

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT

On March 23, 2014, Officer Valena Bradley arrested [REDACTED] for a DUI, and numerous other traffic offences. While in the processing room of the 002 District, Officer Bradley attempted to remove various rings from [REDACTED] fingers. [REDACTED] objected, pulled her hand away, and a physical altercation occurred between Officer Bradley and [REDACTED]

ALLEGATIONS

On May 21, 2017, [REDACTED] made a complaint against Officer Bradley with the Independent Police Review Authority¹.

[REDACTED] alleged that on March 23, 2014, at approximately 2:30am, in a processing room of the 002 District, located at 5101 S. Wentworth:

Officer Valena Bradley, star number 17810:

1. Without reason or justification punched [REDACTED] in her head and face multiple times, while [REDACTED] was handcuffed, and aggressively wrestled her rings off her fingers in violation of Chicago Police Department Rule 8 and 9.

On November 3, 2017, COPA by and through Investigator Dwight A. White alleges that on March 23, 2014, Officer Valena Bradley, star number 17810:

2. Failed to review the Tactical Response Report written in her name in violation of Chicago Police Department Rule 10.

APPLICABLE RULES AND LAW

Rule 8: Prohibits disrespect to or maltreatment of any person while on or off duty.

Rule 9: Prohibits engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on duty.

Rule 10: Inattention to duty.

INVESTIGATION

Interview of Complainant [REDACTED]

On June 23, 2017, [REDACTED] stated that on the date in question that she was driving home and felt dizzy because she suffers from menopause and diabetes.

¹ This matter was originally investigated by the Independent Police Review Authority (IPRA). On September 15, 2017, IPRA transitioned to the Civilian Officer of Police Accountability (COPA). On that day, COPA assumed jurisdiction over this matter. Therefore, this matter will be completed under COPA.

██████████ stated that she then hit a car and her airbags deployed. She stated that her car was totaled so she flagged a taxi down and proceeded to leave. ██████████ related that the taxi was stopped by a police officer a few blocks away and the officers asked her to get out of the car. ██████████ then testified that two unidentified African American officers took her into custody, and placed her in back of their squad car. ██████████ related that she asked the officer to pull over so she could use the bathroom. After the officer refused, ██████████ stated that she urinated in the back of the squad car. ██████████ stated that while being processed Officer Bradley came out of nowhere, stood over her, and hit ██████████ in her face and head about three times and called her names while ██████████ was handcuffed to a pole. ██████████ then stated that the officer wrestled her rings off her finger. ██████████ testified that she was thrown into the lockup area. ██████████ stated that after some time passed she went to the Mercy Hospital where she complained of a swollen left hand. ██████████ did not know whether she suffered this injury because of the police officer or whether she suffered the injury due to the car accident.

An individual named ██████████ was present at ██████████ interview for support. ██████████ stated that her friend, ██████████ has medical conditions and stated ██████████ has had some challenges in life and that she has known ██████████ for a long time. When asked why it took so long to report her allegations against Officer Bradley, ██████████ stated that she is homeless and lives back and forth from Wisconsin to Illinois. (Att. 15)

Interview with Accused Officer Valena Bradley

On August 8, 2017, Officer Bradley stated that on the date in question she was working 1st watch by herself in full uniform and in a marked squad car. Officer Bradley related that she acknowledged a call from the University of Chicago Police Department that a person had hit several vehicles with their car then flagged down a cab and attempted to leave the scene of an accident.

Officer Bradley related that when she arrived to the scene she noticed ██████████ was extremely intoxicated and she had to physically assist ██████████ to the squad car. Officer Bradley stated that ██████████ may have urinated in her car but could not remember for certain. When they arrived at the station, Officer Bradley stated that she handcuffed ██████████ to the rail of the bench and began asking her questions to complete the arrest report. Officer Bradley then stated that she attempted to take ██████████ rings off her finger because arrestees cannot have rings in the lockup area. Officer Bradley took ██████████ wrist and hand to take the rings off. Officer Bradley stated that ██████████ allowed her to take some of her rings off but then abruptly jerked her hand back causing Officer Bradley to break her nail. When ██████████ jerked her hand back she simultaneously punched and kicked Officer Bradley. Officer Bradley recalled that after the incident in the processing room she really doesn't remember what happened next. Officer Bradley testified that she did not hit or strike ██████████ in any way.

