

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	November 4, 2021/12:45pm/2350 W. Ogden Avenue, Chicago Illinois 60608
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	November 4, 2021/3:20pm
Involved Sergeant #1:	Hoover, Tracy, Star # 2557, Employee ID # [REDACTED], Date of Appointment: December 13, 1999, SGT, Unit of Assignment: 003, DOB: [REDACTED] 1976, Female, White.
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED], DOB: [REDACTED] 1997, Female, Black.
Case Type:	Excessive Force

I. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Sergeant Tracy Hoover ¹	It is alleged that on or about November 4, 2021, at approximately 12:45pm at or near 2350 W. Ogden Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60608, Sergeant Tracy Hoover, Star # 2557, committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions, by: 1. Grabbing the arm of [REDACTED] without justification.	Not Sustained

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE²

¹ At the time of the alleged incident on November 4, 2021, Sergeant Tracy Hoover was a Police Officer for the Chicago Police Department’s (CPD) Polygraph Section. Sergeant Hoover was promoted to a Sergeant on January 16, 2022.

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.

On February 3, 2022, the Complainant, ██████████ provided a statement to COPA.^{3,4}

██████████ was scheduled to take a polygraph test at approximately 12:00pm on November 4, 2021, as part of her pre-employment process for becoming a Chicago Police Department (CPD) officer. Upon arriving to the polygraph office building, Officer Vanessa Sarabia took ██████████ into the polygraph suite area and office space belonging to Sergeant Tracy Hoover, one of the polygraph examiners, where ██████████ polygraph test was scheduled to be conducted. During the polygraph testing process, the conversation between Sergeant Hoover and ██████████ focused on racism and escalated into a heated verbal interaction.

As a result of the conversation continuing about race and racism between ██████████ and Sergeant Hoover, Sergeant Hoover informed ██████████ she was ending the polygraph session. Sergeant Hoover told Officer Sarabia that the polygraph test was over, and ██████████ needed to leave now since ██████████ continued to call Sergeant Hoover a racist. As Sergeant Hoover asked ██████████ to leave a second time, ██████████ stated that Sergeant Hoover grabbed ██████████ right arm and squeezed it quite hard, causing pain afterwards. ██████████ responded by telling Sergeant Hoover not to touch her and that Sergeant Hoover had no right to touch her. Officer Sarabia escorted ██████████ out of the building. ██████████ asked Officer Sarabia if she observed Sergeant Hoover grab her arm, but Officer Sarabia responded that she did not.

On July 12, 2022, Witness Officer Vanessa Sarabia provided a statement to COPA.⁵

Officer Sarabia, one of the schedulers of the polygraph office, stated that when ██████████ arrived at the polygraph office, she escorted ██████████ to the polygraph office area, requested that ██████████ eat something before the polygraph exam began, and provided ██████████ with documents and paperwork to complete. Sergeant Hoover then called ██████████ into her office to begin the polygraph exam. Officer Sarabia recalled hearing Sergeant Hoover say something to the effect of, “Are you calling me a racist,” followed by hearing the door to Sergeant Hoover’s office open. Sergeant Hoover approached Officer Sarabia’s desk and asked Officer Sarabia to reschedule ██████████ with Sergeant Banks, who was the Sergeant for the polygraph office. Sergeant Hoover proceeded to ask ██████████ multiple times, to please have a seat. Officer Sarabia stood up from her desk and noticed that ██████████ disregarded Sergeant Hoover’s request to sit.

At that time, ██████████ had her finger pointed toward Sergeant Hoover’s face and ██████████ was telling Sergeant Hoover not to touch her, in a more aggressive tone. ██████████ said something to the effect of, “Did you see her, she touched me.” Officer Sarabia responded by stating that she did not see Sergeant Hoover touch ██████████ but wanted ██████████ to step away from where Sergeant Hoover was standing. Officer Sarabia then asked ██████████ to gather her belongings, informed ██████████ that the polygraph office Sergeant would contact her, and escorted ██████████ out of the polygraph office and building.

³ Att. 6 (Audio and Video Recording) and Att. 7 (Audio Recording).

⁴ Att. 11 (The complainant, ██████████ read from and referenced notes during her statement to COPA that she created a few minutes after the polygraph test ended).

