

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	December 25, 2018/2:30AM/ [REDACTED] Chicago
	December 25, 2018/2:43AM/ [REDACTED] Evergreen Park, IL
Date of COPA Notification:	December 26, 2018
Time of COPA Notification:	12:15 PM
Case Type:	Domestic

Officer Bryja was involved in a domestic altercation with his [REDACTED] and his [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. His [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] fled the home and went to Officer Bryja's [REDACTED] home in Evergreen Park. Evergreen Park Police (EPP) responded, and it was reported that Officer Bryja came home drunk and physically attacked them. [REDACTED] also turned over Officer Bryja's duty weapon, reporting that she took it from the home because he was intoxicated and was repeatedly asking for it. Evergreen Park Officers requested the assistance of the Chicago Police Department (CPD). CPD officers responded and, upon learning that the accused was a Department Member, they requested Sgt. Doskocz's assistance, who is alleged to have violated several Department Rules and General Orders during his response. On June 21, 2021, Officer Bryja retired from the Department after giving a statement to COPA.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Officer #1:	Steven Bryja, Star 14831, Employee# [REDACTED], DOA January 2, 1992, Unit 145/057, Police Officer, DOB [REDACTED] 1966, Male, White
Involved Officer #2:	Jerry Doskocz, Star 1397, Employee# [REDACTED], DOA March 25, 2002, Unit 022, Sergeant, DOB [REDACTED], 1976, Male, White
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] DOB [REDACTED], 1966, Female, White
Involved Individual #2:	[REDACTED] DOB [REDACTED], 1936, Female, White
Involved Individual #3:	[REDACTED] DOB [REDACTED], 1998, Female, White
Involved Individual #4:	[REDACTED] DOB [REDACTED], 1998, Female, White

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Officer Bryja	1. It is alleged that on or about December 25, 2018, at approximately 2:30 am, at or near the location of [REDACTED] the accused pushed [REDACTED] in violation of Rule 9.	Sustained
	2. It is alleged that on or about December 25, 2018, at approximately 2:30 am, at or near the location of [REDACTED] the accused placed his arms around [REDACTED] neck in Violation of Rule 9.	Sustained
	3. It is alleged that on or about December 25, 2018, at approximately 2:30 am, at or near the location of [REDACTED] the accused struck [REDACTED] on the head in Violation of Rule 9.	Sustained
	4. It is alleged that on or about December 25, 2018, at approximately 2:30 am, at or near the location of [REDACTED] the accused failed to secure his weapon in Violation of Rule 2 and 6.	Sustained
	5. It is alleged that on or about December 25, 2018, at approximately 2:30 am, at or near the location of [REDACTED] the accused was intoxicated in Violation of Rule 15.	Sustained
	6. It is alleged that on or about December 25, 2018, at approximately 2:30 am, at or near the location of [REDACTED] the accused grabbed [REDACTED] in Violation of Rule 9.	Sustained
	7. It is alleged that on or about December 25, 2018, at approximately 2:30 am, at or near the location of [REDACTED] the accused placed [REDACTED] in a headlock in Violation of Rule 9.	Sustained

	<p>8. It is alleged that on or about December 25, 2018, at approximately 2:30 am, at or near the location of [REDACTED] the accused slapped [REDACTED] in Violation of Rule 9.</p>	<p>Sustained</p>
<p>Sergeant Doskocz</p>	<p>1. It is alleged that on or about December 25, 2018, at approximately 0243 hours, at or near the location of [REDACTED] in Evergreen Park, IL, the accused failed to activate his Body Worn Camera while responding to a service call in Violation of Rules 5 and 6.</p> <p>2. It is alleged that on or about December 25, 2018, at approximately 0243 hours, at or near the location of [REDACTED] in Evergreen Park, IL, the accused had knowledge of an allegation of misconduct and failed to complete an initiation report and/or notify the Chicago Police Department of allegations of misconduct Violation of Rules 6 and 22.</p> <p>3. It is alleged that on or about December 25, 2018, at approximately 0243 hours, at or near the location of [REDACTED] in Evergreen Park, IL, the accused failed to conduct a thorough investigation when he responded to domestic incident involving a Chicago Police Officer Violation of Rule 6.</p> <p>4. It is alleged that on or about December 25, 2018, at approximately 0243 hours, at or near the location of [REDACTED] in Evergreen Park, IL, the accused failed to ensure that a case report was generated documenting the domestic incident Violation of Rules 5, 6 and 11.</p>	<p>Sustained</p> <p>Sustained</p> <p>Sustained</p> <p>Sustained</p>

IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS

Rules

1. Rule 2 - Any action or conduct which impedes the Department’s efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.
2. Rule 5 - Failure to perform any duty.

3. Rule 6 – Disobedience of an order or directive, whether written or oral.
4. Rule 9 – Engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation, while on or off duty.
5. Rule 11 – Incompetency or inefficiency in the performance of duty.
6. Rule 15 – Intoxication on or off duty.
7. Rule 22 - Failure to report to the Department any violation of Rules and Regulations or any other improper conduct which is contrary to the policy, orders or directives of the Department.

General Orders

1. General Order G04-04 - Domestic Incidents
 2. Uniform Order 04-02 – Department Approved Weapons and Ammunition
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Special Orders

1. Special Order S04-04 - Domestic Incidents
 2. Special Order S03-03-06 – District Field Sergeants
 3. Special Order S03-14 – Body Worn Cameras
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V. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

In his **Initiation Report**¹ dated December 26, 2018, Lt. Stasch related that at approximately 10:00 am, he was contacted by Officer Bryja who stated that he was involved in a domestic altercation with his [REDACTED] and his family left the residence and took his duty weapon with them to his [REDACTED] house in Evergreen Park, IL. Mrs. [REDACTED] surrendered the duty weapon to the Evergreen Park Police (EPP). Officer Bryja requested Lt. Stasch accompany him to EPP to retrieve the weapon because EPP would only release the weapon to an officer of the rank of Lieutenant or above. Lt. Stasch responded to EPP and met with Deputy Chief Keith Hojeck who stated that he was hesitant to return the weapon over to Officer Bryja due to the nature of the incident that transpired between Officer Bryja and his [REDACTED] which was documented in EPP Report Number [REDACTED]. According to the police report, Officer Bryja was accused of pushing and choking Mrs. [REDACTED] and striking his [REDACTED] on the head. The report also indicated that Officer Bryja's [REDACTED] told officers that Officer Bryja was suffering from mental health issues and made suicidal comments. After obtaining the information and not being able to locate a log number for the incident, Lt. Stasch initiated this complaint and had Officer Bryja report to the Employment Assistance Program (EAP) to meet with a clinician. Lt. Stasch left Officer Bryja's weapon in the possession of the Evergreen Park Police Department.

¹ Att. 4

According to **Evergreen Park Investigation Report IL [REDACTED]** on December 25, 2018, at approximately 0243 hours, Evergreen Park Police Officers were dispatched to [REDACTED]. Upon arrival, [REDACTED] related that she and her husband, Chicago Police Officer Steven Bryja, were at their residence located at [REDACTED] when an argument ensued. The couple began pushing and shoving each other. Both their [REDACTED] entered the bedroom, attempted to intervene, and told their father to leave the home. At some point, Officer Bryja “choked” Mrs. [REDACTED]. After observing Officer Bryja choke her [REDACTED] grabbed his weapon from the nightstand and placed it inside of her backpack for safekeeping. [REDACTED] also reported that while trying to break up their parents, Officer Bryja struck her sister, [REDACTED] several times on the head. Mrs. [REDACTED] and her [REDACTED] fled their home and went to her [REDACTED] home. [REDACTED] also reported that when they were leaving, Officer Bryja followed them outside stating that he needed his firearm. They told him it was in the garage and left the home as he was looking for the weapon. Evergreen Park Police responded to Mrs. [REDACTED] home, recovered the weapon from a black backpack that was on the kitchen table and inventoried it. Mrs. [REDACTED] asked the Evergreen Park Officers for information on how to obtain an Order of Protection. Evergreen Park Officers advised her that if she wanted a police report for the incident, she would have to file it with the Chicago Police Department since that was the place of occurrence. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] refused medical treatment and no visible injuries were observed by EPP. Due to the nature of the event, EPP Sgt. Salazar requested a CPD Unit to respond to the location. CPD arrived at the location and were given all the above information. Mrs. [REDACTED] told CPD that she did not know if she wanted to pursue the matter at the time, and CPD officers gave Mrs. [REDACTED] contact information on how to reach them if she changed her mind.

