

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident:	December 19, 2015
Time of Incident:	11:28 pm
Location of Incident:	9700 S. Ridgeland, Chicago Ridge, IL
Date of COPA Notification:	December 20, 2015
Time of COPA Notification:	10:23 am

On December 19, 2015, [REDACTED] was caught shoplifting at the Kohls Department store in Chicago Ridge. [REDACTED]'s parents were notified of the incident, and his father, CPD Detective Terrance Nalls, responded to the store. Upon arrival, Detective Nalls while in the Loss Prevention Office physically mistreated [REDACTED] in front of store security officers. Upon leaving the store and while in the parking lot of the store, Detective Nalls struck [REDACTED] various times, which was witnessed by Kohls' security officers. Detective Nalls' actions were also captured on Kohls' security video. Chicago Ridge Police Officers were called to the scene. Later, after reviewing the security video, Chicago Ridge Officers placed Detective Nalls under arrest for Domestic Battery. Detective Nalls entered a plea of guilty and was found guilty of Disorderly Conduct on May 10, 2016.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Officer #1:	Terrance Nalls, #20797, Employee ID# [REDACTED], DOA: December 5, 1994, Detective, Unit 620, DOB: [REDACTED], 1965, Male, Black
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED], DOB: [REDACTED], 1999, Male, Black

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Detective Terrance Nalls #20797	1. It was alleged that Detective Nalls punched [REDACTED]s on his back several times while inside the Loss Prevention office of a Kohls store, in violation of Rule 8.	Sustained 15 days

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.

<p>2. It was alleged that Detective Nalls punched [REDACTED] about the head and face while in the parking lot of a Kohls store, in violation of Rule 8.</p>	<p>Sustained 15 days</p>
<p>3. It was alleged that Detective Nalls slapped [REDACTED] multiple times about the head and face, in violation of Rule 8.</p>	<p>Sustained 15 days</p>
<p>4. It was alleged that Detective Nalls kicked [REDACTED] about the body, in violation of Rule 8.</p>	<p>Sustained 20 days</p>
<p>5. It was alleged that Detective Nalls was arrested for Domestic Battery on December 20, 2015, in violation of Rule 1.</p>	<p>Sustained 15 days</p>
<p>6. It was alleged that Detective Nalls entered a plea of guilty and was found guilty of Disorderly Conduct on May 10, 2016, Case #15DV [REDACTED], in violation of Rule 1, and</p>	<p>Sustained 15 days</p>
<p>7. It was alleged that Detective Nalls brought discredit upon the Department with his overall actions and conduct, in violation of Rule 2.</p>	<p>Sustained 10 days</p>

IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS

Rules

1. Rule 1: Violation of any law or ordinance.
2. Rule 2: Any action or conduct which impedes the Department’s efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.
3. Rule 8: Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty.

State Laws

1. 720 ILCS 5.0/12-3.2-A-1

V. INVESTIGATION²

a. Interviews

² COPA conducted a thorough and complete investigation. The following is a summary of the material evidence gathered and relied upon in our analysis.

In his interview to COPA on June 2, 2017, Victim ██████████³ related that he was at Kohls Department store at the Chicago Ridge Mall with some friends when he was caught shoplifting. ██████████ was detained by the store security guards. ██████████ called his mother, ██████████, to pick him up and avoid further problems. However, while he waited for his mother, his father, Detective Terrance Nalls, called and informed him that he was going to pick him up. ██████████ waited for his father at the Loss Prevention office. Upon Detective Nalls' arrival, the store security staff asked him to sign some forms regarding trespass and the shoplifting offense, which Detective Nalls refused to do. ██████████ explained that his father grabbed him by the ear, pulled him down, and told him that he could not believe what he did. ██████████ fell onto the floor and started crying. ██████████ stated that he was not sure whether his father slapped him about the face or body while inside the Loss Prevention office. ██████████ denied being punched by his father while inside the Loss Prevention office.

