

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident:	September 11, 2015
Time of Incident:	3:15 p.m.
Location of Incident:	6200 S. Hamlin Ave
Date of COPA Notification:	September 14, 2015
Time of COPA Notification:	9:00 p.m.

On-duty Chicago Police Officer, John Catanzara, who is assigned to Hubbard High School, observed several students outside the high school involved in an altercation. Officer Catanzara approached the crowd and several students ran away. Officer Catanzara looked at [REDACTED] who then took off running toward 63rd Street. It is alleged that during that time, Officer Catanzara, pointed his weapon at [REDACTED] without justification and threatened to shoot him.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Officer #1:	Police Officer John Catanzara, Star #19897, Employee # [REDACTED], Appointment Date January 3, 1995, Unit 008, Male, White, Birth Date [REDACTED] 1968.
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III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer John Catanzara	1. On September 11, 2015, at approximately 3:15 p.m., at 6200 N. Hamlin Avenue, the accused pointed a gun at [REDACTED] without justification, in violation of Rule 38, and	Not Sustained
	2. On September 11, 2015, at approximately 3:15 p.m., at 6200 N. Hamlin, the accused threatened to shoot [REDACTED] in the head, in violation of Rule 2.	Not Sustained

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.

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 38: Unlawful or unnecessary display of a weapon.

V. INVESTIGATION²

a. Interviews

In a **statement to IPRA** on September 19, 2015, **Victim** ■■■³ stated that he and his friend, ■■■⁴ exited the school building on Friday, the 11th of September, and were headed home when they observed a group of kids fighting. ■■■ stated that he walked toward the fight and observed a group of school kids kicking and stomping a kid on the ground. ■■■ stated that he observed Officer Catanzara look at him and reach for his gun so he took off running leaving ■■■ behind.

■■■ ran into an alley and Officer Catanzara yelled out "Stop running or I will pop you in the head."⁵ ■■■ turned around and observed the gun pointed towards his upper body. ■■■ ran faster and went inside an apartment building located on Hamlin Avenue and Springfield Avenue.

■■■ stated the next time he saw Officer Catanzara was at school the following Monday, September 14th, 2015, when he was arrested for Reckless Conduct. ■■■ stated he was told by school officials that he was captured on video⁶ "beating a kid"⁷ and therefore they knew he was involved. ■■■ stated he was taken to the 008th District Station and subsequently processed at 39th and California Avenue⁸ where they telephoned his mother, ■■■■■■■■■■.

■■■ stated that he and Officer Catanzara never had any issues before this incident.

In a **statement to COPA** on April 12, 2017, **Accused Officer John Catanzara**,⁹ stated that he is assigned to Hubbard High School located at 6300 S. Hamlin Avenue. Officer Catanzara stated that on September 11, 2015, at approximately 3:15 pm, he and his partner were exiting

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 The victim was a juvenile during the September 11, 2015 incident, therefore he will be referenced as ■■■ throughout this summary

⁴ The victim was a juvenile during the September 11, 2015 incident, therefore she will be referenced as ■■■ throughout this summary Attempts to contact ■■■ were met with negative results. Att.17, 37

⁵ Att. 17

⁶ Video footage from Hubbard High School was requested on September 14, 2015 and July 15, 2016. It was determined that Hubbard High School no longer had video footage of incident. Att. 23, 25, and 28.

⁷ Att. 17

⁸ Chicago Juvenile Intervention Support Center

⁹ Att. 10

Hubbard High School when he observed a commotion outside. Officer Catanzara heard yelling, screaming, and observed a group of students kicking and “stomping”¹⁰ a kid.

Officer Catanzara stated as he approached the crowd, several kids dispersed and ran in different directions. Officer Catanzara stated that he ran southbound towards 63rd Street when he observed [REDACTED] run into an alley. Officer Catanzara stated that [REDACTED] was the slowest of the group therefore he was not that far behind him. [REDACTED] was approximately 30 feet away from Officer Catanzara. [REDACTED] turned around and Officer Catanzara yelled for [REDACTED] to stop but [REDACTED] continued to run. Officer Catanzara stated that he had his taser in his hand but never turned it on or pointed it in the direction of [REDACTED]. Officer Catanzara stated that he was too far from [REDACTED] to activate his taser. Officer Catanzara stated that when [REDACTED] turned around, he got a good look at him before he [REDACTED] continued to run down 63rd Place. Officer Catanzara ultimately decided to wait until Monday to locate [REDACTED] and the other kids involved in the incident.

Officer Catanzara stated he never removed his gun from his holster. Officer Catanzara further stated that he did not threaten to shoot [REDACTED] but did threaten to tase him if he did not stop running.

Officer Catanzara stated that he and [REDACTED] were involved in an incident that involved another kid after the incident on September 11, 2015, and [REDACTED] joked about what happened back in September.

Officer Catanzara denied the allegations alleged against him.

b. Digital Evidence

During this incident, it was determined that multiple **Police Observation Devices (POD)** were near the incident location. The requested PODs were 7030, 7031, and 7032.