While officers were present, Officer Bryja’s [REDACTED] expressed to CPD Sgt. Daskocz, concerns for Officer Bryja’s mental health. She related that he suffered some traumatic childhood events that may be resurfacing and contributing to his problem with alcohol and emotional issues. She reported that, in the past few months, Officer Bryja made references indicating that he wanted to kill himself.

Evergreen Park Police inventoried Officer Bryja’s 9mm Smith and Wesson gun and magazine and released it to him on December 31, 2018.³

In a **Supplemental EPP Report**,⁴ Investigator Brakowski related that on December 28, 2018, he contacted Mrs. [REDACTED] who related that she did not file a police report with Chicago Police, nor did she obtain an Order of Protection. She also stated that she did not wish to pursue her complaint against Officer Bryja, and they are currently working on their relationship. [REDACTED] related that she had not seen her [REDACTED] since the date of the incident. She also stated that she took her [REDACTED]’s gun because he was intoxicated and repeatedly stated, “I need my gun.” [REDACTED] stated that she is worried about returning to college because she does not want to leave her [REDACTED] [REDACTED] could not be reached.

² Att. 5

³ Att. 16

⁴ Att. 15

COPA obtained the **OEMC Event Query**⁵ relative to this incident. According to Event Number [REDACTED], on December 25, 2018, at 3:28 AM, Chicago Police Beats 2220R, 2211R, and 2212R were dispatched to the location [REDACTED] for an assist job. The job was closed out at 5:02 AM and coded “19P” with “Order of Protection” listed in the comments section.

Supervisor Management Logs⁶ confirmed that Beats 220R, 2211R, and 2212R were assigned to an assist job at the location of [REDACTED] on December 25, 2018 at approximately 4:00Am and the job was completed at 4:30AM.

According to the **Personnel Equipment Logs**,⁷ Officers Hobbs and Claxton were assigned to Beat 2211R, Officers Hagen and Woods were assigned to Beat 2212R, and Sgt. Daskocz was assigned to Beat 220R. All involved Department Members were assigned radios and body worn cameras.

The **Body Worn Camera (BWC)**⁸ footage was consistent with the Evergreen Park Case Report. Mrs. [REDACTED] relates that an argument ensued over Officer Bryja’s infidelity during which the two pushed each other and Officer Bryja placed his arm around her neck in a chokehold. As she tells Chicago Police Officers what occurred, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] emphasize that Officer Bryja was choking Mrs. [REDACTED] and would not let Mrs. [REDACTED] go, causing them to intervene to get him off her. They further relate that they told him the gun was in the garage, so they could leave. When asked if he knew where they were, they relate that he was trying to contact them to find out where they were. Chicago Police Officers turned their cameras off after obtaining the victims’ account and requesting a supervisor.

Evergreen Park Police recorded the incident in its entirety including when Sgt. Daskocz arrived on the scene⁹ and his interaction with the victims. Sgt. Daskocz is seen standing a few feet away from Mrs. [REDACTED] and her [REDACTED]. When asked what would happen if Mrs. [REDACTED] made a report, he responds, “That would be up to IAD or COPA or whatever they call it. If they find that it is a credible incident, they are going to strip him.”¹⁰ Sgt. Daskocz is notified of the allegations against Officer Bryja by Mrs. [REDACTED], Mrs. [REDACTED], and an Evergreen Park police officer.

