

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident:	March 6, 2019
Time of Incident:	Approximately 7:50 p.m.
Location of Incident:	1313 S. Sacramento Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois
Date of COPA Notification:	March 8, 2019
Time of COPA Notification:	Approximately 11:45 a.m.

On March 6, 2019, at approximately 7:50 p.m., at 1313 S. Sacramento Boulevard, the complainant, ██████████ (██████████) went to Collins High School and attempted to enter the building to pick up her daughter who was cheerleading at a basketball game. ██████████ encountered off-duty Chicago Police Officer Anton Little, who was working security, and was not allowing anyone else to enter the building. ██████████ alleged that Officer Little repeatedly pushed her on her upper body and refused to provide his name upon request. It is further alleged that Officer Little stated to an unknown student(s) who was standing outside, words to the effect of, “No. Yo’ momma is a bitch,” and “I’ll beat your ass.”

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Officer #1:	Anton Little, Star #10973, Employee ID# ██████████, Date of Appointment: June 25, 2001, Rank: Police Officer, Unit of Assignment: 012 th District School Resource Officer, DOB: ██████████, 1971, Gender: Male, Race: Black.
Involved Individual #1:	██████████ DOB: ██████████, 1980, Gender: Female, Race: Black.

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Officer Anton Little, #10973	On March 6, 2019, at approximately 7:50 p.m., at or near 1313 S. Sacramento Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, Collins High School, Police Officer Anton Little, #10973, while off-duty and working as School Security, committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions by:	

	1. Repeatedly pushing ██████ on her upper body;	Exonerated
	2. Refusing to provide his name upon ██████ request; and	Sustained
	3. Stating to an unknown student words to the effect of, “No. Yo’ momma is a bitch,” and “I’ll beat your ass.”	Sustained

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 8 - Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty.
3. Rule 9 - Engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.
4. Rule 37 – Failure of a member, whether on or off duty, to correctly identify himself by giving his name, rank and star number when so requested by other members of the Department or by a private citizen.

V. INVESTIGATION¹

a. Interviews

On June 25, 2019, **Complainant** ██████ provided a statement² to COPA. ██████ stated that on March 6, 2019, at approximately 7:50 p.m., she went to Collins High School to pick up her teenaged daughter, who was cheerleading at a basketball game. ██████ encountered several individuals standing outside, attempting to gain entry by knocking on the secured doors. Somehow the doors opened, and ██████ and the others entered the building. ██████ was nearing the gym when she encountered a male, now known as CPS Safety and Security Officer Jamal Jackson (“SSO Jackson”) who was pushing people back outside and telling them that they could not come inside. ██████ told SSO Jackson that she was there to pick up her daughter and instructed him not to push her.

A second male, now identified as Officer Little, approached ██████ and identified himself as an off-duty Chicago Police Officer but did not provide his name upon ██████ request. ██████ told Officer Little that she was there to pick up her daughter. Officer Little pushed ██████ twice on her

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 Attachment #2, #4, #5, and #6.

upper body with his open hands, while telling ██████ that she could not be inside the school, using enough force to push ██████ back and outside of the building.

██████ started banging on the door, and Officer Little opened the door. A student began making threats to shoot up the school because he was removed from the building. ██████ again told Officer Little that she was there to pick up her daughter and called the police because Officer Little would not allow her back inside the building. The police arrived and allowed ██████ inside the building where they talked to ██████ and to Officer Little. The police took ██████ information but did not give ██████ a report to document the push because they said Officer Little was doing his job.

On July 8, 2022, **Accused Officer Anton Little** provided a statement³ to COPA. Officer Little described himself as a male/Black, 6'4", 260lbs, and stated that he was off-duty, working security at an evening basketball game at Collins High School on the date of the incident. Officer Little was screening people as they entered the building. Once the gym reached capacity, he removed the safety screening equipment and stopped letting people inside.

