

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	February 21, 2021 / 11:20 a.m. / [REDACTED]
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	February 21, 2021, at approximately 1:45 p.m.
Involved Officer #1:	Peterson Pohl, Star #6582, Employee ID# [REDACTED], Date of Appointment: December 18, 2000, Police Officer/FTO, Unit of Assignment 018, DOB: [REDACTED], 1973, Male, White Hispanic
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED] 1972, Female, White Hispanic
Involved Individual #2:	[REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED] 2004, Male, White Hispanic
Involved Individual #3:	[REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED], 2009, Male, White Hispanic
Case Type:	Domestic Violence

I. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer Peterson Pohl	1. On or about February 21, 2021, at approximately 11:20 a.m. at or near [REDACTED] Officer Peterson Pohl struck [REDACTED] about the head with a closed hand without justification.	Exonerated
	2. On or about February 21, 2021, at approximately 11:20 a.m. at or near [REDACTED] Officer Peterson Pohl struck [REDACTED] about his buttocks with a belt without justification.	Not Sustained

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE<sup>1</sup>

COPA was notified of an incident involving Chicago Police Officer Peterson Pohl (hereafter Officer Pohl), his [REDACTED] (hereafter [REDACTED] and their 16-year-old [REDACTED] (hereafter [REDACTED] via an **Initiation Report**<sup>2</sup> on February 21, 2021. Both the Initiation Report and the **Original Case Incident Report** ([REDACTED])<sup>3</sup> relate that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] engaged in a verbal altercation that turned physical over the dishes. [REDACTED] had asked [REDACTED] to stop washing a dish and removed it from the sink. [REDACTED] grabbed [REDACTED] by [REDACTED]

<sup>1</sup>COPA conducted a full and complete investigation of this matter, including the interview of all pertinent civilian and officer witnesses, and the collection and review of digital, documentary, and forensic evidence.

<sup>2</sup> Att. 14

<sup>3</sup> Att. 32

arms, pushed her in the chest, and removed the dish from her hands. Officer Pohl arrived home, saw the altercation and attempted to break the parties up. [REDACTED] then swung the dish around, eventually throwing it to the ground causing it to break. After that, [REDACTED] struck Officer Pohl in the left eye with a closed fist. Officer Pohl defended himself and struck [REDACTED] in the left side of the head. At that time, [REDACTED] fled the scene and a neighbor called police. He was treated by an ambulance for a scratch to the neck and a bloody nose. Visible injuries were observed on [REDACTED] arm and chest, and Officer Pohl had redness to his left eye area. An Evidence Technician was ordered to take photographs of the visible injuries. Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) was notified of the incident and a log was created.

An OEMC Event Query<sup>4</sup> and 911 calls<sup>5</sup> to the police and fire department further document that on February 21, 2021, at approximately 11:45 a.m. a neighbor called 911 to report that he was outside next to a Hispanic male who was approximately 17 years old.<sup>6</sup> He reported the individual was bloody, did not have proper clothing on, and informed him he was beaten by his [REDACTED]. An additional OEMC Event Query<sup>7</sup> documents that an Evidence Technician was requested to take photographs of injuries on the involved parties; however, an Evidence Technician did not respond.

Body Worn Camera<sup>8</sup> (BWC) footage from the incident shows the neighbor, who called 911, telling the responding officer that he found [REDACTED] outside and gave him clothes to stay warm. [REDACTED] is sitting on the sidewalk, and it appears there is blood under his nose. Officer Pohl and [REDACTED] were not outside where [REDACTED] and the neighbor were located. The neighbor informs the responding officer that [REDACTED] told him he did not do the dishes and his [REDACTED] beat him. [REDACTED] tells the officer that he was being disrespectful to his [REDACTED] and got into a fight with them. The officer asks [REDACTED] if he fights with his [REDACTED] a lot, to which [REDACTED] replies that he fights with his [REDACTED]. The officer then asks [REDACTED] if they physically fight, and [REDACTED] shakes his head no and says they fight verbally. An ambulance arrives on scene and [REDACTED] enters it to be treated.

