

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION ¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident:	October 30, 2015
Time of Incident:	9:15 PM
Location of Incident:	By Telephone
Date of COPA Notification:	October 31, 2015
Time of COPA Notification:	9:48 AM

██████████ alleged that Officer Armando Cazares made threats by telephone/social media against ██████████ male friend. Officer Cazares admitted that the messages were sent from his phone number. Officer Cazares stated that he did not recall sending threatening messages.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Officer #1:	Armando CAZARES, #8680, Employee # ██████████, Date of Appointment: February 5, 2001, Police Officer, assigned to the 10 th District, Date of Birth: ██████████ 1977, male, Hispanic
Involved Individual #1:	██████████ 1988, female, Hispanic

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Officer Armando Cazares	1. It is alleged that Officer Armando Cazares posted threatening messages on social media in violation of Rule 8.	Sustained/ 5 Days

IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS

Rules

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

V. INVESTIGATION ³

a. Interviews

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.

² At the time of the incident ██████████ and Officer Armando Cazares were ██████████. ██████████ and Officer Cazares have since divorced.

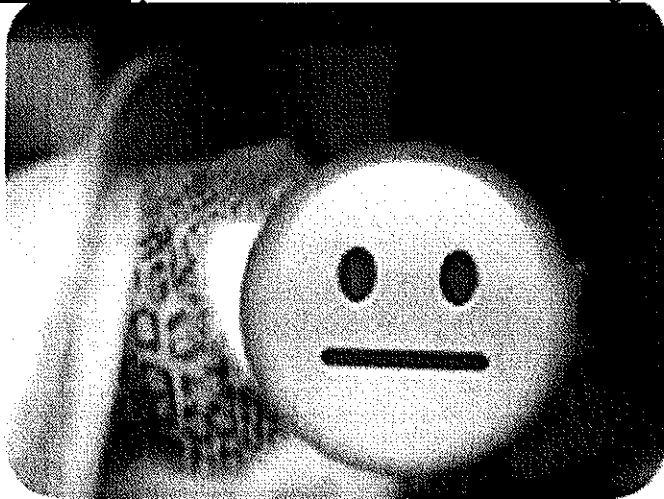
³ COPA conducted a thorough and complete investigation. The following is a summary of the material evidence gathered and relied upon in our analysis.

In a **statement** to IPRA on October 31, 2015,⁴ [REDACTED] stated that she and her husband, Police Officer Armando Cazares [REDACTED] in November of 2012 and [REDACTED] in August of 2015, after which she moved into her parents' residence in Burbank, IL. [REDACTED] and Officer Cazares have a [REDACTED].⁵ [REDACTED] stated that Officer Cazares sent her threatening messages on her phone via Facebook Messenger in that he sent a photo of [REDACTED] and a male friend of hers and said "I'll kill the bitch any time, what's up?" [REDACTED] stated that she did not know if the threat was directed against her or her friend but that she was afraid for her safety.

In a **statement** to COPA on June 21, 2018,⁶ **Police Officer Armando Cazares**, stated that he and [REDACTED] are divorced as of December 2015. Officer Cazares acknowledged that a screenshot of a message containing a threat included his telephone number as that sending the message. Officer Cazares stated that he does not recall sending the message including the threat to kill someone but did not state that he did not send the message.

b. Digital Evidence

[REDACTED] provided a **screenshot**⁷ of the message she mentioned in her statement.



I'll kill that bitch any day
eats up I'm here

⁴ Attachments 6 & 7

⁵ Their son was three years old at the time of the statement.

⁶ Attachment 19

⁷ Attachment 11. The photo was altered, apparently to obscure a person's face, prior to it being shared with IPRA.

c. Documentary Evidence

Sergeant Andrew Kadus completed an **Initiation Report**⁸ in which he reported that [REDACTED] called to complain after receiving a message from Officer Cazares that contained a picture of the male she was dating and words to the effect of, “I’ll kill the bitch anytime, what’s up.” [REDACTED] did not know if the threat was against her or the man in the photograph but told Sergeant Kadus that she was scared for her safety.

VI. ANALYSIS

COPA recommends that the allegation against Police Officer Armando Cazares, that he posted threatening messages on social media, be **SUSTAINED**. [REDACTED] provided a screenshot of a message that came from Officer Cazares’ telephone number and included a threat to kill someone. Officer Cazares did not deny sending the message. In the absence of any contradictory evidence, this allegation must be sustained.

VII. RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE FOR SUSTAINED ALLEGATIONS

a. Officer Armando Cazares

i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History

1. **Complimentary** – 30 Honorable Mentions
2. **Disciplinary** – 3-day suspension for misuse of Department records in 2017; 2017 SPAR for equipment violation (no disciplinary action)

ii. Recommended Penalty, by Allegation

1. Allegation No. 1 – 5 Days

Officer Cazares and [REDACTED] are now divorced. According to Officer Cazares, they mostly communicate through an online service called Talking Parents, which is specifically designed to facilitate and record communication between people who have children in common and are not otherwise in a relationship. While the chances of reoccurrence are slim, the 2017 suspension was also related to contact with [REDACTED] COPA thinks that progress discipline is warranted.

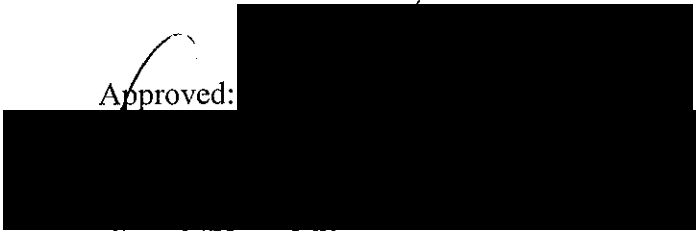
VIII. CONCLUSION

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

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Police Officer Armando Cazares	1. It is alleged that Officer Armando Cazares posted threatening messages on social media in violation of Rule 8.	Sustained/ 5 Days

⁸ Attachment 4

Approved:



Angela Hearts-Glass
Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

10-2-18
Date

Appendix A
Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad#:	9
Investigator:	Daniel Kobel, #67
Supervising Investigator:	Shannon Hayes, #15
Deputy Chief Administrator:	Angela Hearts-Glass