Mrs. [REDACTED] and her [REDACTED] failed to cooperate with the COPA investigation and an **Affidavit Override**¹¹ was obtained.

In her statement to COPA, witness [REDACTED]¹² [REDACTED] of the accused, related that she was sleeping when her [REDACTED], [REDACTED] called her. Mrs. [REDACTED] informed her that Officer Bryja came home drunk and was upset because their [REDACTED] [REDACTED] used his bathroom. Mrs. [REDACTED] could hear Officer Bryja yelling in the background, so she requested to speak to him.

⁵ Att. 20

⁶ Att. 41

⁷ Att. 41

⁸ Att. 43,44

⁹ Att. 45

¹⁰ Id. at 6:39

¹¹ Att. 50

¹² Att. 8, 28

When Officer Bryja refused to speak with her, she instructed Mrs. [REDACTED] to come to her home in Evergreen Park. When Mrs. [REDACTED] and her [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrived, Mrs. [REDACTED] told her that Officer Bryja was upset because the [REDACTED] took a shower in his bathroom. She explained that the [REDACTED] had to utilize their [REDACTED] bathroom because their bathroom needed to be renovated. Mrs. [REDACTED] related that [REDACTED] was crying and stated that Officer Bryja smacked her. [REDACTED] also stated that Officer Bryja smacked her. [REDACTED] stated that she took her [REDACTED] gun which Mrs. [REDACTED] took from her and placed it on the table. Mrs. [REDACTED] immediately called the police although Mrs. [REDACTED] did not want her to do so. The officers responded and spoke to Mrs. [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] about the incident. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] complained to her in the past about her [REDACTED] constant drinking. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she did not observe any injuries to her [REDACTED]. She added that this was the first incident of domestic violence.

In his statement to COPA on July 21, 2020, **Officer Bryja**¹³ related that he has been married to Mrs. [REDACTED] for 28 years and they had a set of 20-year-old [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in common. Officer Bryja described himself as being 6'0," and approximately 228 pounds and described Mrs. [REDACTED] as being approximately 5'4," and 135 pounds. Officer Bryja related that on Christmas Eve, he went to Black Thorn Pub and had a few beers and possibly some wine and/or champagne and then he returned home and went to sleep. While sleeping, his [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] returned home. Mrs. [REDACTED] woke him up and began to argue. Officer Bryja admitted that he committed infidelity in the past and, that night, Mrs. [REDACTED] brought it back up. The argument, which lasted approximately 10 or 15 minutes, grew louder and his [REDACTED] who were originally downstairs, came upstairs to their bedroom.

Officer Bryja stated he does not like to argue when his [REDACTED] are around even though they are adults. Officer Bryja stated the girls immediately took their [REDACTED] side. Officer Bryja and his [REDACTED] were facing each other, and [REDACTED] was standing next to her [REDACTED] started calling Officer Bryja names and dug her nails into Officer Bryja's right forearm and continued applying pressure causing his arm to bleed. Officer Bryja "pushed"¹⁴ [REDACTED] on the right cheek with an open hand. Officer Bryja explained that he was trying to push her off of him to get her nails out of his arms. Within seconds, Officer Bryja was hit on the back of his head with an unknown blunt object that cut his head. Officer Bryja fell back onto the bed and bumped into one of them as he was going down. Officer Bryja suspects that it was [REDACTED] that struck him since both Mrs. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were standing in front of him. Officer Bryja related that the blow to his head rendered him unconscious until the following morning at approximately 7 AM.

