

**SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	January 15, 2019 / 10:55pm / 8331 S. Holland RD.
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	March 24, 2021 / 11:03am
Involved Officer #1:	James Hunt, Star #11442, Employee ID # [REDACTED], Date of Appointment: 03/06/2013, Rank: PO, Unit of Assignment: 006, DOB: [REDACTED], 1984, Male, White.
Involved Officer #2:	Abel Villalobos, Star #17324, Employee ID # [REDACTED], Date of Appointment: 15/12/2017, Rank: PO, Unit of Assignment: 006, DOB: [REDACTED], 1991, Male, White Hispanic.
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED] <sup>h</sup> , 1990, Male, Black
Case Type:	Improper Seizure / Stop

**I. ALLEGATIONS**

Officer	Allegation	Finding/ Recommendation
James Hunt	It is alleged that on January 15, 2019, at approximately 10:55pm, at or around 8331 S. Holland RD, Officer James Hunt:	
	1. Improperly seized and/or searched [REDACTED] vehicle.	Unfounded
	2. Arrested [REDACTED] [REDACTED] without justification.	Unfounded
	3. Racially profiled [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Unfounded

**II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE<sup>1</sup>**

In a statement with COPA, complainant [REDACTED] stated while he was driving home from work officers initiated a traffic stop on his vehicle. Officer Hunt informed [REDACTED] the reason for traffic stop was for failure to use a turning signal. OFC Hunt requested [REDACTED]

<sup>1</sup> 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 investigations 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.

license and registration and observed what ██████ called a “gun card.” Officer Hunt asked ██████ if he had a gun on him and ██████ confirmed that he did. Officer Hunt instructed ██████ to step out of the vehicle, recovered ██████ firearm, and then accused ██████ of taking the firearm out of the glove compartment, and placing it underneath his back seat.<sup>2</sup> ██████ stated he placed the firearm underneath his seat prior to him leaving work.<sup>3</sup> ██████ was placed under arrest. ██████ stated that he had a FOID card, but he did not have his Conceal Carry License (CCL). ██████ stated that Officer Hunt’s aggressive nature made him feel racially profiled. ██████ only complained about Officer Hunt during the incident.

An Arrest Report and Original Case Incident Report for ██████ documented that he was arrest for Aggravated Unauthorized Use of Weapon and Failure to Signal. Officers Hunt and Villalobos observed ██████ vehicle failed to signal. The officers activated their emergency equipment and curbed ██████ vehicle. ██████ was observed raising his body up, lean backwards towards the rear seat, and return to a normal sitting position while stopping the vehicle. The officers spoke with ██████ who tendered a driver’s license. ██████ related that he was in possession of a valid FOID card and was waiting on a conceal carry license but had no firearm inside the vehicle.

After a brief conversation, ██████ related that his firearm was inside the vehicle on the floorboard of the backseat. ██████ was asked from the vehicle and detained. Upon detaining, ██████ related that he took the gun out of the glove box and placed it on the floor when he was pulled over. Officer Hunt opened the rear door of ██████ vehicle and observed in plain view the butt of a handgun. A blue steel Springfield, .45 caliber, semi-automatic handgun loaded with multiple live rounds was recovered. ██████ was mirandized on the scene to which he waived and stated not verbatim, “I don’t have a conceal carry so I don’t know the rules, so I took the gun from the glovebox and put it on the floor when you pulled me over.” ██████ was placed in custody and transported to the 006<sup>th</sup> District Station.

Body Worn Camera (BWC) footage from Officers Hunt and Villalobos documented the incident as described in the Arrest Report and Original Case Incident Report.

### III. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

COPA finds that Allegation #1, that Officer Hunt improperly seized and/or searched ██████ vehicle, be classified as Unfounded. The officers initiated the traffic stop due to ██████ not using a turn signal. Officer Hunt searched ██████ vehicle after ██████ admitted to operating a motor vehicle with a loaded weapon inside of the vehicle and not having a CCL. The traffic stop initiation and search were found to be within Department policy. The totality of the circumstances, in combination with the preponderance of the evidence, indicates that this allegation did not occur as alleged.

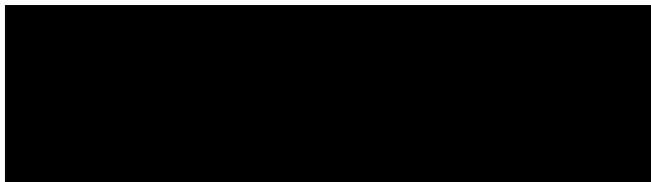
<sup>2</sup> Att. 15 Timestamp 03:51 - 04:24 OFC Hunt, and OFC Villalobos BWC revealed this statement to be inaccurate and false. OFC Hunt inquired about ██████ movements in the vehicle numerous times. ██████ stated that he repositioned his weapon from the glove compartment to underneath his backseat because ██████ was not in possession of a CCL and was unaware of the weapon laws at that time.

<sup>3</sup> Att. 15 Timestamp 09:20 - 09:30 OFC Hunt’s BWC refutes this statement. OFC Hunt’s BWC revealed ██████ claimed multiple times that ██████ moved the weapon from the glove compartment to underneath the seat because he was not in possession of a CCL at the time of the traffic stop.

COPA finds that Allegation #2, that Officer Hunt arrested [REDACTED] without justification, be classified as Unfounded. A firearm and magazine containing multiple rounds was recovered from the interior of [REDACTED] motor vehicle. [REDACTED] admitted to having this weapon and not possessing a CCL at the time of the traffic stop. [REDACTED] was subsequently arrested due to these facts which COPA found to be within Department policy. The totality of the circumstances, in combination with the preponderance of the evidence, indicates that this allegation did not occur as alleged.

COPA finds that Allegation #3, that Officer Hunt racially profiled [REDACTED] be classified as Unfounded. The officers initiated the traffic stop due to [REDACTED] failing to use a turn signal. [REDACTED] admitted to being in possession of a loaded firearm without a CCL. Officers Hunt and Villalobos were professional throughout the duration of the traffic stop and did not perform any actions that suggested racial profiling. Therefore, the allegation is Unfounded.

Approved:



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Angela Hearts-Glass  
*Deputy Chief Administrator*

2-25-2022

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Date