

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident:	January 5, 2017
Time of Incident:	9:00 p.m.
Location of Incident:	727 E. 111 th Street, Chicago, IL
Date of COPA Notification:	January 5, 2017
Time of COPA Notification:	10:12 p.m.

Chicago Police Officer, Donnell Walker, #19090 was in the male locker room of the 005th District station getting dressed for his assigned tour of duty. While getting ready, Officer Walker placed his firearm on the bathroom sink, along with other articles of clothing. Officer Walker accidentally knocked the firearm to the ground causing it to discharge. The round struck the concrete floor causing damage to the floor.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Officer #1:	Police Officer Donnell Walker, Star #19090, Employee # [REDACTED], Appointment Date September 30, 2002, Unit 005, Male, Black, Birth Date [REDACTED], 1967.
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III. ALLEGATION

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer Donnell Walker	1. It is alleged that on January 5, 2017, at approximately 9:00 p.m., while at 727 E. 111th Street, the accused officer was careless when his firearm accidentally discharged, in violation of rule 10.	Sustained
	2. It is alleged that on January 5, 2017, at approximately 9:00 p.m., while at 727 E. 111th Street, the accused officer caused damage to the 005 th District station male locker room floor when the accused officer's firearm accidentally discharged and struck the floor, in violation of rule 13.	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 10: Inattention to duty.

V. INVESTIGATION²

a. Interviews

In a **statement to COPA** on May 18, 2018, **Accused Officer Walker**,³ stated that on the date of incident, he was running late for roll-call and was getting dressed in the locker room. Officer Walker stated that he was in a hurry because he, along with other officers, had been previously warned about being late to roll-call. Officer Walker explained that while he was getting dressed, he placed his firearm, a Sig Sauer P226, on the sink, along with other articles of clothing. Officer Walker stated that he turned his body, which touched the firearm causing his firearm to fall to the ground. Officer Walker stated that the muzzle of the firearm hit the ground before it discharged.

Officer Walker stated that he believes he holstered his firearm and immediately notified the Captain⁴, as well as Lt. Gabriella Shemash, #513. Officer Walker added that he acknowledged he should have holstered his firearm prior to placing it on the sink.

Digital Evidence

ET Photographs⁵ document multiple photographs of the scene to include a shell casing, a bullet fragment and the damage that was caused to the floor.

b. Documentary Evidence

Sgt. Daniel Brown's, #1708, **Initiation Report**,⁶ documents that Officer Walker was in the 005th District's male locker room, getting dressed for his assigned tour of duty, when his firearm fell to the floor causing it to accidentally discharge. The round struck the concrete floor, in front of the middle sink, causing minor damage to the floor. No injuries were reported and there were no witnesses present.

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. 10

⁴ Officer Walker could not recall the Captain's name and stated that he now deceased. The Original Case Incident Report lists Captain Lavoy #162 as an on-scene notification.

⁵ Att. 24

⁶ Att. 4

Officer Walker’s **Tactical Repose Report**,⁷ documents that his 9mm firearm accidentally discharged once. The weapon was located on a flat sink.

Deputy Chief Terence Williams, #59 noted that the incident appeared to be an accidental discharge with no criminal charges forthcoming. Based on the information available at the time, no further investigation was required. Additionally, no witness officers were present and no video footage exists.

The **Original Case Incident Report**,⁸ documents that Officer Walker was in a locker room of the 005th District station when he placed his firearm, a Sig Sauer P226 9mm pistol, on the bathroom sink while he continued getting ready for roll-call. Officer Walker turned around and knocked the firearm from the sink to the bathroom floor, at which time the firearm discharged towards the floor, causing it to strike and damage the floor. One (1) spent casing and one (1) expended 9mm round were recovered. Notifications were made to proper personnel.

VI. ANALYSIS

COPA recommends a finding of **SUSTAINED** for the allegations against Officer Donnell Walker, #19090. Officer Walker was careless when he placed his firearm on the bathroom sink then accidentally knocked the firearm to the ground, causing it to discharge and damaging the floor. The only witness to the event was Officer Walker and the available evidence suggests the gun discharged inadvertently when it fell from the sink. In addition, Officer Walker admitted to failing to secure his weapon, eventually causing it to discharge in the locker room. The available evidence, to include the officer’s statement, proves Officer Walker was inattentive to his duty to secure his weapon, therefore causing the firearm to discharge and subsequently damaging the locker room floor.

VII. CONCLUSION

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

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer Donnell Walker	1. It is alleged that on January 5, 2017, at approximately 9:00 p.m., while at 727 E. 111th Street, the accused officer was careless when his firearm accidentally discharged, in violation of Rule 10.	Sustained
	2. Caused damage to the 005th District station male locker room floor when the accused officer’s firearm accidentally discharged and struck the floor, in violation of Rule 13.	Sustained

⁷ Att. 7

⁸ Att. 8

Approved


Andrea Kersten
Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

Date

6/18/18

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad:	1
Major Case Specialist:	Chantall Morley
Supervising Investigator:	James Murphy-Aguilu
Deputy Chief Administrator:	Andrea Kersten