Officer Pohl then arrives on scene and informs the responding officer that [REDACTED] was fighting in the house with his [REDACTED] broke a bowl, and punched him in the face. It then appears Officer Pohl informed the officer that he is an off-duty Chicago Police Officer, and a supervisor is called to the scene. The officer enters the ambulance and speaks to [REDACTED] informs him he was washing the dishes because he did not do them the day before. He was washing a bowl that had grime in it and his [REDACTED] told him to leave it alone and let it soak. He wanted to finish cleaning it, but his [REDACTED] took the bowl away from him. [REDACTED] then “snatched” the bowl from her, which hurt her hand. His [REDACTED] kept asking for the bowl, but he refused to give it to them. He went downstairs and he kept the bowl behind his body, and his [REDACTED] pinned him against the wall. His [REDACTED] got mad at him because he was not listening. His [REDACTED] grabbed his hair and his [REDACTED] hit him on the side of the head with his fist. The medic asks [REDACTED] what happened to his nose because it is

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<sup>4</sup> Att. 4

<sup>5</sup> Att. 53 & 56

<sup>6</sup> Att. 60, COPA made a [REDACTED] visit to the neighbor, [REDACTED] who declined to provide a statement to COPA or cooperate with the investigation.

<sup>7</sup> Att. 5

<sup>8</sup> Att. 46-50

swollen, and at first ██████ stated that no one hit his nose. The medic states this his nose looks nearly broken, and ██████ states his ██████ hit him in the face. ██████ related that he threw the bowl on the ground towards the end of the incident. The medic states they are going to take ██████ to MacNeal Hospital.

A supervisor then arrives on scene and speaks to Officer Pohl and ██████ inside their residence. ██████ relates that she was home with ██████ and speaking to him about the fact that he did not do his chores the night before. She related the incident began in the kitchen and then moved downstairs in the residence. ██████ was doing the dishes, and ██████ told him he was wasting water by trying to wash a bowl, so she put it to the side to allow it to soak. ██████ then grabbed the bowl out of her hand, hurting her hand. ██████ started swinging his arms, gave her bruises on her arms and hit her in her chest. Officer Pohl arrived home and attempted to get ██████ off ██████ was swinging the bowl and tried to hit them with it while they were attempting to take it away from him. Eventually, ██████ threw the bowl to the ground and it shattered. ██████ then punched Officer Pohl in the left eye, giving him a black eye. Officer Pohl and ██████ did not know how ██████ nose started bleeding, stating it may have happened when they were attempting to hold him back. Officer Pohl went to retrieve his handcuffs to attempt to restrain ██████ at which point ██████ fled the residence. Officer Pohl tried looking for ██████ but a neighbor found him first. ██████ is crying when speaking to the officers and she relates that they have been having issues with ██████ because he has been trying to tell them what to do. The supervisor on scene states that it sounds to him like ██████ was the aggressor and Officer Pohl was trying to defend himself and his ██████

COPA obtained **Medical Records**<sup>9</sup> from MacNeal Hospital Emergency Department from ██████ visit on the date of incident.<sup>10</sup> The records document that ██████ was calm and cooperative. He was seen for a head injury after an alleged assault by his ██████ Upon examination he had abrasions/nail scratch marks to the anterior of his neck. There was no active bleeding from his nose, and a CT scan showed negative for a bleed. ██████ related to medical staff that he engaged in an argument with his ██████ over washing a bowl. His ██████ then returned home from work and both ██████ yelled at him to stop washing the bowl, but he continued. He put the bowl behind his back and refused to hand the bowl over. ██████ reported his ██████ pushed him into a corner with her forearm to his throat. Both his ██████ raised their voices, and he raised his voice back at them. He continued to hold the bowl away from them, which angered them and prompted his ██████ to push on him harder. He had a difficult time breathing and his ██████ punched the left side of his head with a closed fist. ██████ reported his nose started bleeding and he slid down to the ground. He reported that while he was on the ground his ██████ punched his left side with a closed fist four times and his ██████ kicked him multiple times.

During one of his conversations with hospital staff, ██████ added that his ██████ whipped him with a belt on his buttocks.<sup>11</sup> The staff inspected his buttocks for signs of external trauma and no signs were located. ██████ related that he feels safe at home but gets into arguments with his ██████ regarding chores and for being disrespectful. He reported that his ██████ have pushed him

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<sup>9</sup> Att. 63

<sup>10</sup> COPA also obtained Chicago Fire Department ambulance reports relating to the incident which related information consistent with the records from MacNeal Hospital.