Several people who were left outside, including ██████ attempted to enter the building. ██████ told Officer Little that she needed to pick up her daughter who was cheerleading. Officer Little told ██████ that he was not the regular security person assigned to the school and advised her to wait while he got someone to help her. ██████ became angry and started using profanity. Officer Little told ██████ that he could help her if he closed the door and got someone to assist because he was told not to let anyone else inside the building. ██████ placed her foot between the door opening. Officer Little asked ██████ to step back, but ██████ refused. Officer Little "bodied her up"⁴ and closed the door as several people attempted to enter the building.

During the incident, someone called Officer Little "a bitch," and another person threatened to spit on him. In the heat of the moment, Officer Little stated that he yelled in response, "No your mother is a bitch," and "I'll beat your ass." Officer Little stated that he felt remorse about his choice of verbiage and, in essence, could have used other options that were in compliance with Department Rules and Regulations. Officer Little stated that a sergeant arrived and determined that his actions were necessary and reasonable considering the totality of the circumstances. Officer Little stated that ██████ never asked for his name/credentials.

b. Digital Evidence

The **Body Worn Camera (BWC) of Officer Brandon Baylian**⁵ depicts ██████ and several other individuals standing outside the school. ██████ approaches Officer Baylian following his arrival, identified herself, and informed Officer Baylian that a police officer pushed her out of the door and refused to allow her entry to pick up her daughter. ██████ tells Officer Baylian that there may have been fighting and people threatening to shoot. ██████ points toward Officer Little as he stood at the open entry door and identified him as the officer who pushed her. ██████ also tells

³ Att. #14.

⁴ Officer Little described his actions as placing his chest against ██████ upper body with force, causing ██████ to move back and out of the door.

⁵ Att. 3.

Officer Baylian that she wanted the officer's name and a full report documenting that she was pushed.

Officer Baylian and ██████ approach the door wherein Officer Little accused ██████ of "busting"⁶ inside the building. ██████ walks closer toward Officer Little and was told by one of the responding officers to calm down. ██████ and Officer Little exchange words wherein ██████ state to Officer Little, "And you wonder why they (the individuals standing around) threatening you."⁷ Thereafter, one of the individuals standing outside yells, "He a bitch"⁸, in reference to Officer Little. Officer Little responded by stating, "No. Yo' Moma is a bitch."⁹ Another individual yells, "I'll spit on yo' ass."¹⁰ Officer Little responds, "And I'll beat your ass"¹¹, to the person.

Several of the individuals walk closer toward the open door and began yelling loudly over one another at Officer Little. SSO Jackson pushes Officer Little away from the open door and the door closes behind them. ██████ continues to tell the responding officers that she was pushed and shoved out of the building and yells, "It's kids acting all kinda crazy, threatening to shoot."¹²

The responding officers escort ██████ inside the school and locate her daughter in the gym. ██████ did not remove her daughter from the school. ██████ informs her daughter that an officer pushed her and states that she wanted a police report and the names of the officers. Officer Little describes to Officer Baylian the contact that he had with ██████ and informs Officer Baylian that ██████ was acting like one of the kids. SSO Jackson explains to ██████ that he and Officer Little needed to secure the building to protect the students who were inside, including her daughter, and repeatedly states to ██████ "I saw a security breach"¹³. ██████ admits to entering the building without being searched.

Officer Little explains the situation to two sergeants that arrive and describes the physical contact that he initiated against ██████ after she refused to exit the building. ██████ explains the situation to the sergeants, stating that the doors of the building were open when she entered without being searched, and that she was pushed out of the building by Officer Little. ██████ is told that Officer Little was doing his job and that she was not getting a report. In response, ██████ uses her cell phone and requests another sergeant. An officer writes down the contact information for ██████ Officer Little, and SSO Jackson.

c. Documentary Evidence

The **Original Case Incident Report**¹⁴, RD#JC176132, documented that several 010th District officers responded to a call of a Battery in Progress at Collins High School where a

⁶ PO Baylian's BWC at 02:13.

⁷ PO Baylian's BWC at 02:18.

⁸ PO Baylian's BWC at 02:27.