Officer Bryja stated that on Christmas Day while his [REDACTED] were sleeping, he and Mrs. [REDACTED] discussed what occurred a few hours prior. Officer Bryja stated that Mrs. [REDACTED] did not tell him that he struck her the night before. Mrs. [REDACTED] told him they took his gun to the Evergreen Park Police Station and he can retrieve it from there. Officer Bryja stated that his weapon was inside his bedroom dresser and normally secured by a trigger lock. A day or two later, Officer Bryja contacted Evergreen Park Police to retrieve his weapon and was informed that the gun would be released to a CPD supervisor. He notified his supervisor, Lt. Stasch, and his gun was returned to him. Officer Bryja related that he did not observe any injuries to his [REDACTED] and

¹³ Att. 31, 32

¹⁴ Att. 32 at 13 and 16

██████████ following the incident. Officer Bryja sought treatment at ██████████ and was diagnosed with a concussion and contusions to the right forearm.

Officer Bryja submitted his **Medical Discharge**¹⁵ Paperwork from ██████████ Emergency Department. According to the After Visit Summary, Officer Bryja was diagnosed with a Concussion with loss of consciousness on December 27, 2018.

Officer Bryja submitted two **photos**¹⁶ to COPA that he took on December 26, 2018. The photos depicted what appeared to be multiple abrasions and/or scratches to his arm and redness and swelling to the left side of Officer Bryja's head.

During the course of this investigation, Officer Bryja retired¹⁷ from the Chicago Police Department.

During his COPA statement on October 13, 2020, **Accused Sgt. Doscocz**¹⁸ related that on the date and time in question, he was working first watch as the patrol supervisor and assigned to Beat 220. He responded to a request for supervisor call in Evergreen Park by CPD Beat 2212, Officers Hagen and Woods, and Beat 2210, Sgt. Gill Roberts. Sgt. Doscocz related that upon his arrival, he learned that there was a domestic altercation between Mrs. ██████████ and Officer Bryja. Sgt. Doscocz spoke to Mrs. ██████████ who related that she and her husband were having marital problems and got into a heated argument at their house on ██████████. She reported that the had been acting irrational, so they took his gun, left the house, and went to his ██████████ house in Evergreen Park. Sgt. Doscocz observed the semi-automatic weapon on the dining room table but could not recall if it was in a holster or a bag. Mrs. ██████████ did not report that the altercation was physical in nature and refused to make a complaint or report against Officer Bryja. She stated that she was just concerned with him getting help due to the fact that he had been acting irrationally. When Sgt. Doscocz spoke to the Mrs. ██████████ he did not recall if they reported any physical allegations and did not recall checking them for any signs of injury. Sgt. Doscocz related that he did not observe injuries to Mrs. ██████████ and there was no evidence technician requested to the location. Sgt. Doscocz added that although officers from Evergreen Park were on the scene, he did not recall speaking with them about the matter. Evergreen Park took possession of the weapon since the matter was in and being investigated by Evergreen Park. Sgt. Doscocz stated that he gave Mrs. ██████████ the number to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) before he left the residence. He then relocated to the home of Officer Bryja and Mrs. ██████████ to conduct a well-being check on Officer Bryja. He knocked on the door and rang the bell but did not make contact with anyone.

Sgt. Doscocz, though wearing his assigned body worn camera, stated that he did not initiate the recording because it was his belief that he was not required to do so. He quoted Section IV of the General Order that refers to prohibited conduct which states that recording individuals in residences or private areas not open to the public unless there's a crime in progress is prohibited.

¹⁵ Att. 33

¹⁶ Att. 34

¹⁷ Att. 35

¹⁸ Att. 39, 40

Given that the incident occurred in Chicago and was not in progress, Sgt. Doskocz belief was that the was not required to activate his body worn camera.

Sgt. Doskocz stated that CPD was only assisting Evergreen Park and a report was not required even though it involved a CPD member. Sgt. Doskocz related that, to his knowledge, there's no report needed for a heated argument or marital problems and he doesn't recall any accusation of physical abuse. Sgt. Doskocz stated that Mrs. [REDACTED] primary concern was getting Officer Bryja help due to the fact that he was acting irrationally. Sgt. Doskocz denied that he received information that Officer Bryja was suicidal or intoxicated. He recalled that they reported that Officer Bryja had been drinking but did not remember if they reported that he was drunk.

