

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	May 10, 2019/ 8:00 PM/ 200 E Cermak Avenue
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	May 16, 2019/ 5:18 PM
Involved Officer #1:	Daniels, Zachary, #9605; Employee [REDACTED]; Date of Appointment: December 15, 2017; Police Officer; Unit of Assignment: 024; DOB: [REDACTED] 1993; Male, White
Involved Officer #2:	Williams, Marzeek, #20905; Employee [REDACTED] Date of Appointment: January 2, 1992; Detective (Retired); Unit of Assignment: 620; DOB: [REDACTED] 1967; Male, Black ¹
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED] 1969; Female, Black
Case Type:	Excessive force

On or about May 16, 2019, the complainant, [REDACTED] registered a complaint via the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) web site. Mrs. [REDACTED] alleged that on or about May 11, 2019, Officer Zachary Daniels yelled at her in a rude manner and slammed the vehicle door causing the door to strike her leg and causing pain to her right knee.

I. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer Zachary Daniels, #9605	It is alleged that on or about May 11, 2019, at approximately 8:00 PM, in the vicinity of 200 W. Cermak Road, Officer Zachary Daniels, #9605, committed misconduct through the following acts or omissions, by.	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pushing a vehicle door, causing it to strike [REDACTED] without justification. 2. Being Rude and unprofessional towards [REDACTED] 	<p>Unfounded</p> <p>Exonerated</p>

¹ Detective Williams was not served with allegations prior to his retirement from the Chicago Police Department effective June 16, 2021. The allegations would have pertained to his admission of being on duty and transporting his wife to concert in an unmarked police vehicle.

3. Engaging in an unjustified verbal altercation with Detective Williams.	Exonerated
---	------------

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

a. Interviews

Complainant, Mrs. [REDACTED] provided a statement to COPA on May 21, 2020². She stated [REDACTED], Detective Marzeek Williams, #20905, picked her up from home and drove her to the Wintrust Arena to attend a concert. Det. Williams, who was on duty, escorted her to the Wintrust Arena in an unmarked Department vehicle. When they arrived at the Wintrust Arena Det. Williams pulled up to the northeast side of Cermak Road. As she was preparing to exit the vehicle an officer, now known as Officer Zachary Daniels, yelled words to the effect of “Keep it moving, keep it moving” with his arms stretched out directing drivers in the direction that he wanted vehicles to go as well.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she didn’t know what to do, so she looked back at Det. Williams and threw her hands up. Det. Williams stated words to the effect of, gone, get out. She opened the vehicle door and placed her right foot outside of the vehicle. Officer Daniels walked over to the vehicle and aggressively pushed the vehicle door closed. She was able to quickly pull right leg inside the vehicle.

Mrs. [REDACTED] related that Det. Williams exited the vehicle, approached Officer Daniels and stated words to the effect of, I know you didn’t just slam the door on my wife. An unidentified black male uniformed officer approached the scene and diffused the situation. She indicated that the interior panel of the door contacted her right hip to knee area and did not sustain any injuries because of this incident. She obtained Officer Daniels’ information from Det. Williams.

Witness Det. Williams provided a statement to COPA on May 29, 2019³. Det. Williams essentially provided the same information as Mrs. [REDACTED]. Additionally, he related that he and Officer Daniels exchanged words and that an unidentified officer diffused the situation. He obtained Officer Daniels’ star number from Officer Daniels’ police hat and left the scene.

Accused Officer Daniels provided a statement to COPA on July 14, 2022⁴. He stated that he was assigned to Unit 044 and detailed to special events, directing traffic at the Wintrust Arena. He was dressed in his crown cap with his badge placed in front, full duty uniform and a bright yellow raincoat. He was assigned to work with a group of officers but was unable to recall their names.

Officer Daniels stated that while directing traffic a silver sedan stopped in the cross walk. He approached the vehicle on the passenger side and instructed the occupants (now known to be Det.

² Attachment #11 – Statement of [REDACTED]

³ Attachment #6 – Statement of Det. Williams

⁴ Attachment #17 – Statement of Officer Daniels

Williams and Mrs. ██████ that the area in which they had stopped was not a drop off zone. He instructed them to keep it moving and politely closed the passenger side door, as Mrs. ██████ attempted to exit. He then observed the emergency lights on the vehicle activate.

Officer Daniels related that Det. Williams exited the vehicle, approached and angrily yelled at him. He stated that Det. Williams accused him of closing the door on Mrs. ██████. An unidentified black male uniformed officer approached the scene and smoothed things over. Det. Williams entered his vehicle and left the scene. He related that he did not observe the Municipal Police (MP) Plates on the vehicle until the emergency lights were activated.