R/I showed Officer Bradley her Tactical Response Report (Att. 7) during her interview. R/I pointed out that the TRR documents that Officer Bradley struck [REDACTED] with a closed hand. Officer Bradley seemed confused, and stated that that the TRR was wrong. She stated that sometimes a Sergeant fills out the TRR while the officer is standing nearby. Officer Bradley was unsure why her TRR stated that she struck [REDACTED]. Officer Bradley believes that Sergeant Hoover must have filled out the TRR while she was standing beside him and he must have checked the wrong box on the form. Officer Bradley stated that she should have reviewed the TRR but she wanted to go home.

On November 9, 2017, Officer's Bradley was interviewed by COPA. In this interview she stood by her August 8, 2017, statement. When asked by R/I whether she wrote the TRR and whether she reviewed the TRR before signing and submitting the document. Officer Bradley stated that Sergeant Hoover prepared the TRR and that she failed to read and review the TRR before signing it. Officer Bradley related again that she never punched or hit [REDACTED] despite the TRR showing otherwise. Officer Bradley stated that the section stating she punched [REDACTED] was filled out by Sergeant Hoover in error. Officer Bradley stated that she's human and made a mistake by not reviewing the TRR before signing it. (Att. 25)

Interview with Witness Officer Shenise Morris

On August 11, 2017, Officer Morris related that on the date in question she was in full uniform and was in a processing room in the 002 District. Officer Morris recalls that she may have been typing a report and doing something unrelated to Officer Bradley's incident. Officer Morris remembers [REDACTED] being extremely intoxicated, loud, and abrasive, but not initially aggressive. Officer Morris also stated that [REDACTED] had one hand cuffed to the rail of the bench and Officer Bradley began processing [REDACTED]. Officer Morris testified that Officer Bradley attempted to remove [REDACTED] rings and [REDACTED] yanked her hand back. Officer Morris stated that she heard a smack and looked up to see [REDACTED] kick Officer Bradley. Officer Morris stated that Officer Bradley was stunned, Officer Morris then got up and helped restrain [REDACTED]. Officer Morris testified that she did not see Officer Bradley strike [REDACTED] nor did she hear Officer Bradley say anything disrespectful to [REDACTED]. (Att. 28)

Interview with Witness Officer Quinton Hanks

In an interview to IPRA on August 8, 2017, Officer Hanks stated that on the date in question he was working in full uniform in the 002 District. Officer Hanks was a certified breathalyzer tech. Officer Hanks stated that he was in the 002 District processing room. Officer Hanks related that he had been called into the station to perform a breathalyzer test on [REDACTED]. When he arrived, he noticed that [REDACTED] seemed to be heavily intoxicated. Officer Hanks stated she was handcuffed to the rail of the bench which she was sitting on and Officer Bradley was asking her questions.

Officer Hanks recalled asking [REDACTED] if she wanted to take a breathalyzer test which [REDACTED] refused. Officer Hanks stated that by law he had to observe [REDACTED] for at least 20 minutes. Officer Hanks recalled that 20 minutes came and went. Officer Bradley then explained to [REDACTED] that she was going to have to take her rings off because she could not take them to the lockup area. Officer Hanks recalled that as Officer Bradley grabbed [REDACTED] hand he witnessed [REDACTED] jerk her hand back and simultaneously slap Officer Bradley in the face and kick her in the leg. Officer Hanks stated that he did not see Officer Bradley retaliate or curse at [REDACTED] and that the altercation was over in seconds. (Att. 29)

Interview with Witness Officer Vincent Darling

On August 16, 2017, Officer Darling related that on the date in question he heard over the police radio that an intoxicated woman hit multiple parked cars and tried to evade capture by jumping into a taxi. Officer Darling stated that he went to the scene of the accident because it happened near his beat. Once he arrived on scene he noticed [REDACTED] was extremely drunk and that she was yelling and cursing at Officer Bradley. He saw Officer Bradley put [REDACTED] in her squad car. He followed Officer Bradley's car to the station. Once in the station he remembered being in the interview room at a computer station with Officer Bradley, [REDACTED] and two other officers, but he could not remember the names of the other officers. Officer Darling stated that Officer Bradley was attempting to process [REDACTED] and was asking her questions and taking property that had to be inventoried. Officer Darling testified that even though [REDACTED] had been cursing and calling Officer Bradley names, Bradley remained calm in dealing with [REDACTED]. Officer Darling related that he observed Officer Bradley attempt to take [REDACTED] rings off her finger. Officer Darling related that he heard [REDACTED] call Bradley a bitch and then saw [REDACTED] strike and kick Officer Bradley in the thigh. Officer Darling stated that Officer Bradley got upset and said something back but multiple officers escorted her out of the processing room. Officer Darling stated that he physically got out of his seat and got in-between Bradley and [REDACTED]. Officer Darling stated that [REDACTED] battered Officer Bradley while [REDACTED] was still seated. Officer Darling further related that he did not see Officer Bradley hit [REDACTED] (Att. 36)

