

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	May 30, 2020/8:00, p.m. / 300 N. State St.
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	November 5, 2020/ 3:43, p.m.
Involved Officer #1:	Paul Corso, Star #12158, Employee ID# [REDACTED], Date of Appointment: 10/31/2012, Rank: PO, Unit of Assignment: 630, DOB: [REDACTED]1984, Gender: Male, Race: White.
Case Type:	Excessive Force.

I. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer Paul Corso	It is alleged that on May 30, 2020, at approximately 8:00 p.m., at or near 300 N. State St, Chicago, IL. Officer Corso #12158 committed misconduct by forcefully pulling the handlebars of a woman’s bike, which caused her to fall to the ground without justification.	Not Sustained.
	It is alleged that on May 30, 2020, at approximately 8:00 p.m., at or near 300 N. State St, Chicago, IL. Officer Corso #12158 committed misconduct by failing to complete a TRR in violation of G03-02-02 when he forcefully pulled the handlebars of a woman’s bike, which caused her to fall to the ground.	Not Sustained.

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

On November 10, 2020, COPA received a referral letter from the Office of Inspector General (OIG)¹ regarding the incident that occurred on May 30, 2020. The OIG Report² details that on the above date at 300 N. State Street, an unknown CPD officer may have used excessive force against a person when the officers pushed a woman back from an arrest. After she was pushed, an officer grabbed and pulled the handlebars of her bike, knocking her to the ground. COPA searched for the woman’s identity to no avail.

¹ Attachment #4.

² Attachment #5.

COPA submitted an affidavit override request due to not having a statement from the unknown woman.³ COPA received a response from the Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA)⁴ stating to continue the investigation of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) member Paul Corso #12158. Shortly after, COPA was notified that there is no longer a need for affidavit overrides for FOP members.⁵

The Body-Worn Camera (BWC)⁶ of this incident shows large groups of people during the protests on State Street. A woman on a bike comes into view, standing with her bike between her legs next to the officers. The woman has a phone in her hands, looking at an ongoing arrest. An unknown officer pushes her back from an ongoing arrest along with other people nearby. Officer Corso pulled on the handlebars of the woman's bike, and she fell to the ground. The officers continue to maintain their stance while the protests continue. The video footage did not depict any further interaction between the woman and Officer Corso.

In a statement to COPA on October 14, 2022, Officer Corso⁷ said that on November 5, 2020, large groups of people during the protests were threatening officers and throwing bottles. The police officers were trying to maintain the protesters. Officer Corso indicated that officers were in the process of placing an individual under arrest. During that time, a woman on her bike was very close to the officers, interfering with the arrest. The woman did not listen to the officers' commands regarding removing her from the area. He explained, "I did grab her handlebars, and I pulled her bike away from the scene to remove her from the area."⁸ Officer Corso walked back to the crowd and did not observe her fall to the ground. After watching another BWC, he stated once he left the area, she lost her footing and fell to the ground. Officer Corso alleged that his actions were not disrespectful or excessive. Officer Corso maintained he did not touch the woman during the incident; he only pulled the handlebars of her bike. Officer Corso did not think he needed to write a Tactical Response Report (TRR) since he never touched her.⁹

III. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

Officer Corso #12158 committed misconduct by forcefully pulling the handlebars of a woman's bike, which caused her to fall to the ground without justification.

The woman on the bike was close to the officers and could have been seen as interfering with or being too close to an arrest. Officer Corso pulled the bike handlebars; in return, she lost her footing, leading to her falling to the ground. During this time, the groups of people were irate, and the officers needed to make space between the officers and the protesters. Officer Corso said he pulled the bike handlebars to make space between the officers and the protesters. The woman maintained her position and did not purposely move toward the area of the arrest. It is unclear what

³ Attachment #9.

⁴ Attachment #10.

⁵ Attachment #11.

⁶ Attachment #13 (Officer Blackmon) at 5:18 and #14 (Officer Corso) at 38:10.

⁷ Attachment #16 and #17.

⁸ Attachment #16 at 11:18.

⁹ Officer Corso wanted to get back on the record- Attachment #17, to clarify he might have viewed his BWC when he was writing an arrest report for another person later that night. He might have clicked on one that might have been around this time, but he was not sure.

verbal commands were given to the woman before the unknown officer and Officer Corso attempted to physical create distance between themselves and the woman. COPA finds there is insufficient evidence to prove whether this conduct was without justification. Therefore, this allegation is **Not Sustained**.

Officer Corso #12158 committed misconduct by failing to complete a TRR in violation of G03-02-02 when he forcefully pulled the handlebars of a woman’s bike, which caused her to fall to the ground.

Officer Corso admitted he did not write a TRR for this incident because he did not think one was needed. Officer Corso explained he did not touch the woman; he only pulled the bike’s handlebars. Once he pulled the bike handlebars, she lost her footing and fell. In G03-02-02, incidents requiring the completion of a TRR detail “A TRR is required to be completed for the following reportable use of force incidents involving a sworn member or detention aide in the performance of his or her duties. All use of force incidents involving: a subject who is injured or alleges injury resulting from the member’s use of force, and the active resistance of a subject.”¹⁰ In this case, the woman was not actively resisting and standing on her bike close to the arrest. The woman did not complain about being injured in this incident to COPA.

COPA became aware of this incident due to the referral from the OIG. In G03-02-02,¹¹ it also states a TRR is not required when the subject is not injured or does not complain of injury resulting from the member’s use of force. Thus, a TRR is not required since he did not touch her, only the bike, and she did not complain of injury. Although Officer Corso did not touch the woman, his actions led to her falling to the ground. Since the woman was never identified, COPA could not verify whether she had sustained any injuries. The allegation that Officer Corso committed misconduct by failing to complete a TRR in violation of G03-02-02 when he forcefully pulled the handlebars of the woman’s bike, which caused her to fall to the ground to be **Not Sustained**.

Approved:



Sharday Jackson
Deputy Chief Administrator

December 29, 2022

Date

¹⁰ G03-02-02- Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report, 111- A, 1 a and b.

¹¹ G03-02-02, Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report, 1. Exception #3.