<sup>11</sup> Att. 63 page 26

before but have never hit him. DCFS was notified and responded to the hospital to establish a safety plan for [REDACTED]

COPA interviewed [REDACTED]<sup>12</sup> on April 24, 2021. [REDACTED] related that on the date of the incident he had not done the dishes he was supposed to do the day before. His [REDACTED] was yelling at him to do the dishes and take the dog outside. He was very agitated and speaking to his [REDACTED] in a rude manner. He was angry and frustrated when washing the dishes and he began waving a ceramic bowl around. His [REDACTED] tried to grab the bowl from him, and he pulled it away from her, hurting her hand. His [REDACTED] was yelling at him and he yelled back at her, being disrespectful. He was pushing his [REDACTED] off him. His [REDACTED] came upstairs and told him to calm down and respect his [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was waving the bowl around and his [REDACTED] were trying to pin him against the wall to get the bowl back from him. He related that his [REDACTED] were scared he was going to hit them with the bowl. He stated it was not his intention to hit them with the bowl, although it looked like he was going to. He further related that he was trying to prove a point by standing his ground and being stubborn. Eventually, he threw the bowl onto the ground and it broke, causing a cut on his arm. He then got up and punched his [REDACTED] on the side of his face. [REDACTED] nose started bleeding. His [REDACTED] went downstairs to retrieve his handcuffs to restrain [REDACTED] at which time he left the house through the side door.

[REDACTED] related that a neighbor came by while he was outside and called the police. The neighbor asked him "Who beat you?" [REDACTED] responded by stating it was his [REDACTED] because he did not know how else to explain what had happened and the incident involved his [REDACTED]. The paramedics took him in the ambulance and asked him what happened. [REDACTED] related that the paramedics and officer were answering many of the questions for him. He also stated that when at the hospital, he told the doctors and nurses a false story. He stated to them that he was in the right, did not do anything wrong, was not waving the bowl around, and that his [REDACTED] hit him.

[REDACTED] stated that he regularly gets nosebleeds approximately once a month. On the date of the incident, he thinks his nose bled because he was breathing heavily. He related he and his [REDACTED] do not usually get along, especially when he does not do what he is supposed to do. He and his [REDACTED] yell at each other when they are angry. He shared that he likes his [REDACTED] and looks up to him. He does not yell at his [REDACTED] as much, because his [REDACTED] tries to calm him down. [REDACTED] has had challenges controlling his anger since he was approximately 11 years old, and at the time of the interview, [REDACTED].

COPA interviewed [REDACTED]<sup>13</sup> on April 24, 2021. She related facts consistent with what she told police on the date of incident, along with additional information. [REDACTED] related that [REDACTED] has had anger issues for a few years. She is typically the parent who disciplines him because she is around him at home more often while Officer Pohl is working. She stated she is Puerto Rican, and she naturally speaks loudly, which [REDACTED] understands as her yelling at him.

[REDACTED] related essentially the same information regarding the incident that she related to the police. [REDACTED] added that when [REDACTED] snatched the bowl out of her hands, he hit her on the chest. When he was swinging the bowl around, she was telling him to put it down and she felt like

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<sup>12</sup> Att. 1 & 62

<sup>13</sup> Att. 2 & 61

he was trying to hit her with it. At that point, Officer Pohl walked in and got in between them, also telling ██████ to put the bowl down. Both ██████ told ██████ to take the dog outside to calm down and “take a breather.” ██████ refused, and the scuffle moved from the kitchen to the living room area downstairs.<sup>14</sup> Officer Pohl was holding him back by his shoulders as ██████ pinned ██████ against the wall to attempt to get the bowl from him, which he was holding behind his back. At that time ██████ noticed that ██████ nose was bleeding.<sup>15</sup> ██████ began swinging the bowl around again, threw it to the ground and then punched Officer Pohl in the face. ██████ related that Officer Pohl was shocked and either pushed him away or hit ██████ back somehow, as ██████ wanted to hit his ██████ again. At that point, ██████ got in between them and Officer Pohl went to retrieve his handcuffs to restrain ██████ related that Officer Pohl has never used handcuffs on ██████ before, and the intention was to restrain him to keep his hands away from himself and his ██████<sup>16</sup>

██████ ran out of the house before they were able to restrain him. ██████ related she tried to grab his arm and hug him. She told him to stay there and that they just wanted to talk to him, but ██████ was able to twist his arm and escape. ██████ was not fully dressed, so she told Officer Pohl to go try to find ██████ Officer Pohl looked for him both on foot and in a car with no success, and when he heard the police sirens he went to speak to the police. The police told ██████ and Officer Pohl to stay home and wait for an Evidence Technician to take photographs of their injuries, but they were busy and never showed up. ██████ and Officer Pohl arrived at the hospital to see ██████ but they were not allowed in at first. They were informed that DCFS required ██████ and his little ██████ ██████ (hereafter ██████ to go stay with Officer Pohl’s ██████ for a few days. ██████ hugged both ██████ and Officer Pohl goodbye and told them he just wanted to go home, and that it was all his fault because he was angry. ██████ and ██████ stayed with their aunt for two days and then were able to return home.

