

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Date of Incident: | March 15, 2015 |
| Time of Incident: | 1:03 a.m. |
| Location of Incident: | ██████████ (Via Text Messages) |
| Date of COPA Notification: | May 13, 2015 |
| Time of COPA Notification: | 1:12 p.m. |

On 15 March 2015, at approximately 0025 hours, the complainant, ██████████ text the accused, Officer Burdett Griffin, about a telephone conversation they had earlier that night. Ms. ██████████ indicated that she had asked Officer Griffin to use his computer at his secondary employment, which he agreed to. Ms. ██████████ and Officer Griffin had a sexual relationship in the past, but they never dated exclusively. As Ms. ██████████ and Officer Griffin text each other, the text message conversation became confrontational, because Officer Griffin reneged on her using the computer. During the exchange of text messages, Ms. ██████████ called Officer Griffin a “liar,” “stupid ass cop,” and a “bitch.” Officer Griffin retaliated by verbally abusing Ms. ██████████ threatened to slap her and stated, “Go find u some business n stop texting me before I cum stick my dick in ur mouth.”

When the exchange of text messages stopped between them, Ms. ██████████ called “911” and requested a supervisor. Ms. ██████████ indicated that a sergeant, now believed to be Sgt. Bachelder arrived on the scene, and she showed him the text messages and told him (Sgt. Bachelder) that she did not want him to text or call her ever again. According to Ms. ██████████ Sgt. Bachelder informed her that this could jeopardize Officer Griffin’s pension. Ms. ██████████ indicated that Sgt. Bachelder copied Officer Griffin’s telephone number and went to his car. According to Ms. ██████████ Sgt. Bachelder called Officer Griffin and told him that Ms. ██████████ did not want him to call or text her anymore. Sgt. Bachelder never registered a complaint on behalf, Ms. ██████████

¹ On September 15, 2017, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) replaced the Independent Police Review Authority (IPRA) as the civilian oversight agency of the Chicago Police Department. Therefore, this investigation, which began under IPRA, was transferred to COPA on September 15, 2017, and the recommendation(s) set forth herein are the recommendation(s) of COPA.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

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|--------------------|--|
| Involved Officer: | GRIFFIN III, Burdett, Star# 19118, Employee ID [REDACTED] DOA: 5/26/1998, Officer, Unit 005, DOB: [REDACTED] 1968, Male, Black |
| Involved Sergeant: | BACHELDER, Thomas, Star #2096, Employee ID [REDACTED] DOA: 9/28/1998, Sergeant, Unit 002, DOB: [REDACTED] 1970, Male, White |
| Subject #1: | [REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED] 1971, Female, Black |

III. ALLEGATIONS

| Officer | Allegation | Finding |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------|
| Officer Burdett Griffin III | 1) Threatened Ms. [REDACTED] in that you sent her a text message stating that he would slap the shit out of her, in violation of Rule 9 engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty. | Sustained |
| | 2) Verbally abused Ms. [REDACTED] in a text message, in violation of Rule 9 engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty. | Sustained |
| | 3) Made derogatory comments to Ms. [REDACTED] in that he sent her a text message stating, "Go find u some business n stop texting me before I cum stick my dick in ur mouth," in violation of Rule 9 engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty." | Sustained |
| Sgt. Thomas Bachelder | 1) Failed to register a complaint on behalf of Ms. [REDACTED] in violation of Rule 6 disobedience of any order or directive, whether written or oral. | Not Sustained |

IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS

Rules

Rule 2: Any action or conduct which impedes the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.

General Orders

G.O. 08-01-02, B-3a, **Specific Responsibilities Regarding Allegations of Misconduct** – When incidents regarding allegations of misconduct subject to the Log Number process are received, the supervisor or commanding officer who first receives information of the alleged misconduct will:

a. report the information to IPRA, by telephone, within one (1) hour after the information is received. If the notification occurs during non-business hours (2300 – 0700) members will contact the Crime Prevention Information Center (CPIC)

Special Orders

State Laws

V. INVESTIGATION²**a. Interviews**

COPA interviewed the complainant ██████████ on 15 May 2015, reported that on the evening of 12 March 2015 to 13 March 2015, she spoke on the phone with her friend, Officer Burdett Griffin, about allowing her to use the computer at his secondary employment. Ms. ██████████ indicated that she and Officer Burdett were just friends that had a sexual relationship with each other in the past. Ms. ██████████ related that they were never in a committed relationship. During the telephone conversation, Officer Griffin asked if they can have sex, and Ms. ██████████ told him, no, but he still agreed to let her use the computer. Ms. ██████████ explained that the agreement was for him to pick her up from her job and take her to his secondary employment. Ms. ██████████ reported that she texted Officer Griffin when the time came close for Officer Griffin to pick her up.