Officer Daniels denied committing the acts alleged against him. He stated that he was assigned to direct traffic to the appropriate drop off locations at the Wintrust Arena. Prior to him closing the vehicle door, he observed that Mrs. ██████ was fully seated in her seat and not obstructing the door. He did not feel any resistance on the door, indicating that he did not strike Mrs. ██████ with the vehicle door. He added that as Detective Williams was yelling at him, he froze because he was afraid.

b. Digital Evidence

COPA obtained surveillance video footage from the Loss Control Manager at the McCormick Place.⁵ The camera shows the corner of Cermak Road and Indiana Avenue, which is directly adjacent to the main lobby doors of the Wintrust Arena. Two individuals dressed in yellow raincoats are standing on the sidewalk near the intersection⁶. A dark gray sedan pulls up, heading north on Indiana Avenue, and stops in the crosswalk. Officer Daniels waves his right arm, and points forward⁷. The passenger door opens and Officer Daniels walks towards the passenger side of the vehicle⁸. As Officer Daniels is standing at the passenger side of the vehicle, emergency lights⁹ are activated from the vehicle.

Det. Williams exits the vehicle and walks toward the rear of the vehicle, simultaneously an unidentified uniformed officer approaches Det. Williams and appears to have a conversation with him¹⁰. Mrs. ██████ exits the front passenger seat of the vehicle, stands in the vicinity¹¹ and eventually walks to the entrance of the Wintrust Arena and out of the camera view. Officer Daniels and the unidentified uniformed officer walk away from the vehicle. Det. Williams enters the driver's side of the vehicle¹², drives north on Indiana Avenue and out of camera view.

⁵ Attachment #3 - Wintrust Arena is located inside the McCormick Place.

⁶ Attachment #3 – 14:08

⁷ Attachment #3 - 14:18

⁸ Attachment #8 - 14:10

⁹ Attachment #3 – 14:22

¹⁰ Attachment #3 – 14:44

¹¹ Attachment #3 – 14:51

¹² Attachment #3 – 15:28

III. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

a. Officer Daniels pushed a vehicle door causing it to strike [REDACTED]

Officer Daniels was assigned to Unit 044 and detailed to special events to conduct traffic control at the location of the incident. He was instructed to direct drivers to the appropriate drop off location. In her statement to COPA, Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she observed Officer Daniels waving his arms and stating, "Keep it moving". Mrs. [REDACTED] and Det. Williams also indicate that Mrs. [REDACTED] did not sustain any injuries. Officer Daniels explained he observed the vehicle driven by Det. Williams stop and he explained to the occupants that they could not drop off at that location. Surveillance video corroborates Officer Daniels claim, as he is seen waving his arms and pointing in the direction for traffic to flow. Officer Daniels further explained that when he pushed the door closed, he observed Mrs. [REDACTED] seated in her seat and did not feel any resistance indicating that there was contact made with her. Based on the available evidence and statements COPA finds Mrs. [REDACTED] was not struck by the vehicle door. Accordingly, allegation 1 against Officer Daniels is **Unfounded**.

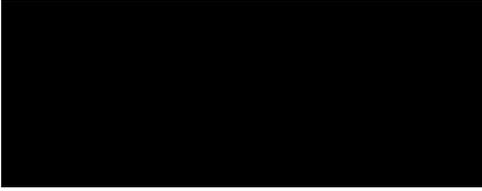
b. Officer Daniels was rude and unprofessional towards [REDACTED]

COPA finds that there is insufficient evidence to prove that Officer Daniels was rude and unprofessional towards [REDACTED]. In their statement to COPA, Det. Williams and Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that Officer Daniels yelled, keep it moving, while directing traffic. In Officer Daniels capacity to traffic control, he is authorized to dictate and inform occupants of vehicles the manner of traffic flow. He stated he was polite in speaking with Det. Williams and Mrs. [REDACTED]. In sum, COPA finds that the allegation against Officer Daniels is **Not Sustained**.

c. Officer Daniels engaged in an unjustified verbal altercation with Detective Williams.

COPA finds that there is insufficient evidence to prove or disprove that Officer Daniels was engaged in an unjustified verbal altercation with Det. Williams. In their statement to COPA, Det. Williams and Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that Officer Daniels yelled, keep it moving, while directing traffic, which is justified in his duties on traffic control. Neither Det. Williams or Mrs. [REDACTED] make mention of any other commentary that could be misconstrued as a verbal altercation. Officer Daniels related that Det. Williams exited his vehicle, approached and angrily yelled at him. Officer Daniels contended that he froze and didn't say anything to Det. Williams because he was afraid. The obtained video footage shows a brief interaction between the parties but did not capture the conversations. In sum, COPA finds allegation 3 against Officer Daniels is **Not Sustained**.

Approved:



Matthew Haynam
Deputy Chief Administrator

1/23/2023

Date