Sgt. Doskocz explained that he had recently been promoted to sergeant two months prior to this incident and this was his first time handling a police involved domestic incident. He stated that he handled the call as if he was a police officer and handled it to the best of his ability without seeking supervision from any other Department Member.

When he returned to the District Station, he did not speak to a District Supervisor or Commander regarding the incident. Sgt. Doskocz stated that after he could not reach Officer Bryja and the event coded out, it was over. He believes he logged his response to the Evergreen Park address but made no mention that the incident involved a CPD member and added that he would not include a fine detail such as that on the Supervisor's Log. Sgt. Doskocz stated that he did not attempt to contact Officer Bryja's supervisor.

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 (2016). Clear and Convincing can be defined as a "degree of proof, which, considering all the evidence in the case, produces the firm and abiding belief that it is highly probable that the proposition . . . is true." *Id.* at ¶ 28.

VII. ANALYSIS

Officer Steven Bryja

COPA finds that **Allegations #1 through 8** are **Sustained** against Officer Bryja. Although Mrs. [REDACTED] and her [REDACTED] did not provide an account of the incident to COPA, they did provide accounts to Evergreen Park Police and CPD. Those accounts remained consistent throughout the evening. Although Mrs. [REDACTED] appeared to attempt to minimize the incident, her [REDACTED] emphatically stated Officer Bryja was attacking her and refused to stop choking her. This caused them to physically intervene in an attempt to get him to let her go. Their account explains the injuries to Officer Bryja as depicted in the photographs. Although Officer Bryja claims he was the victim of their attacks, his claims are not credible. Specifically, Officer Bryja claims he was left unconscious from the attack. However, Mrs. [REDACTED] and her [REDACTED] assert that they told him his gun was in the garage in order to leave the residence. They also state, when asked by officers if he knew their location, that he was contacting them to determine where they were. It is unlikely that they were not being truthful when sharing this information with officers. Furthermore, it defies logic that they would call the police if they were the aggressors and left him unconscious, particularly as they were hesitant to make and did not make a formal police report. Ultimately, their accounts are consistent and credible.

Furthermore, [REDACTED] reported that she retrieved Officer Bryja's gun from the nightstand, put it in a book bag and took it to her grandmother's house. She stated that she took the weapon because Officer Bryja was intoxicated and he stated several times, "I need my gun." When Evergreen Park Officers responded to Mrs. [REDACTED] home, they took possession of Officer Bryja's Smith and Wesson 9mm handgun as well as a Smith and Wesson magazine. While Officer Bryja denied losing control of his weapon, he had to contact a supervisor at the Chicago Police Department to retrieve his weapon from Evergreen Park Police. Officer Bryja related to COPA that he was unable to provide an explanation as to how his [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were able to take his weapon due to the concussion that he sustained during the incident. There is no apparent explanation as to why they would take his weapon if he was unconscious. Based on the preponderance of the evidence and the credibility of the witnesses, COPA finds these allegations are Sustained.

COPA finds that **Allegation #1** that **Sgt. Doskocz** failed to activate his Body Worn Camera is **Sustained**. Special Order S03-04 requires BWC to be activated for all law-enforcement-related activities, which includes, "statements made by individuals in the course of an investigation." Sgt. Doskocz, who was equipped with a Body Worn Camera, stated that he did not activate it because he was in a private residence. According to Special Order S03-04 (IV) (1), "The BWC will not be activated to record individuals in private residences or other private areas

not open to the public unless there is a crime in progress or other circumstances that would allow the officer to be lawfully present without a warrant.” While he did respond to a private residence in Evergreen Park and there was no crime in progress, it was a circumstance that would allow the officer to be lawfully present without a warrant. Mrs. [REDACTED] called the police to her home and reported that Officer Bryja was involved in a domestic altercation. Evergreen Park responded and requested the assistance of the Chicago Police Department. Evergreen Park Officers, as well as the responding officers from CPD, had their body worn cameras activated during their interaction with Mrs. [REDACTED] and her [REDACTED]. Sgt. Daskocz misinterpretation of the Order does not excuse his requirement to activate his Body Worn Camera, and the allegation is Sustained.