Officer Griffin responded via text and indicated that he was not going to pick her up because he had a lot of stuff to do on his computer. Ms. ██████████ indicated that she thought he was lying and that he was retaliating because she refused to have sex with him. According to Ms.

² COPA conducted a thorough and complete investigation. The following is a summary of the material evidence gathered and relied upon in our analysis.

³ Att. 16

██████ she texted Officer Griffin, "Have a good night liar," in a joking manner, but Officer Griffin was offended by the comment. At this point, Ms. ██████ and Officer Griffin began to exchange insulting text messages back and forth to each other. Ms. ██████ sent a text to Officer Griffin not to text her anymore. Officer Griffin responded with "Bye Felicia." Officer Griffin then text, "Go find you some business and stop texting me before I come stick my dick in your mouth." Ms. ██████ then called Officer Griffin a "Bitch." Ms. ██████ further indicated that she called Officer Griffin a "Stupid ass cop," when he called her a "nut ball ass security guard."

Ms. ██████ texted Officer Griffin, "Now you're disrespecting as a woman, and I don't deserve that. You have gone too far. Stick your little dick in your momma's mouth, bitch. Don't ever call or text me." Officer Griffin replied, "Bitch, why are you calling me a grown ass man a bitch? You know what? Fuck your stupid ass, you disrespectful jackass. Do not say shit else to me. How dare you call me a bitch? It's cool. Don't let me see your simple ass 'cause you're going to have to prove to me I'm a bitch. You're get the shit slapped out of your mouth. You keep talking like that. Have a nice life, goofy-assed little girl."

Ms. ██████ then called "911" and requested a supervisor. A supervisor, now known as Sgt. Thomas Bachelder arrived at her home. Upon arrival, Ms. ██████ spoke with Sgt. Bachelder and showed him the text messages. Ms. ██████ informed Sgt. Bachelder that she did not want Officer Griffin to contact her ever again. Ms. ██████ provided Sgt. Bachelder with Officer Griffin's telephone number and he called and spoke with Officer Griffin. Sgt. Bachelder called Ms. ██████ later that night and informed her that he spoke to Officer Griffin, and he agreed not contact her anymore, and he (Officer Griffin) requested that she do the same. Ms. ██████ admitted that she never told Sgt. Bachelder that she wanted to register a complaint against Officer Griffin. Ms. ██████ indicated that she does not have a complaint against Sgt. Bachelder.

Ms. ██████ indicated that Officer Griffin text an apology on 28 March 2015. Ms. ██████ accepted the apology but asked him not say anything else to her. Ms. ██████ related that she told her family about the incident and they suggested that she register a complaint. Ms. ██████ registered her complaint on 13 May 2015.

COPA interviewed Accused Officer Burdett Griffin III⁴ on 18 May 2016, he indicated that he had known Ms. ██████ for about a year, but they have never dated. According to Officer Griffin, he and Ms. ██████ were friends who occasionally engaged in sexual intercourse. Officer Griffin related that they don't have any children together. Officer Burdett reported that he has not spoken to her in a year because they have disagreements about police related issues in the news. According to Officer Griffin, the relationship/friendship ended amicably. Officer Griffin said that

⁴ Att. 26

during their relationship, they mostly had phone contact (Text or calls) with each other and they rarely saw each other in-person.

