes
2/4/2019	4:43:30 pm	Officer Collins	Sgt. Garza	Voicemail
2/4/2019	5:07:01pm	Sgt. Garza	Officer Collins	9:19 minutes
2/4/2019	7:25:08 pm	Officer Jacob Garza	Sgt. Garza	2:58 minutes