██████████ stated that they left the store and walked to the parking lot. While walking, ██████████ apologized to his father for what occurred. Detective Nalls was upset and struck him with his right open hand, causing him to fall to the ground. ██████████ related that his father did not kick him while he was on the ground. At some point while he was standing up, Detective Nalls punched ██████████ in the arm. ██████████ also stated that his father slapped him a second time on the face. When ██████████ returned to his feet, two to three unknown white male uniformed officers arrived at the scene and told Detective Nalls to stop. The officers asked ██████████ if he wanted to go with them and he said no. After the officers asked ██████████ if he was okay, ██████████ went inside his father's car and the officers talked to Detective Nalls. The officers left the area and he and his father went home. Several hours later, Chicago Ridge Officers and Chicago Police Officers came to their house and arrested Detective Nalls for domestic battery. ██████████ stated that the officers told him to come to the door, flashed a light at him through the door, and did not ask any further questions. ██████████ stated that he did not sustain any injuries and he did not seek medical treatment.

In her interview to COPA on December 21, 2015, Kohls' Loss Prevention Officer ("LPO") ██████████⁴ related that she and LPO ██████████ were in the Loss Prevention office with ██████████ after he was caught shoplifting. LPO ██████████ stated that while they waited for ██████████ father to pick him up, ██████████ stated that he was terrified of Detective Nalls and stated that his father was going to seriously injure him. ██████████ then stated that "maybe he should commit suicide." Upon Detective Nalls' arrival, LPO ██████████ observed that he was upset and yelled at ██████████ Detective Nalls then struck ██████████ several times on his back. After they left the office, LPO ██████████ saw via the video system that Detective Nalls again struck ██████████ in the parking lot.

In his interview to COPA on May 19, 2017, **Detective Terrance Nalls**⁵ stated that on December 19, 2015 he went to the Chicago Ridge Mall because his ex-wife, ██████████, called and told him that their son was caught shoplifting and she refused to get ██████████ at the Kohls Department store. Upon arrival to the Kohls store, Detective Nalls went into the Loss Prevention office, where he encountered one of the security guards. The guard wanted him to sign some paperwork about the incident, but he refused to sign it. Detective Nalls saw ██████████ who tried to explain to him what happened. Detective Nalls stated that he struck his son several times in an

³ Attachments 57 and 60.

⁴ Attachment 25.

⁵ Attachment 50-51.

attempt to discipline him while in the Loss Prevention office. As they were leaving the store, Detective Nalls mentioned that ██████ said something to the effect of “it was just shoplifting.” Detective Nalls stated that he struck ██████ with an open hand, causing ██████ to fall to the ground in the parking lot. Detective Nalls did not recall if he kicked ██████ while he was on the ground. Shortly thereafter, two white male Chicago Ridge Police officers approached them. Detective Nalls explained what happened and that he was trying to discipline his son. The officers spoke with ██████ and then let both he and Detective Nalls leave. They then went home and Detective Nalls told ██████ that he was “on punishment.”

Several hours later, Chicago Ridge Police officers and a sergeant from the 022nd District responded to Detective Nalls’ house and told him that there was a warrant for his arrest. Detective Nalls was placed under arrest for Domestic Battery against ██████. Detective Nalls stated that ██████ did not sustain any injuries or receive medical treatment. According to Detective Nalls, the CPD sergeant checked ██████ and left, but he did not order an Evidence Technician.

Detective Nalls stated that he pleaded guilty to Disorderly Conduct rather than Domestic Battery. The court ordered supervision, anger management classes, and a fine which he completed by May 09, 2017. Detective Nalls admitted to all the allegations made against him and apologized for his behavior. Detective Nalls denied the allegation that he discredited the Department with his overall actions as he indicated that the incident with his son was a personal matter that had nothing to do with his police responsibilities or duties. Detective Nalls stated that he did not believe that his disciplinary actions toward his son caused any discredit to the Department.⁶

b. Digital Evidence⁷

The **Kohls Surveillance Video⁸** depicts the parking lot and entrance of the Kohls Department store at Chicago Ridge Mall. The security video camera captured Detective Nalls and ██████ exiting the store and walking to the parking lot toward a tan-colored SUV.⁹ A few seconds later, Detective Nalls grabbed ██████ by his shirt and struck him with open hand then with a closed fist about the head, face, and body. Detective Nalls continued to hold on to ██████ shirt as they approached the vehicle. Once next to the vehicle, Detective Nalls continually slapped and punched ██████ on his head until ██████ fell to the ground. Once on the ground, Detective Nalls continued to punch ██████. He also kicked him once. After ██████ returned to his feet, Detective Nalls struck him once more on the head. As ██████ attempted to enter the passenger seat of the vehicle, Detective Nalls continued to punch ██████. At approximately ten minutes into the video, an unmarked police vehicle parks in front of the SUV and two police officers walk towards Detective Nalls. The officers appear to question Detective Nalls and ██████ separately. Moments later, everyone leaves the parking lot.

c. Documentary Evidence

⁶ Additionally, according to Detective Nalls, a DCFS investigation into this incident came back as Unfounded.