Officer Griffin was provided copies of the text message exchange between him and Ms. [REDACTED] from 15 March 2015. Officer Griffin verified his telephone number as being [REDACTED] which was at the top of the document. Officer Griffin admitted that he recalled having the text message exchange with Ms. [REDACTED] on 15 March 2015. Officer Griffin indicated that Ms. [REDACTED] started by making negative comments about police officers. Officer Griffin was asked why he used the derogatory language in his text messages and he replied, "To get a rise out of her because she's always saying something about the police." Officer Griffin related that he and Ms. [REDACTED] used obscene and profane language toward each other all the time. Officer Griffin said that the back and forth comments usually stopped with a mutual apology.

Officer Griffin then made a contradictive statement, indicating that he and Ms. [REDACTED] saw each other once since 15 March 2015 and it was in non-sexual capacity. He further indicated that Ms. [REDACTED] spent the night at his house since 15 March 2015, but he does not recall the exact date and time. Officer Griffin related that Ms. [REDACTED] had contacted him several times since 15 March 2015, mainly to borrow money or assist her in some capacity. Officer Griffin believed that they were still friends since the text messages exchanged on 15 March 2015.

Officer Griffin admitted that he threatened to slap Ms. [REDACTED] in a text message on 15 March 2015. Officer Griffin related that he sent her that text message to stop Ms. [REDACTED] from sending him any more text messages and calling him. Officer Griffin further admitted to directing profanity at Ms. [REDACTED] during the text messages, but denied calling her specifically a "bitch." Officer Griffin indicated that he repeated what she called him, but he was not calling her a "bitch." Officer Griffin admitted that he told Ms. [REDACTED] "Go find you some business and stop texting me before I come stick my dick in your mouth." According to Officer Griffin, he only said that to get a rise out of her. Officer Griffin indicated that he believed they were still friends after he sent the aforementioned text messages.

Officer Griffin indicated that he and Ms. [REDACTED] made derogatory statements toward each other often via text, but he was unable to produce any evidence of such. Officer Griffin admitted to the allegations made against him.

COPA interviewed Accused Sgt. Thomas Bachelder⁵ on 23 March 2016, stated that on 15 March 2015, he was working as a field sergeant in the 002nd District. During his tour of duty, he responded to a call for a request for a supervisor from [REDACTED] Sgt. Bachelder indicated that he got the call from dispatch, but he does not recall what was said. Ms. [REDACTED] informed Sgt. Bachelder that she was having problems with her [REDACTED], Officer Griffin. Ms. [REDACTED] showed Sgt. Bachelder text messages from Officer Griffin, but Sgt. Bachelder did not believe any of the

⁵ Atts. 20, 21

text messages were threatening in nature. Sgt. Bachelder described the text messages he read as normal relationship type text messages.

Sgt. Bachelder related that after he read the messages, Ms. ██████ said she did not want to get Officer Griffin into trouble. Sgt. Bachelder stated to Ms. ██████ “Well, he’s not going to be in trouble ‘cause there’s no allegation here for me to go on.” Sgt. Bachelder called Officer Griffin; per the request of Ms. ██████ and told Officer Burdett that Ms. ██████ wanted him to stop contacting her. Officer Griffin also asked for Ms. ██████ to stop contacting him also.

Sgt. Bachelder reviewed the text messages related to this investigation and indicated that he did not recall seeing these particular text messages. According to Sgt. Bachelder, had Ms. ██████ showed him the same exact text messages on 15 March 2015, he would have registered a complaint against Officer Griffin.

b. Documentary Evidence

The **OEMC Event Query**⁶ from 15 March 2015, indicated that ██████ “wants to see a supervisor....about text MS..said he threatened her..NPS.....NFI.”

c. Additional Evidence

Ms. ██████ provided copies of the **text messages**⁷ that Officer Griffin sent to her via phone. The following are some of the words Officer Griffin used in his messages: “Read my fucking text,” “I didn’t call ur black ass a nobody,” “Fuck u,” “Nut ball ass security guard. Go find u some business n stop texting me before I cum stick my dick in ur mouth,” “Fuck ur stupid ass,” “Disrespectful jack ass,” “Simple ass,” “U gone get the shit slapped out ue mouth u keep talking like that.” The following are actual text messages between Officer Griffin and Ms. ██████. The first set of text messages (Att. #8) are in black and white, and the dark-colored bubble messages are from Ms. ██████ and the light colored bubble messages are from Officer Griffin. The other text messages (Att. #14) are in color, and the light red bubble messages are from Officer Griffin, and the messages in the dark red bubble are from Ms. ██████.