COPA interviewed **Officer Pohl**<sup>17</sup> on June 9, 2022.<sup>18</sup> Officer Pohl related information consistent with what he informed police on the date of incident. He added that ██████ has become slightly rebellious as he has gotten older, and ██████ is typically the parent that enforces discipline with ██████ because she is home with him more often. The discipline typically consists of lecturing or taking away his phone or computer.

Officer Pohl added that on the date of the incident he returned home from work and heard ██████ and ██████ yelling in the kitchen. ██████ pushed ██████ as they were struggling over the bowl, and Officer Pohl tried to break them up. Officer Pohl stated he was trying to calm ██████ down and gain control of him, telling him to stop and do what he was told. Officer Pohl related that ██████ was “outraged and out of control.” When the incident traveled downstairs, ██████ continued to wave the bowl around and Officer Pohl believed ██████ was going to

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<sup>14</sup> ██████ explained that they live in a quad-level house, with the basement being the bottom level, the living room on the first level, the kitchen on the second level, and the bedroom at the top level.

<sup>15</sup> ██████ related that she thought the nosebleed may have been from when she pushed ██████ back and tried to pin him against the wall. She further related that as a child he would get nosebleeds regularly.

<sup>16</sup> ██████ related that they wanted to restrain ██████ because in the past he has hit himself and pulled his own hair.

<sup>17</sup> Att. 69-70

<sup>18</sup> Att. 68 Officer Pohl arrived for his accused statement at COPA without counsel. Officer Pohl knowingly and voluntarily wished to proceed with the statement without having counsel of his own choosing present.

throw it at him or [REDACTED]<sup>19</sup> Officer Pohl had a belt on and he took it off to attempt to use it to restrain [REDACTED] arms.<sup>20</sup> He and [REDACTED] were facing each other, approximately a foot apart. He attempted to wrap the belt around [REDACTED] left wrist area while [REDACTED] was still holding the bowl in his right hand. The attempt was unsuccessful, and he was never able to secure the belt around [REDACTED] wrist because he was continuously moving. He related that he felt the need to restrain [REDACTED] because he was attacking both he and his [REDACTED] and he did not know what [REDACTED] was going to do with the bowl. When asked if he struck [REDACTED] with the belt, Officer Pohl related he did not know if he did. He further related that if anything, the belt may have hit his buttocks area because he was struggling with [REDACTED] to restrain his arms behind his back. He further related that if he had struck [REDACTED] with the belt, it was not intentional and was only a result of him struggling to restrain his arms.

Officer Pohl related [REDACTED] was upset that he was trying to restrain him, and he stood up and threw the bowl on the ground, breaking it.<sup>21</sup> He then lunged at Officer Pohl and punched him in the left side of his face with a closed fist. Officer Pohl then struck [REDACTED] on the left side of his face with a closed fist as a reaction to being hit. He related multiple times that he did not want to hurt his [REDACTED] and he hit him as a reaction. Officer Pohl then told [REDACTED] he needed to calm down, and he went downstairs to the basement to retrieve his handcuffs. He stated that he has never used handcuffs on [REDACTED] before, and his intention was going to be to handcuff him and then call the police. When he returned with the handcuffs, [REDACTED] had already run out of the house. Officer Pohl related that [REDACTED] was hysterically crying and screaming, and he cleaned up the broken bowl. He then heard the emergency vehicle sirens, went outside to look for [REDACTED] and spoke to the police.