⁹ PO Baylian's BWC at 02:28.

¹⁰ PO Baylian's BWC at 02:30.

¹¹ PO Baylian's BWC at 02:32.

¹² PO Baylian's BWC at 03:27.

¹³ PO Baaylian's BWC at 08:24.

¹⁴ Att. #8.

basketball game was being held and approximately one thousand people were in attendance. The responding officers met with ██████ and Officer Little. ██████ related that she was attempting to gain entry to the building to pick up her daughter who was cheerleading but was denied entry by Officer Little who pushed her out of the doorway. Officer Little related that multiple people, including ██████ were attempting to enter the building and that ██████ placed her foot between the doorway to prevent the door from being closed. Officer Little repeatedly told ██████ that the game was at capacity and that no one else was being allowed inside and placed the front of his body against the front of ██████ body to prevent her from entering the building. Officer Little did not push ██████ and never extended his arms. ██████ related that she was physically pushed outside the doorway during the encounter. Officer Little related during the incident multiple people were trying to gain access to the doors to access the game. ██████ left the scene while officers were conducting their investigation.

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

COPA determined that the allegation that Officer Little repeatedly pushed ██████ on her upper body be **Exonerated**. Officer Little described his actions as placing his chest against ██████ upper body with enough force to cause ██████ to move back and outside the building. This action

is similar to a push. The evidence is incontrovertible that individuals, including ██████ were attempting to enter the building despite Officer Little securing the doors and refusing to let anyone else inside. The game reached capacity and safety precautions were being taken. Furthering the need to secure the doors, ██████ told the responding officers that kids were “acting all kinda crazy and threatening to shoot [up the school].” Officer Baylian’s BWC depicts SSO Jackson repeatedly informing ██████ that there was a security breach and explained to her that he and Officer Little were trying to secure the building. ██████ voluntarily stated that she entered the building without being searched. Given the totality of the circumstances, Officer Little’s actions were lawful and proper.

COPA determined that the allegation that Officer Little refused to provide his name upon ██████ request be **Sustained**. Although Officer Little denied the allegation, the preponderance of evidence suggested otherwise. Officer Baylian’s BWC footage captured ██████ repeatedly telling Officer Baylian and other responding officers that she wanted the officers’ names. While the BWC footage did not capture the encounter between ██████ and Officer Little prior to officers arriving on the scene, the BWC footage did depict that ██████ was adamant about getting the officers name and filing a report against Officer Little. It is more likely, than not, that ██████ did request Officer Little’s name. Therefore, this allegation is Sustained.

COPA determined that the allegation that Officer Little stated to an unknown student word to the effect of, “No. Yo’ momma is a bitch,” and “I’ll beat your ass,” be **Sustained**. The footage from Officer Baylian’s BWC captured an unknown individual stating, “He a bitch,” and another individual stating, “I’ll spit on yo’ ass,” in reference to Officer Little. Officer Little responded by stating, “No. Yo’ momma is a bitch,” and “I’ll beat your ass.” Officer Little stated that these individuals were attempting to enter the building and that his verbiage was made in the heat of the moment. Officer Little expressed remorse for his actions and stated that he should have engaged in alternative actions that were, in essence, in compliance with his training and with Department Rules and Regulations. Therefore, this allegation is Sustained.

VIII. RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE FOR SUSTAINED ALLEGATIONS

a. Officer Anton Little

i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History

5 Complimentary Letters. 2 Department Commendations. 32 Honorable Mentions. 1 Life Saving Award. 1 Unit Meritorious Performance Award. No disciplinary history.

i. Recommended Penalty, by Allegation

Officer Little refused to provide his name upon ██████ request and engaged in an unjustified verbal altercation while off-duty by stating to an unknown student words to the effect of, “No. Yo’ momma is a bitch,” and “I’ll beat your ass.” It is for these reasons that COPA recommends a penalty of **3-Days**.

Approved:



Angela Hearts-Glass
Deputy Chief Investigator

8-31-2022

Date