COPA finds that **Allegations #2-4 are Sustained** that **Sgt. Daskocz** failed to initiate a log number and/or notify the Chicago Police Department of allegations of misconduct, failed to ensure a thorough investigation was conducted, and failed to ensure a case report was generated. Officers who responded to the scene became aware of allegations against Officer Bryja and immediately called for a sergeant in accordance with General Order G08-01-02 titled Specific Responsibilities Regarding Allegations of Misconduct. Although Sgt. Daskocz related in his COPA statement that he was unaware of allegations of misconduct against Officer Bryja, the footage from the body worn cameras of the Evergreen Park Police contradicts his statement. An Evergreen Park Police Officer told Sgt. Daskocz that one victim alleged that she was struck and another victim stated she was choked which is why they contacted Chicago Police. Sgt. Daskocz nodded his head in agreement. In addition, he is observed listening to the victims state that Officer Bryja is always drunk and had been acting irrational. The mere fact that Officer Bryja lost control of his weapon in that his [REDACTED] was able to gain access and remove his weapon from the home is a violation of the Uniform Order 04-02 and warrants a log number and investigation. COPA and the CPD were only made aware of the incident after Officer Bryja contacted Lt. Stasch to assist him in retrieving his weapon and, in turn, Lt. Stasch initiated this log number. Furthermore, Sgt. Daskocz made no attempt to speak with the witnesses and get complete accounts of the incident.

Additionally, Mrs. [REDACTED] told Sgt. Daskocz that within the past few months her [REDACTED] Officer Bryja, told his [REDACTED] that he wanted to kill himself. Sgt. Daskocz had already been informed that Officer Bryja had been drinking more and was drunk every night since the [REDACTED] had been home on break. Sgt. Daskocz response was to provide Mrs. [REDACTED] with the number to EAP and to conduct a well-being check of Officer Bryja at this residence. After not being able to contact Officer Bryja, Sgt. Daskocz returned to the District and did not report the incident to any higher ranking officer. Sgt. Daskocz ignored reports of suicidal ideation, alcohol abuse, a weapons violation, and allegations of domestic violence; all major allegations that require immediate notification. His failure to ensure that a case report was generated undermines department procedures as it pertains to domestic violence.

For all reasons stated above, COPA finds all allegations against Sgt. Daskocz are **Sustained**.

VIII. RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE FOR SUSTAINED ALLEGATIONS

a. Officer Steven Bryja

There are no recommendations of disciplinary action against Officer Bryja as he is retired. Thus, he allegations against him are in a “Close Hold” status. Should he return to the Department, disciplinary recommendations will be made.

b. Sergeant Jerry Duskocz

i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History

- 1. Complimentary:** Ninety-five (95) awards, including sixty-seven (67) Honorable Mentions.
- 2. Disciplinary:** None

ii. Recommended Penalty, by Allegation

- 1. Allegation No. 1:** 60 Day Suspension
- 2. Allegation No. 2:** 60 Day Suspension
- 3. Allegation No. 3:** 60 Day Suspension
- 4. Allegation No. 4:** 60 Day Suspension

Sgt. Duskocz’s conduct constituted a significant failure in his duties as a Chicago Police Officer. Fully aware of significant allegations that Officer Bryja was physically abusive to multiple individuals, was intoxicated, and lost control of his weapon, Sgt. Duskocz took no action. His explanation for his failure is insufficient. His inaction, in light of the severity of the allegations he disregarded, make his conduct worthy of significant discipline.

Approved:



 Sharday Jackson
 Deputy Chief Administrator

January 28, 2022

 Date