⁷ The Chicago Ridge Police Department provided copies of radio transmissions, but none of them had any substantive information. There were no 911 calls about this incident. Attachments 15, 18, 32-38.

⁸ Attachment 20.

⁹ Detective Nalls and ██████ are first seen approximately 8 minutes and 20 seconds into the surveillance video.

The **Kohls Loss Prevention Incident Report**¹⁰ documented that on December 19, 2015 [REDACTED], Loss Prevention supervisor for Kohls Department store, detained [REDACTED] after he was observed shoplifting. [REDACTED] was issued the trespass agreement as he waited to be picked up. The father of [REDACTED] Detective Terrance Nalls, called [REDACTED] on his cell phone and stated that he was going to be the one to pick him up. [REDACTED] stated that he was terrified of Detective Nalls and stated that his father was going to seriously injure him. [REDACTED] then stated that “maybe he should commit suicide.” LPO [REDACTED] stated that if he made the statement again, she would be forced to call 911. Both LPO [REDACTED] and LPO [REDACTED] did not believe that he would harm himself due to his demeanor. [REDACTED] continued to engage in a conversation with the Loss Prevention security guards.

Detective Nall arrived at the office and the situation was explained to him. Detective Nalls then struck [REDACTED] a few times in his upper body, at which time Loss Prevention Officer [REDACTED] stood up and asked him to stop his actions. Detective Nalls complied and after he was informed of the trespass and civil agreements, he refused to sign the parent release form or acknowledge the civil agreement. Detective Nalls requested the video and said that he would subpoena the video if necessary. His request was denied. [REDACTED] Nalls then left the office with Detective Nalls. LPO [REDACTED] immediately put the camera on them as they were walking out the door to their vehicle. She witnessed Detective Nalls striking [REDACTED] several times. Mall security and Chicago Ridge Police were notified and they all responded. The police officers calmed Detective Nalls down and allowed them to leave the parking lot.

The **Chicago Ridge Police Initial Report**¹¹ completed by Officer Jenen documented that on December 19, 2015 at approximately 11:28 pm, Officer Jenen and Detective Gutkowski were contacted by Kohls Department store’s Loss Prevention unit via Chicago Ridge Mall Security radio. Officer Jenen and Detective Gutkowski were informed about a father, Detective Nalls, who physically struck his son, [REDACTED], in the parking lot. According to the report, [REDACTED] had been accused of retail theft. Upon arrival to the parking lot, Officer Jenen and Detective Gutkowski approached Detective Nalls’ vehicle. Detective Nalls exited the vehicle extremely angry and identified himself as a Chicago Police Officer. The officers asked Detective Nalls what occurred in the parking lot and he answered, “I was disciplining my son.” Detective Gutkowski continued to talk to Detective Nalls, while Officer Jenen spoke with [REDACTED]. Officer Jenen observed what appeared to be minor swelling to [REDACTED] lip. [REDACTED] appeared to be upset with what occurred and when [REDACTED] was asked by Officer Jenen if he would like to call his mother to pick him up, he said, “no” and that he was content with leaving with his father. Detective Nalls’ demeanor became much calmer after speaking with the officers.

Based on the fact that [REDACTED] advised the officers that he was comfortable leaving with his father and the situation appeared to have calmed down, the officers advised Detective Nalls and [REDACTED] that they were free to leave the area and they did so. Officer Jenen and Detective Gutkowski were once again contacted by the Kohls Loss Prevention Unit and advised that there was a video of the incident. Now, the officers responded to Kohls’ Loss Prevention office and spoke with Loss Prevention Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. LPOs [REDACTED]

¹⁰ Attachment 12.

¹¹ Attachment 5.

██████████ and ██████████ advise Chicago Ridge Officers that ██████████ became very fearful when he found out that his father was going to pick him up. They stated that ██████████ made a statement that he might as well commit suicide if his father was going to respond, but they did not believe it to be serious threat of his own life. The Loss Prevention officers related that when Detective Nalls arrived, he was extremely angry and uncooperative as he was yelling and refused to sign any paperwork referencing his son's retail theft. While Detective Nalls was in the Loss Prevention office with his son, the two Loss Prevention officers witnessed Detective Nalls strike ██████████ approximately three times in the torso with a closed fist.