⁶ Att. 10

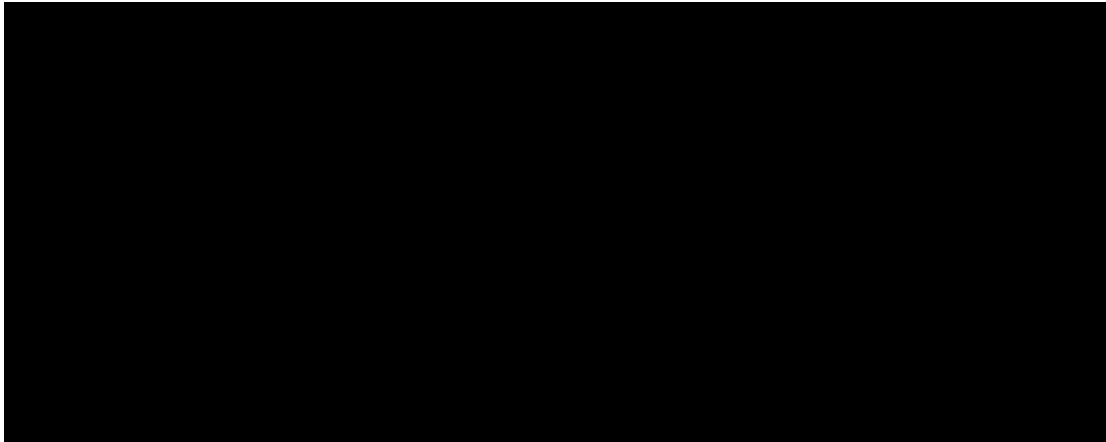
⁷ Atts. 8 & 14



----- (Att. #08) -----



----- (Att. #14) -----



----- (Att. #14) -----

VI. ANALYSIS

The R/I recommends a finding of **Sustained** for Allegation 1, against Officer Burdett Griffin that he threatened ██████████ in that he sent her a text message stating that you would “slap the shit out of her,” in violation of Rule 9 – engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty. Ms. ██████████ reported that on 15 March 2015, between the 0025 to 0200 during a text message exchange between Officer Griffin and herself, Officer Griffin sent her a text message indicating that he would “slap the shit” out of Ms. ██████████. Ms. ██████████ also provided copies of the text messages, which showed Officer Griffin’s phone number, ██████████.

During an audio interview with Officer Griffin, he verified that the phone number on the text message belonged to him. Officer Griffin reviewed a copy of the text messages provided by Ms. ██████████ and admitted that he had the text message exchange with Ms. ██████████. Officer Griffin admitted that he specifically authored a text message that indicated he would, “Slap the shit out of her.” According to Officer Griffin, there was no intent behind the text message, and that he wrote the message to “Get a rise out her.” Officer Griffin explained that he only sent the text because he wanted Ms. ██████████ to stop sending him text messages. Based on the evidence provided the R/I recommends a finding of **Sustained**.

The R/I recommends a finding of **Sustained** for Allegation 2, against Officer Burdett Griffin that he verbally abused Ms. ██████████ in that he sent her text messages directing profanity at Ms. ██████████ in violation of Rule 9 – engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty. Ms. ██████████ provided copies of text messages between Officer Griffin and herself, which showed Officer Griffin directing profanity at Ms. ██████████. Although Ms. ██████████ directed inappropriate language at Officer Griffin, he had plenty of opportunities to defuse the situation by simply ignoring Ms. ██████████. Officer Griffin directed the following words at Ms. ██████████: “Read my fucking text,” “I didn’t call ur black ass a nobody,” “Fuck u,” “Nut ball ass security guard. Go find u some business n stop texting me before I cum stick my dick in ur mouth,” “Fuck ur stupid ass,” “Disrespectful jack ass,” “Simple ass,” “U gone get the shit slapped out ue mouth u keep talking like that.” Based on the evidence provided the R/I recommends a finding of **Sustained**.