Interview with Lieutenant Hoover

In a statement to COPA on October 30, 2017, **Lieutenant Terry Hoover**, related that on the date in question Officer Bradley approached him in the 002 District to do a TRR and informed him that she was injured². Lieutenant Hoover stated that Officer Bradley told him that she was processing an offender for a DUI and that the offender became combative and struck her and that ended up with a laceration on her finger when she tried to remove rings from the offender's hand. Lieutenant Hoover stated that since this even occurred three years ago he does not have independent knowledge of this incident.

² At the time of this incident Lieutenant Hoover was a Sergeant.

When asked whether he could have drafted Officer's Bradley TRR, Lieutenant Hoover related that it is possible that due to her injury he could have drafted the report but does not recall filling out the TRR. Lieutenant Hoover stated that he has reviewed hundreds TRRs in his career. Lieutenant Hoover related that if he did author the TRR then Officer Bradley would have stood over his shoulder to ensure accuracy. After looking at the arrest report, Lieutenant Hoover related that he did complete the arrest report for Officer Bradley, therefore he stated it was possible that he also drafted the TRR but he could not say for certain whether he did or did not. Lieutenant Hoover did not see the incident. (Att. 27)

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The **Arrest Report** documents that University of Chicago Police Department (UCPD) officers were flagged down by a citizen who related to them that a vehicle had struck four parked cars and that the female driver had jumped in a cab that was heading westbound. The arrest report goes on to dictate that UCPD officers pulled over the cab and brought ██████ back to the scene. The arrest report shows that ██████ gave conflicting accounts regarding how the accident occurred, had a moderate odor of alcohol, slurred speech, bloodshot red eyes and lost her balance as she walked. The arrest report further documents that ██████ was belligerent and combative and refused a field sobriety test, therefore ██████ was transported to the station. The arrest report provides that while at the station ██████ jerked her hand away while Officer Bradley attempted to take her jewelry off her finger, and while doing so Officer Bradley sustained a small laceration on her finger. The arrest report next documents that ██████ then punched Officer Bradly in the face and kicked her in the thigh. (Att. 4)

The **Original Case Incident Report** documents that Rogers punched Officer Bradley in the face and kicked her in the abdomen. The report lists particulars of the incident and details that Officer Bradley suffered a bruise to her face, thigh, and an abrasion to her right middle finger. As for motive, the report dictates that Rogers became combative during processing. The report listed Officer Darling, Officer Morris, and Officer Hanks as witness officers to the incident. All officers gave a statement that the report lists. The statements that the officers gave were all consistent with their interviews with IPRA. The report was written by Detective Peter Maderer. (Att. 5)

The **Case Supplementary Report** documents the same information as the Original Case Incident Report. The narrative of the Case Supplementary Report narrative is seemingly a copy and paste of the narrative found in the Original Case Incident Report. (Att. 6)

The **Tactical Response Report** (TRR) of Officer Bradley states that ██████ would not follow verbal directions and attacked without a weapon. The report then goes on the state that Officer Bradley performed a wrist lock, and emergency take down of ██████

The report also states that Officer Bradley punched [REDACTED] with a closed fist. The TRR provides that it was written by Officer Bradley and approved by Sergeant Terry Hoover. (Att. 7)

The **Officer Battery Report** (OBR) of Officer Bradley states that while she was on duty and in full uniform processing an arrestee she was struck by a black female in the 002 District. (Att. 8)

A **To-From Report** dated July 26, 2017, from the Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) documents a request for video retrieval for the processing room of the 002 District. In summary, the report states that Chicago Police districts generally only retain video footage for 30 days, and that no video would be available from March 23, 2014, the date of the incident. The To-From Report was written by Sergeant Esmelida Torres of BIA. (Att. 18)