Officer Pohl sustained a bump on the left side of his face and a swollen and black eye. He related that [REDACTED] had scratches on her neck from the incident and [REDACTED] had a bloody nose. He further related that he believed [REDACTED] lip had been cut from his own orthodontic braces as well. Officer Pohl was unaware of how [REDACTED] got a bloody nose, but believes it was likely from when they were struggling on the floor.<sup>22</sup>

Officer Pohl explained he saw a rage in [REDACTED] eyes during the incident. He further related that [REDACTED] teeth were clenched, his breathing was heavy, and his eyes were big. He had never seen his [REDACTED] act that way before. He related that [REDACTED] had never thrown inanimate objects or purposely broken things before. He also had never seen [REDACTED] put his hands on [REDACTED]

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<sup>19</sup> Att. 70, page 28. Officer Pohl related that his [REDACTED] was in his bedroom when the incident started, which is on the level above the kitchen. [REDACTED] heard the yelling from the incident and then went to the kitchen, where he watched the incident. He did not get involved in it, and when [REDACTED] and his [REDACTED] continued the argument downstairs, they told [REDACTED] to stay upstairs. Officer Pohl added that [REDACTED] was crying while watching the incident.

<sup>20</sup> Att. 70, page 44. Officer Pohl related he was wearing a nylon belt that had a Velcro fastening. The belt did not have a belt buckle on it.

<sup>21</sup> Att. 70, pages 17-18, page 43. Officer Pohl related they were all in a tussle on the ground when attempting to restrain [REDACTED]

<sup>22</sup> Officer Pohl related that [REDACTED] is taller than both himself and his [REDACTED] Officer Pohl related he is 5 feet 8 inches tall, [REDACTED] is 5 feet 5 inches tall, and [REDACTED] is approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall.

before. He related that [REDACTED] has been in counseling and is getting better at controlling his anger.<sup>23</sup>

A **Detective Supplementary Report** ([REDACTED]) documents additional conversations with the involved parties. [REDACTED] and Officer Pohl's statements to the detective were consistent with their statements to police on the date of incident and their statements to COPA. Officer Pohl added that he was caught off guard by his [REDACTED] attacking him and in self-defense he struck [REDACTED] about the left side of the head. He also informed the detective that he attempted to restrain [REDACTED] due to him being out of control.<sup>24</sup> The detective spoke to [REDACTED] who related he became mad when doing the dishes, and things escalated when he grabbed the dish from his [REDACTED] and pushed her in the chest. [REDACTED] was not sure when he hurt his nose but believed it occurred during the struggle with his [REDACTED] over the bowl. [REDACTED] acknowledged that he was wrong for his actions and has since apologized to his [REDACTED] for his behavior. The detective also spoke to [REDACTED] regarding what he witnessed during the incident. [REDACTED] related that he observed [REDACTED] get mad and grab the cereal bowl from his [REDACTED]. He related his [REDACTED] separated [REDACTED] and his [REDACTED]. He observed his [REDACTED] and brother move downstairs, where the struggle continued over the bowl. [REDACTED] observed [REDACTED] punch his [REDACTED] repeatedly, but he did not observe anything afterwards because he covered his face.

COPA obtained **Photos**<sup>25</sup> from [REDACTED]. She provided nine photos which depicted injuries she and Officer Pohl sustained from the physical incident with [REDACTED]. The photos appear to be of her chest, left and right arms, right hand, and right ring finger. Her chest appears to be red, and there are various yellow bruises on her arms. There appears to be a red mark on her right hand, and her right ring finger appears swollen and slightly bruised. [REDACTED] also provided a close-up photo of Officer Pohl's left eye. It appears there may be slight bruising around his eye and on his eyelid.

COPA obtained the **DCFS case file**<sup>26</sup> with investigation [REDACTED] regarding the incident. The report listed both Officer Pohl and [REDACTED] as alleged perpetrators. A safety plan was implemented that required [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to stay with their [REDACTED] temporarily. The report stated that a DCFS employee interviewed [REDACTED] while at MacNeal Hospital the same day of the incident. The report states that [REDACTED] was observed with a red mark on the left side of his neck, scratch on his left forearm, bruise on the left side of his chest, abrasion on the middle of his lower back, and red mark on his left knee. [REDACTED] reported similar information that he reported to the police and paramedics. He admitted that he got upset and started arguing with [REDACTED]. He stated his [REDACTED] pushed him and his [REDACTED] was smacking him. His [REDACTED] then pinned him against the wall by the left side of his neck with her arm when he would not give up the bowl. Officer Pohl punched him with a closed fist on the left side of his head and [REDACTED] was pulling his hair. He added that Officer Pohl hit him on the left side of his back and [REDACTED] was kicking him on the left side of his shoulder when he was on the floor. He also related that Officer Pohl hit him with a belt on his buttocks. [REDACTED] then threw the bowl on the ground and jumped up and hit Officer Pohl

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<sup>23</sup> Att. 70, page 34. Officer Pohl also related that [REDACTED] had been speaking to Officer Panos Theodorides from Peer Support as well, who worked in district 018 with Officer Pohl.

