

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	May 31, 2019 / 3:15 p.m. / North Avenue Beach area, near 1601 N. Lake Shore Drive (exact address unknown)
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	June 2, 2019 / 1:21 p.m.
Involved Sergeant #1:	Unidentified
Involved Officer #1:	Unidentified
Involved Officer #2:	Unidentified
Involved Individual #1:	Unidentified.
Case Type:	03B - Civil Rights Violation 01B - Verbal Abuse

I. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Unidentified Sergeant	1. Searched the property of unidentified black members of the public without justification.	Not Sustained
	2. Verbally abused an unidentified black male member of the public in that he stated words to the effect of “shut up you black motherfucker” and/or “I’m a fucking Sergeant you black motherfucker.”	Not Sustained
Unidentified Officers	1. Searched the property of unidentified black members of the public without justification.	Not Sustained

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE¹

On June 2, 2019, COPA received a web complaint from a juvenile third-party witness, [REDACTED]. The web complaint alleged that she witnessed an unidentified older white male “Sergeant”² search the property of two different groups of unidentified black teens and/or young adults without justification. In addition, when confronted by one of the unidentified black males for his bag being searched, the accused member responded by saying “shut up, you black motherfucker.”

In a statement to COPA on June 5, 2019, juvenile witness, [REDACTED]⁴ stated that she was with approximately four friends sitting at North Avenue beach near “Castaways”⁵ (known to be a restaurant over a boat house). She observed an unknown white male Sergeant,⁶ and two unknown male officers⁷ approach a group of bags that belonged to a group of approximately six unknown black males, wearing swim trunks, between 17 and 18 years of age. Some of the males were playing volleyball and others sitting on the beach. Without warning, the unknown Sergeant “started going through”⁸ their bags. When questioned by the black males as to why their bags were being searched, the unknown Sergeant responded in essence, “I can do what I want”⁹ and instructed them to leave the beach in which they complied. Shortly thereafter, the same unknown Sergeant and officers approached a second group of approximately 15 unknown people to include black males and black females, approximately 19 to 20 years of age. They were laying around the beach. The unknown Sergeant and two officers began to search through approximately four bags without warning and without permission. When they were questioned by the civilians as to why their bags were being searched, the Sergeant responded by saying “I’m a fucking Sergeant you black motherfucker.”¹⁰ The involved members proceeded to check the bags and then walked away. The group of civilians remained at the beach. [REDACTED] did not observe the involved members search any other bags for groups on the beach that day to include groups of white people. [REDACTED] described this incident as an “awful misuse of power.”¹¹ She did not observe any of the groups of black males conducting themselves in an unusual manner. [REDACTED] did not wish to provide the name of one of her friends who witnessed the incident nor the other friends she was

¹COPA 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.

² This unidentified male was further described as approximately 40 to 50 years old.

³ Att. 15, 16

⁴ As a result of her age, her mother, [REDACTED] gave permission to COPA to interview [REDACTED] and was present throughout the interview.

⁵ 1603 N. Lake Shore Drive.

⁶ The unknown Sergeant was described as short, with a large stomach, approximately 40 to 50 years of age, with long, greasy, grayish-black hair and was wearing a white, short-sleeved shirt with gold embellishments on it and long, black pants.

⁷ One of the unknown male officers was described as Hispanic, tall, approximately 30 to 40 years of age, with black short hair, wearing a short-sleeved blue shirt with black long pants. [REDACTED] was unable to recall a description for the second unknown male officer.

⁸ Att. 15, 3:00.

⁹ Att. 15, 7:52.

¹⁰ Att. 15, 3:28, 3:40.

¹¹ Att. 15, 16:08.

with. ██████ stated that there were other unknown officers nearby on bicycles, but she did not believe that they witnessed the incident.

COPA conducted a preliminary investigation by interviewing ██████ conducting a canvass of the area to locate external video cameras, reviewing any POD video footage within the area of incident, GPS reports,¹² Event Queries,¹³ Attendance and Assignment reports¹⁴ and a search and review of all available Body Worn Camera (BWC) video for assigned Sergeants working in the 18th District on the date, location and approximate time of incident.¹⁵ GPS coordinates that identified members at North Avenue beach during the time of incident were all cross-referenced with searched for BWCs. All attempts made to identify the accused members involved in the described complaint was unsuccessful.

III. 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.

IV. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The conduct described by ██████ is concerning, warrants allegations and requires explanation of the involved department members. However, for COPA to properly investigate allegations of misconduct, COPA must first identify the involved members. Based on the information provided by the complainant and all gathered evidence, COPA is unable to determine the identity of the involved members. In addition, COPA had no lead information on any additional witnesses to include civilians. Thus, COPA acknowledges the limitations on investigating allegations against an unknown member(s).¹⁶ In the event additional information is discovered that reveals the identity of the accused members, then COPA may reopen this matter for further investigation.

¹² Att. 4, 5

¹³ Att. 9

¹⁴ Att. 1, 2

¹⁵ COPA Major Case Specialist (MCS) Oliveri searched Body Worn Camera video in evidence.com on the date, time (for 2nd watch and 4th watch) and district of incident for Beats 1810, 1807, 1820, 1865, 1863, 1863C and 1863A. The MCS specifically conducted a search by name for each working Sergeant from the 2nd and 4th watch and none had any recorded BWCs events related to this incident.

¹⁶ See G08-01-01 an S08-01-01 II(F)(17)(c).

Approved:



12-1-2021

Angela Hearts-Glass
Deputy Chief Investigator

Date

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad#:	8
Major Case Specialist:	Caterina Oliveri
Supervising Investigator:	Jessica Ciacco
Deputy Chief Administrator:	Angela Hearts-Glass