The R/I recommends a finding of **Sustained** for Allegation 3, against Officer Burdett Griffin that he made derogatory comments to Ms. ██████████ in that he sent her a text message stating, “Go find u some business n stop texting me before I cum stick my dick in ur mouth,” in violation of Rule 9 – engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty. Ms. ██████████ provided copies of the text message exchange between Officer Griffin and herself. Officer Griffin reviewed the text messages and admitted that he wrote the text messages. Based on the information provided the R/I recommends a finding **Sustained**.

The R/I recommends a finding of **Not Sustained** for Allegation 1, against Sgt. Thomas Bachelder that he failed to register a complaint on behalf of Ms. [REDACTED] in violation of Rule 6 – disobedience of any order or directive, whether written or oral. Specifically, G.O. 08-01-02, B-3a, **Specific Responsibilities Regarding Allegations of Misconduct** – When incidents regarding allegations of misconduct subject to the Log Number process are received, the supervisor or commanding officer who first receives information of the alleged misconduct will:

- a. report the information to IPRA, by telephone, within one (1) hour after the information is received. If the notification occurs during non-business hours (2300 – 0700) members will contact the Crime Prevention Information Center (CPIC).

Ms. [REDACTED] indicated that she called “911” after she argued with her friend, Officer Griffin, via text messages. According to the OEMC Event query, Ms. [REDACTED] reported that she needed to speak with a supervisor about someone who threatened her via text. Ms. [REDACTED] indicated that when the supervisor (Now known as Sgt. Bachelder) arrived on the scene, she showed him the text messages. Ms. [REDACTED] related that she never specifically told Sgt. Bachelder that she wanted to register a complaint. Ms. [REDACTED] told Sgt. Bachelder that she wanted Officer Griffin to stop contacting her and Sgt. Bachelder contacted Officer Griffin and told him Ms. [REDACTED] request. Ms. [REDACTED] indicated that she did not have a complaint against Sgt. Bachelder.

Sgt. Bachelder related that Ms. [REDACTED] never asked him to register a complaint and the text message he was shown did not warrant a complaint. Sgt. Bachelder reviewed the text messages that Ms. [REDACTED] provided to IPRA from 15 March 2015. After reviewing the text messages, Sgt. Bachelder indicated that he never saw any of those text messages. Sgt. Bachelder could not recall what the text messages stated that he reviewed on 15 March 2015, but he was certain that the messages were not the same. Sgt. Bachelder went on to say that if he had read the same text messages, he would have registered a complaint.

There is not enough evidence to prove the Sgt. Bachelder read the same text messages that she provided for IPRA. Furthermore, Ms. [REDACTED] admitted that she never asked Sgt. Bachelder to register a complaint upon his arrival and that she did not have a complaint against Sgt. Bachelder. Based on the evidence, the R/I recommends a finding of **Not Sustained**.

VII. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis set forth above, COPA makes the following findings:

| Officer | Allegation | Finding |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------|
| Officer Burdett Griffin III | 1. It is alleged that on March 15, 2015, between the time of 12:25 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., via text message, Officer Burdett Griffin III, threatened Ms. [REDACTED] in that you sent her a text message stating that he would slap the shit out of her. | Sustained |

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| | <p>2. It is alleged that on March 15, 2015, between the time of 12:25 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., Officer Burdett Griffin III, verbally abused Ms. [REDACTED] in a text message.</p> | <p>Sustained</p> |
| <p>Sgt. Thomas Bachelder</p> | <p>3. It is alleged that on March 15, 2015, between the time of 12:25 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., Officer Burdett Griffin III, made derogatory comments to Ms. [REDACTED] in that he sent her a text message stating, "Go find u some business n stop texting me before I cum stick my dick in ur mouth."</p> <p>1. It is alleged that on March 15, 2015, between the time of 12:25 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., Officer Burdett Griffin III, failed to register a complaint on behalf of Ms. [REDACTED]</p> | <p>Sustained</p> <p>Not Sustained</p> |

Approved:

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

Joshua Hunt
 Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

3 APR 2018
 Date

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Squad#: | 8 |
| Investigator: | Wilbert Neal |
| Supervising Investigator: | Robert Coleman |
| Deputy Chief Administrator: | Joshua Hunt |