After Detective Nalls and ██████████ left the office, Loss Prevention Officers continued to monitor them through the security video. Officer Jenen and Detective Gutkowski reviewed the video. After gathering additional information from Kohls' Loss Prevention officers, the officers contacted Sgt. Troia, who responded to Kohls and reviewed the video footage of the incident. Sgt. Troia then contacted Lt. Simon from the 22nd District of the Chicago Police Department. Lt. Simon was advised of the incident and that the Chicago Ridge Police Department wished for Detective Nalls to be taken into custody for domestic battery. Officer Jenen signed the misdemeanor complaint for domestic battery on behalf of the juvenile victim (██████████ Nalls). The video footage of the incident was burned into a disc and placed into evidence under evidence #E15-548. Lt. Simon advised that he have officers from the 22nd District assist Chicago Ridge Police Department with taking Detective Nalls into custody and checking the well-being of ██████████

The **Arrest Report**¹² from Chicago Ridge Police Department documented that on December 20, 2015 at approximately 4:00 am, Officer Jenen and Detective Gutkowski responded to the residence of Detective Nalls located at 2126 W. 118th Street, Chicago, Illinois, to check the well-being of ██████████ and to place Detective Nalls into custody for Domestic Battery. Officer Jenen and Detective Gutkowski were assisted by Sgt. Hawkins from the 22nd District of the Chicago Police Department. Detective Nalls answered the door for the officers and his son ██████████ came to the door once it was requested that he did. Officer Jenen observed ██████████ face, at which time it was discovered that he had swelling around his left eye. ██████████ refused Officer Jenen's request to take photographs of his injuries or any medical treatment. Once Detective Nalls was advised that there was a misdemeanor complaint signed for his arrest, he was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Chicago Ridge Police Department.

The **Initiation Report**¹³ from Sergeant Stephen Pietrzak provided essentially the same account of the incident as the Chicago Ridge police reports.

VI. ANALYSIS

COPA recommends a finding of **SUSTAINED** for **Allegation #1** against Detective Nalls, that he punched ██████████ on his back several times while inside the Loss Prevention office, in violation of Rule 8. The victim, ██████████, denied that his father punched him while in the Loss Prevention office, but stated that Detective Nalls grabbed him by the ear, pulled him down, and caused him to fall onto the floor. Once on the floor, ██████████ started to cry. The witness, Loss Prevention Officer ██████████ stated that she was present in the office when Detective

¹² Attachments 6-7.

¹³ Attachment 4.

Nalls punched [REDACTED] on his back. In addition, the incident and the preliminary interviews conducted by Chicago Ridge Police officers of the Loss Prevention officers were documented in the Chicago Ridge Police Reports and described their observations regarding Detective Nalls' physical contact with [REDACTED] while in the Loss Prevention office. Furthermore, Detective Nalls admitted in his statement that he struck his son because he was upset and he was disciplining him.

COPA recommends a finding of **SUSTAINED** for **Allegation #2** against Detective Nalls, that he punched [REDACTED] about the head and face while in the parking lot of Kohl's store, in violation of Rule 8. The security video from Kohl's Department store captured Detective Nalls' actions toward [REDACTED]. The witness, Loss Prevention Officer [REDACTED] stated that she observed Detective Nalls' actions against [REDACTED] through the security camera of the store. Detective Nalls admitted to his actions toward [REDACTED] and indicated that he was upset and disappointed, and explained that he was disciplining [REDACTED] for his actions of shoplifting.

COPA recommends a finding of **SUSTAINED** for **Allegation #3** against Detective Nalls, that he slapped [REDACTED] multiple times about the head and face, in violation of Rule 8. The reason for this finding are the same reasons used for Allegation #2 above.

COPA recommends a finding of **SUSTAINED** for **Allegation #4** against Detective Nalls, that he kicked [REDACTED] about the body, in violation of Rule 8. The reasons for this finding are the same reasons used for Allegations #2 and 3 above.

