

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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|----------------------------|------------------|
| Date of Incident: | 10 December 2017 |
| Time of Incident: | 1130 hours |
| Location of Incident: | ██████████ |
| Date of COPA Notification: | 10 December 2017 |
| Time of COPA Notification: | 1344 hours |

On 10 December 2017, ██████████ and her ██████████ Officer Rodney Pickett, got into a verbal altercation. ██████████ called 911 and reported to the responding officers that Officer Pickett grabbed her, picked her up, and “body slammed” her against a wall and onto the floor during the argument. ██████████ reported to COPA that she later learned that Officer Pickett tripped over a box and curtains causing ██████████ to fall against a wall, strike her head, and fall onto the floor. ██████████ denied that Officer Pickett body-slammed her and stated that she did not have any complaint against Officer Pickett. ██████████ did not sustain any injuries and referred to the incident as a misunderstanding.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

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| Involved Officer #1: | Rodney Pickett Star #19335 / Employee # ██████████ DOA: 16 Mar 98 PO / Unit 015 DOB: ██████████ 73 Male / Black |
| Subject #1: | ██████████ DOB: ██████████ 73 Female / Black |

III. ALLEGATIONS

| Officer | Allegation | Finding |
|------------------------|--|-----------|
| Officer Rodney Pickett | 1. It is alleged that PO Pickett grabbed and “body slammed” ██████████ in violation of Rule 8. | Unfounded |
| | 2. It is alleged that PO Pickett pushed ██████████ ██████████ in violation of Rule 8. | Sustained |

IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS

Rules

1. Rule 8: Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty.

V. INVESTIGATION¹

a. Interviews

In her statement to COPA on December 12, 2017,² the complainant, ██████████ stated that she and her ██████████ off-duty Officer Rodney Pickett, engaged in a verbal altercation that led into a minor physical altercation. ██████████ stated that she was looking for the title of one of their vehicles in Officer Pickett's drawer and he pushed her hand away from the drawer. ██████████ stated that she put her hand back in the drawer and continued to search through the drawers. Officer Pickett grabbed her and picked her up. She then fell against a wall, causing her to strike her head. ██████████ stated that she initially thought that Officer Pickett "body slammed" her on purpose and then realized that Officer Pickett had tripped over a box causing her to fly out of Officer Pickett's arms. ██████████ stated that she called 911 because she was upset and thought that Officer Pickett was trying to hurt her. After the police arrived, she realized that Officer Pickett had tripped while he was holding her. ██████████ stated that she did not sustain any injuries and she did not have any complaint against Officer Pickett. Officer Pickett later told ██████████ that he picked her up to add some humor to their argument. ██████████ stated that she and Officer Pickett had a misunderstanding and that he did not "body slam" her.

In his interview to COPA on May 01, 2018,³ **Officer Rodney Pickett** stated that during an argument with ██████████ she went searching through a drawer containing his personal belongings. Officer Pickett told her to stop but she refused. Officer Pickett and ██████████ pushed each other's hands back and forth. Officer Pickett pushed ██████████ away from him. After he pushed ██████████ she fell back against a wall, striking her head and falling onto the floor. Officer Pickett stated that there were long curtains and a box near ██████████ that caused her to trip after Officer Pickett pushed her away from him. Officer Pickett denied grabbing and body-slammng ██████████ Officer Pickett stated that he did not have any other verbal or physical contact with ██████████ after he pushed her away from him. ██████████ called the police. The police arrived at the scene and completed a Case Report. Officer Pickett stated that he may have told the officers that his ██████████ struck him on the face because she was being aggressive during the incident. Officer Pickett was not arrested but left the residence. Officer Pickett stated that ██████████ did not sustain any injuries and did not complain of any injuries. Officer Pickett stated that he and his ██████████ later talked to their minister about the incident and were talking about seeking counseling. He described them as being on good terms at the time of his interview.

b. Digital Evidence

¹ COPA conducted a thorough and complete investigation. The following is a summary of the material evidence gathered and relied upon in our analysis.

² Attachment 9.

³ Attachments 22-23.

Video Footage⁴ from body worn cameras (BWC) from responding officers and Sergeant Paluch showed [REDACTED] complaining that Officer Pickett pushed her and "body slammed" her during an argument. [REDACTED] also reported that she and Officer Pickett hit each other. She did not want Officer Pickett arrested. The BWC also captured a conversation between Sgt. Paluch and Officer Pickett where he indicated that he pushed [REDACTED] hand away from his drawer. After that, [REDACTED] hit him and he pushed her away from him. Officer Pickett stated that when he grabbed and pushed [REDACTED] to get her away from him, [REDACTED] tripped over some curtains and a box, causing her to fall backwards and strike her head against the wall. Officer Pickett denied that he "body slammed" [REDACTED] but admitted that he pushed her away.

c. Documentary Evidence

The **Case Report (RD# [REDACTED])**⁵ completed by Officer Quaid contained the same account of the incident as detailed above. [REDACTED] had no visible injuries, did not want an Evidence Technician to take photographs, and did not want Officer Pickett arrested.

VI. ANALYSIS

COPA recommends a finding of **UNFOUNDED**, for Allegation #1 against Officer Pickett, that he grabbed and "body slammed" [REDACTED]. In her statement to COPA, [REDACTED] indicated that she had no complaint against Officer Pickett regarding this. [REDACTED] recanted her account and stated that she tripped over some curtains in the room when Officer Pickett pushed her and that she was not body-slammed against a wall. Video evidence showed Officer Pickett denying the allegation.

COPA recommends a finding of **SUSTAINED**, for Allegation #2 against Officer Pickett, that he pushed [REDACTED]. In his statement to COPA, Officer Pickett admitted that he pushed [REDACTED] which is what caused her to trip and fall against the wall. According to Sgt. Paluch's BWC recording, Officer Pickett also admitted this action to the sergeant immediately after the incident. Officer Pickett could not provide any justification for pushing his [REDACTED]

VII. CONCLUSION

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

| Officer | Allegation | Finding |
|------------------------|--|----------------|
| Officer Rodney Pickett | 1. It is alleged that PO Pickett grabbed and "body slammed" [REDACTED] | Unfounded |
| | 2. It is alleged that PO Pickett pushed [REDACTED] | Sustained |

⁴ Body Worn Cameras, Attachments 15-16.

⁵ Attachment 5.

Approved



Andrea Kersten
Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

8/9/18
Date

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

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|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Squad#: | Squad 9 |
| Investigator: | Maira Webb #86 |
| Supervising Investigator: | Shannon Hayes |
| Deputy Chief Administrator: | Andrea Kersten |