<sup>24</sup> The report did not explain a method in which Officer Pohl attempted to restrain [REDACTED]

<sup>25</sup> Att. 34-42

<sup>26</sup> Att. 71

in the jaw. ██████ admitted he was the aggressor and sometimes gets mad easily. ██████ reported that the incident was an isolated incident, and he is not afraid of his ██████. He stated he should not have gotten upset and let the incident escalate. He further related that he gets annoyed with his ██████ often. He admitted he and ██████ argue a lot, but it has never escalated to that level before.

DCFS interviewed ██████ who related information consistent with what he informed the CPD detective. ██████ added that ██████ was attacking his ██████ and they had to pin him against the wall to calm him down. ██████ then threw the bowl and punched Officer Pohl. He related that ██████ gets mad a lot. He stated that ██████ is often yelling at his ██████ and he gets irritated with her. He further explained that this was the first time something like that has happened, and he was upset and crying because he did not want to see his family behaving that way.

A phone interview with Officer Panos Theodorides (hereafter Officer Theodorides) was also documented in the DCFS case file. Officer Theodorides related he has known Officer Pohl and his ██████ for 21 years. He works with the peer support team, and he visits and talks to ██████. Officer Theodorides reported ██████ admires his ██████ but sometimes has issues with responding to his ██████ authority. Officer Theodorides related that both Officer Pohl and ██████ are phenomenal ██████ and he has never suspected any child abuse or neglect. He further related they have a lot of structure in the home and a loving system.

Officer Pohl was also interviewed by DCFS. The information he reported was consistent with his other statements. He added that ██████ has a history of getting angry quickly and not being able to handle situations. Neither himself nor ██████ tried to harm ██████. Officer Pohl denied hitting ██████ out of aggression but was attempting to diffuse the incident. Additionally, ██████ was interviewed and reported consistent information with her other statements. She added that she reached out to her ██████ doctor for referrals for both individual and family counseling services. The allegations in the DCFS investigation were unfounded.

### III. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

COPA finds **Allegation 1** that Officer Peterson Pohl struck ██████ about the head with a closed hand without justification is **Exonerated**. The incident was described by all parties as a struggle to retrieve the bowl away from ██████ to ensure everyone's safety. Officer Pohl, ██████ and ██████ all reported that ██████ struck Officer Pohl with a closed fist first. Officer Pohl related in his statements that he struck ██████ on the left side of his face with a closed fist as a reaction to being hit. He related he did not want to hurt his ██████ and he hit him in self-defense as he was surprised that ██████ was attacking himself and ██████. Therefore, he described he had justification for his actions, as he was protecting himself and his ██████. COPA finds this was an isolated incident and ██████ was the aggressor. Officer Pohl's straightforwardness regarding his actions and the incident demonstrate that he acted in self-defense and not with an intention to hurt his ██████. Based on the evidence obtained, COPA finds there is clear and convincing evidence that Officer Pohl's actions were justified. Therefore, the allegation is Exonerated.



COPA finds **Allegation 2** that Officer [REDACTED] Pohl struck [REDACTED] about his buttocks with a belt without justification is **Not Sustained**. Neither [REDACTED] nor [REDACTED] mentioned the use of a belt during the incident in their statements to COPA. Officer Pohl explained he used his belt to attempt to restrain [REDACTED] hands so that he would not hurt himself or his [REDACTED]. He further related that the attempt was unsuccessful because [REDACTED] was constantly moving. Therefore, if he had hit [REDACTED] with the belt on his buttocks it was a result of them struggling to restrain him, rather than intentionally hitting him. Additionally, the medical records document that staff inspected [REDACTED] buttocks for signs of external trauma and no signs were located. There is insufficient evidence to prove or disprove Officer Pohl used a belt to strike [REDACTED]. Therefore, the allegation is Not Sustained.

Approved:

[REDACTED]

*Sharday Jackson*  
*Deputy Chief Administrator*

March 21, 2023

Date