COPA recommends a finding of **SUSTAINED** for **Allegation #5** against Detective Nalls, that he was arrested for Domestic Battery on December 20, 2015, in violation of Rule 1. Detective Nalls' actions toward [REDACTED] were observed by two Loss Prevention Officers and were captured in the security video of Kohl's Department store. Further, [REDACTED] reported that Detective Nalls physically mistreated him while in the Loss Prevention office and again while in the parking lot of Kohl's Department store. Officer Jenen and Detective Gutkowski documented in their police reports their preliminary investigation regarding the domestic battery and placed Detective Nalls under arrest after reviewing all the evidence. Detective Nalls admitted to COPA his physical contact toward his son and the fact that he was placed under arrest by a suburban police agency for domestic battery.

COPA recommends a finding of **SUSTAINED** for **Allegation #6** against Detective Nalls, that he entered a plea of guilty and was found guilty of Disorderly Conduct on May 10, 2016, in violation of Rule 1. Court documents confirm that Detective Nalls entered a plea of guilty to the charge of Disorderly Conduct, which he also admitted in his statement to COPA.

COPA recommends a finding of **SUSTAINED** for **Allegation #7** against Detective Nalls, that he brought discredit upon the Department with his overall actions and conduct, in violation of Rule 2. Although Detective Nalls denied that he brought discredit to the Department, the preponderance of evidence showed otherwise. Detective Nalls' actions were in public, where they were observed by two Loss Prevention Officers and were captured in the security video of Kohl's Department store. This led to his arrest by a suburban police agency and subsequent court proceedings. Detective Nalls' actions did in fact discredit the Department as he violated the law.

VII. RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE FOR SUSTAINED ALLEGATIONS

a. Detective Terrance Nalls**i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History**

1. **Complimentary:** 69 Honorable Mentions; 12 Complimentary letters
2. **Disciplinary:** 2014 Reprimand for leaving assignment

ii. Recommended Penalty, by Allegation**1. Allegation No. 1:**

Detective Nalls accepted responsibility for his actions and explained that he did it because he was upset with his son. Detective Nalls categorized his actions as an attempt to discipline his son for shoplifting. COPA recommends a 15-day suspension.

2. Allegation No. 2:

Detective Nalls accepted responsibility for his actions and explained that he did it because he was upset with his son. Detective Nalls categorized his actions as an attempt to discipline his son for shoplifting. COPA recommends a 15-day suspension.

3. Allegation No. 3:

Detective Nalls accepted responsibility for his actions and explained that he did it because he was upset with his son. Detective Nalls categorized his actions as an attempt to discipline his son for shoplifting. COPA recommends a 15-day suspension.

4. Allegation No. 4:

Detective Nalls accepted responsibility for his actions and explained that he did it because he was upset with his son. Detective Nalls categorized his actions as an attempt to discipline his son for shoplifting. COPA recommends a 20-day suspension.

5. Allegation No. 5:

Detective Nalls admitted that the Chicago Ridge Police Department arrested him for Domestic Battery related to this incident. COPA recommends a 15-day suspension.

6. Allegation No. 6:

Detective Nalls admitted that he entered a plea of guilty and was found guilty of Disorderly Conduct related to this incident. COPA recommends a 15-day suspension.

7. Allegation No. 7:

Although Detective Nalls' actions happened in public and in plain view of Kohl's loss prevention officers, he was off-duty at the time of this incident and not in CPD uniform. Detective Nalls' behavior was an attempt to discipline his son. COPA recommends a 10-day suspension.

VIII. CONCLUSION

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

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Detective Terrance Nalls	1. It was alleged that Detective Nalls punched [REDACTED] on his back several times while inside the Loss Prevention office of Kohl's store, in violation of Rule 8.	Sustained 15 days
	2. It was alleged that Detective Nalls punched [REDACTED] about the head and face while in the parking lot of Kohl's store, in violation of Rule 8.	Sustained 15 days
	3. It was alleged that Detective Nalls slapped [REDACTED] multiple times about the head and face, in violation of Rule 8.	Sustained 15 days
	4. It was alleged that Detective Nalls kicked [REDACTED] about the body, in violation of Rule 8.	Sustained 20 days
	5. It was alleged that Detective Nalls was arrested for Domestic Battery on 20 December 2015, in violation of Rule 1.	Sustained 15 days
	6. It was alleged that Detective Nalls entered a plea of guilty and was found guilty of Disorderly Conduct on May 10, 2016, Case #15DV [REDACTED], in violation of Rule 1, and	Sustained 15 days
	7. It was alleged that Detective Nalls brought discredit upon the Department with his overall actions and conduct, in violation of Rule 2.	Sustained 10 days

Approved: [REDACTED]

Erica Sangster
Acting Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

Date

8/15/18