⁵ Att. 8 (Audio Recording).

On July 14, 2022, Accused Sergeant Tracy Hoover provided a statement to COPA.^{6,7}

Sergeant Hoover stated that she instructed the scheduler of the polygraph office to allow ██████ to eat breakfast nearby the polygraph office, prior to proceeding forward with the polygraph test. Shortly after ██████ finished her meal and completed the required paperwork, ██████ was invited into Sergeant Hoover's office. Sergeant Hoover asked ██████ pre-interview questions, which resulted in a verbal interaction. Sergeant Hoover determined that she was unable to conduct a fair test with ██████ because ██████ called her a racist and looked at her in a manner that made Sergeant Hoover feel uncomfortable. After deciding to conclude the polygraph test with ██████ Sergeant Hoover walked out of her office and asked Officer Sarabia to reschedule ██████ polygraph test.

As Sergeant Hoover talked with Officer Sarabia, ██████ swiftly came out of Sergeant Hoover's office upset. ██████ pointed her right hand toward Sergeant Hoover and insisted that the polygraph continue. Sergeant Hoover confirmed that the polygraph test must be rescheduled, and ██████ swiftly came closer to Sergeant Hoover. Sergeant Hoover put her left hand up, making a stop type of motion with her hand, to prevent ██████ from coming any closer. Thereafter, Sergeant Hoover asked ██████ to please sit down. According to Sergeant Hoover, ██████ approached her and purposely ran into her (Sergeant Hoover) left hand when she was extending her arm out in a stopping motion to keep some distance between the two of them. ██████ then looked directly at Officer Sarabia and stated, "Did you see that? She hit me." Sergeant Hoover stated that she did not touch ██████ but clarified that ██████ intentionally ran into her hand. Sergeant Hoover noted that there were no cameras in any of the polygraph suites used for polygraph exams, including her individual office, or in any portion of the polygraph office area.

III. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

Under the Department's policy, there cannot be disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty, by Department members.⁸ Additionally, Department members cannot engage in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.⁹ Furthermore, Department members will modify the use of force as circumstances change and in ways that are consistent with officer safety, including determining whether the member may be able to stabilize the situation through the use of time, distance, or positioning to isolate and contain a subject, such as establishing a zone of safety.¹⁰

⁶ Att. 9 (Audio Recording).

⁷ Sergeant Hoover read from and referenced a document that is a Log/Report she created directly after the polygraph test with the complainant, ██████ ended, which goes into the CPD candidate's hiring file and included the questions asked by Sergeant Hoover.

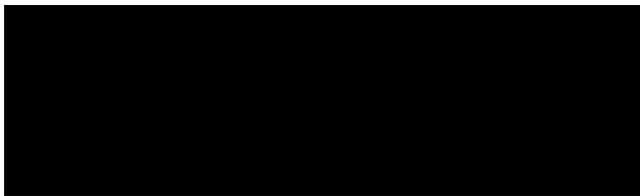
⁸ Rule 8 of the Rules and Regulations of the Chicago Police Department, City of Chicago.

⁹ Rule 9 of the Rules and Regulations of the Chicago Police Department, City of Chicago.

¹⁰ G03-02(III)(C)(2) and G03-02(III)(C)(2)(b).

Here, there is not sufficient evidence to determine that there was disrespect, maltreatment, or an unjustified verbal or physical altercation by a Department member. Per all three statements provided to COPA, there was a verbal interaction between Sergeant Hoover and ██████. However, there is insufficient evidence of Sergeant Hoover grabbing ██████ arm. Witness Officer Sarabia did not see any physical interaction between ██████ and Sergeant Hoover. Sergeant Hoover stated to COPA that she possibly touched ██████ by placing her arm out in a stopping motion, but that she did not grab ██████ arm. Additionally, there were no cameras in the building, general polygraph office area, or in any of the polygraph suites or office area of Sergeant Hoover that captured the incident. There is insufficient evidence to prove or refute the allegation. Thus, COPA finds that the allegation against Sergeant Hoover is **Not Sustained**.

Approved:



Angela Hearts-Glass
Deputy Chief Investigator

8-31-2022

Date