The **Event Summary** documents that an anonymous caller called 911 to report that a driver hit 3 vehicles and jumped into a cab going west bound. The caller also reported that a light pole fell on the ground. The caller gave the license plate number to the dispatch and the dispatch reported that the car was registered to [REDACTED] (Att. 9)

MEDICAL RECORDS

At approximately 6:00am physician [REDACTED], of Saint Bernard Hospital treated [REDACTED]. The medical records show that [REDACTED] was transported to the hospital from the 002 District lock up area. The medical records further document that she complained of chest pain and no other injuries. Dr. [REDACTED] gave [REDACTED] 800 milligrams of Ibuprofen at approximately 6:30am. This is the extent of her treatment at Saint Bernard Hospital. (Att. 26)

PHOTOGRAPHS

A Chicago Police Evidence Technician took pictures of Officer Bradley's injured hand on March 23, 2014. There are 12 photographs in total. Four of the twelve show that Officer Bradley chipped the nail in her right ring finger. (Att. 19)

Submitted

[REDACTED]
Dwight A. White Investigator

CONCLUSION AND ANALYSIS**Officer Valena Bradley****Allegation 1 - Not Sustained**

COPA recommends a finding of **Not Sustained** for Allegation 1. ██████ alleged that Officer Bradley, without reason or justification, punched her in her head and face multiple times while ██████ was handcuffed, and that Officer Bradley aggressively wrestled her rings off her fingers.

This incident allegedly occurred in 2014. Due to the passage of time there is no video footage from what happened in the processing room that day. ██████ account of what occurred is extremely different from the version that Officer Bradley and the witness officers gave in their interviews to IPRA\COPA. In her interview with IPRA, ██████ admitted to being in a Casino for almost 24 hours prior to the crash. Further, she admitted to being in a car accident where the air bags deployed and then getting in a cab to leave the scene of the accident. ██████ also admitted to urinating in the back of Officer Bradley's squad car. Additionally, multiple officers observed ██████ to have obvious signs of intoxication. These facts are strong indicators that ██████ was likely inebriated during her interaction with officers and the alcohol may have affected her memory of what occurred that night.

Additionally, ██████ failed to mention her alleged attack to medical professionals at the hospital that night. In contrast, ██████ stated in her interview that she went to the hospital from the 2nd District lock up area and complained of a swollen left hand, yet, her medical records show that she complained of chest pain. Due to the passage of time, lack of independent third-party evidence, and ██████ lack of credibility, COPA recommends a finding a **Not Sustained** against Officer Bradley.

Officer Velana Bradley**Allegation 2 – Sustained**

COPA recommends a finding of **Sustained** against Officer Bradley for Allegation 2. COPA alleges that Officer Bradley violated Chicago Police Department Rule 10 by failing to review the Tactical Response Report (TRR) written in her name. Chicago Police Department Rule 10 prohibits inattention to duty.

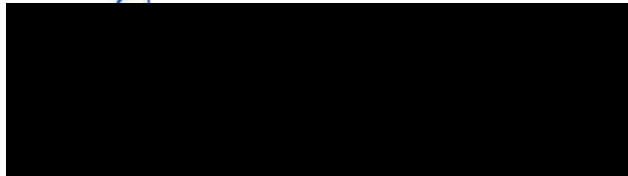
The TRR lists Officer Bradley as its author. It also states that Officer Bradley struck ██████ with a closed hand after ██████ failed to follow verbal directions and attacked without a weapon. In her interview with IPRA\COPA, Officer Bradley denied striking ██████

Officer Bradley further related that she did not write the TRR, and that Hoover must have filled out the TRR and committed a mistake. When asked whether she reviewed the TRR before she left the station Officer Bradley stated, “no, not really, no”. She further related that she could

be wrong for not checking the TRR but stated that working 1st watch is rough, she had just been battered, and that she just wanted to go home. In her second interview she again admits to not reviewing the TRR before signing and submitting the document.

Officer Bradley admits to not checking the TRR for accuracy due to her fatigue. If she would have checked the TRR that was completed under her name, she likely would have found the discrepancy within the TRR. By Officer Bradley's own admission, she was inattentive to her duty as a police officer. Therefore, this allegation must be **Sustained**.

APPROVED



Deputy Chief Administrator, COPA

FINDINGS

Officer Valena Bradley –17810

Allegation 1 **Not Sustained**

Allegation 2 **Sustained**