POD 7030 is located at 3855 W. 63rd Street. The POD recording is fixed, pointing eastbound on 63rd Street. The recording started at 2:30 p.m. and ended at 4:19 p.m. on September 11, 2015.

Throughout the POD recording, several high school aged kids are observed walking and running west on 63rd Street. At approximately 3:23 p.m., three (3) Chicago Police vehicles are observed driving at a high rate of speed going west on 63rd Street. Several frames during the video were blurry and not visible. There is no other police activity captured relative to this incident.

POD 7031 is located at 6241 S. Hamlin Avenue. The POD recording is fixed, pointing northbound on Hamlin Avenue, towards Hubbard High School. The recording started at 2:30 p.m. and ended at 4:19 p.m. on September 11, 2015.

At the start of the video, a group of young men are observed kicking another young man on the ground next to a police vehicle. Moments later, the fight stopped, and the same young men

¹⁰ Officer Catanzara used the word “stomping” in his statement to describe the fight between the kids.

run south on Hamlin Avenue, followed by a male Caucasian or Hispanic uniformed officer running behind them.

At approximately 3:22 p.m., the R/I observed the uniformed officer walk north on Hamlin Avenue toward Hubbard High School, where he met with, what appeared to be CPS personnel. Everyone walked back south on Hamlin Avenue and out of view of the camera.

At approximately 3:25p.m., a marked Chicago Police Vehicle with flashing lights was observed driving northbound on Hamlin Avenue toward Hubbard High School. There is no other police activity captured relative to this incident.

POD 7032 is located on the corner of 63rd Street and Hamlin Avenue. The POD recording is fixed, pointing westbound on 63rd Street. The recording started at 2:30 p.m. and ended at 4:19 p.m. on September 11, 2015.

The several high school aged kids are observed walking and running toward Hamlin Avenue and 63rd Street. At approximately 3:22 p.m., a male Caucasian or Hispanic uniformed officer walked toward 63rd Street and Hamlin Avenue. The officer stopped on the northwest corner and appeared to be talking on his radio before walking back north on Hamlin Avenue.

At approximately 3:23 p.m., three (3) Chicago police vehicles are observed driving at a high rate of speed going west on 63rd Street. Several frames during the video were blurry and not visible. There is no other police activity captured relative to this incident.

c. Documentary Evidence

The **Original Case Incident Report**¹¹ and **Arrest Reports**¹² of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]¹³ documented that they were arrested for Reckless Conduct, in that, on September 11, 2015, they were involved in a gang related altercation on Hubbard High School property, where they were observed flashing gang signs, yelling obscenities, and fleeing from police upon arrival.

It further indicated that the offenders were identified as having engaged in a confrontation with victim/student, [REDACTED]¹⁴ [REDACTED]. The offenders were placed under arrest and parents were notified on September 14, 2015, after being positively identified.

VI. ANALYSIS

¹¹ Att. 10

¹² Att. 4-9

¹³ The juveniles that were arrested in the Original Case Incident Report and Arrest Report will be referenced by their initials.

¹⁴ The victim was a juvenile during the September 11, 2015 incident, therefore he will be referenced as [REDACTED] throughout this summary.

COPA recommends a finding of **NOT SUSTAINED** for allegations #1 and #2 that Officer John Catanzara pointed his gun at [REDACTED] without justification and threatened to shoot [REDACTED] in the head.

[REDACTED] stated that Officer Catanzara pointed his gun at him and threatened to shoot him. [REDACTED] also stated that his friend, [REDACTED], who was with him during this incident, related that she observed [REDACTED] running but did not say if she did or did not see Officer Catanzara chasing him with his gun drawn.

Officer Catanzara stated that he never threatened to shoot [REDACTED] nor did he take out his gun. By his own admission, Officer Catanzara stated that he took out his taser and threatened to tase [REDACTED] if he did not stop running. Officer Catanzara further related that his taser was turned off, remained in his hand, and pointed toward the ground. Officer Catanzara stated that [REDACTED] was approximately 30 feet away from him, therefore the taser would not have made contact with [REDACTED] thus. Accordingly, Officer Catanzara made the decision to let [REDACTED] getaway and confront him at school the following Monday. Attempts were made to contact [REDACTED] to no avail.

Officer Catanzara denied the allegations made against him. Without any independent witnesses or additional information to corroborate the allegations, there is insufficient evidence to prove or disprove the misconduct as alleged by [REDACTED]

VII. CONCLUSION

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

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer John Catanzara	1. On September 11, 2015, at approximately 3:15 p.m., at 6200 N. Hamlin Avenue, the accused pointed a gun at [REDACTED] without justification, in violation of Rule 38, and	NOT SUSTAINED
	2. On September 11, 2015, at approximately 3:15 p.m., at 6200 N. Hamlin, the accused threatened to shoot [REDACTED] in the head, in violation of Rule 2.	NOT SUSTAINED

Approved: [REDACTED]

Andrea Kersten
Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

5/31/18

Date

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad:	1
Major Case Specialist:	Ramona Hendricks
Supervising Investigator:	(Acting) Chantall Morley
Deputy Chief Administrator:	Andrea Kersten