

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident:	November 15, 2015
Time of Incident:	9:30 pm
Location of Incident:	[REDACTED]
Date of COPA Notification:	November 15, 2015
Time of COPA Notification:	12:09 am

On November 15, 2015, Officer LaShawn Taylor was involved in a domestic dispute with her [REDACTED]. It has been alleged that during a verbal altercation, Officer Taylor became physical with [REDACTED] pushing and striking her in an attempt to prevent her from calling the police. It is further alleged that Officer Taylor then refused to leave the property and threatened [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] a friend of [REDACTED] and a Cook County Sheriff, by lifting her shirt and displaying a firearm in her waistband while saying “you can’t make me leave.” After [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] left the residence, it is alleged that Officer Taylor pushed [REDACTED] into the hall and slammed the door behind her. Once alone in the house, it is alleged that Officer Taylor damaged several items in the home, including two iPods and one iPad by submerging them in water.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Officer #1:	LaShawn Taylor: Star #: 5523 Employee ID: [REDACTED] DOA: 16 April 2010 Rank: Police Officer: Unit # 007 (previously 376): DOB: [REDACTED] 1981: Female: Black
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED] 1982 Black Female
Involved Individual #2:	[REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED] 1982 Black Female

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Recommendation
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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.

Officer LaShawn Taylor	1. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor was the aggressor in a physical altercation with [REDACTED]	Sustained
	2. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor pushed [REDACTED] hands into her face causing injury.	Sustained
	3. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor struck [REDACTED] on the left side of her face, causing injury.	Sustained
	4. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor shoved [REDACTED] which resulted in her arrest for Domestic Battery.	Sustained
	5. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor threatened both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] by displaying a firearm tucked in her pants while stating, "make me leave," which resulted in her arrest for Aggravated Assault/Use Deadly Weapon.	Sustained
	6. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor pushed [REDACTED]	Sustained
	7. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor refused to leave the residence of [REDACTED]	Sustained
	8. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor was intoxicated.	Sustained
	9. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor purposely submerged an iPad and 2 iPods belonging to [REDACTED] thereby damaging them.	Not Sustained
	10. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor tried to prevent [REDACTED] from calling 911 by knocking the phone out of her hands.	Sustained

	<p>11. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor damaged pictures, photographs and writings belonging to ██████████ by tearing them up.</p> <p>12. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor engaged in an unjustified physical altercation with ██████████</p>	<p>Not Sustained</p> <p>Sustained</p>
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IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS

Rules

1. Rule 2: Prohibits an officer from engaging in any action or conduct which impedes the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.
2. Rule 8: Prohibits an officer from committing an act of disrespect or maltreatment to any person, while on or off duty.
3. Rule 9: Prohibits an officer from engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.
4. Rule 15: Prohibits an officer from intoxication on or off duty.
5. Rule 38: Prohibits an officer from unlawfully or unnecessarily displaying their weapon

Special Orders

1. U04-02 Instructs officers to refrain from carrying firearms when there is a likelihood that they will be consuming alcoholic beverages which may impair their physical or mental abilities. (Eff: Dec. 2013)

State Laws

1. 750 ILCS 60, Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1986
2. 720 ILCS 5/12-2-C-1, Aggravated Assault
3. 720 ILCS 5/12-3.2-A-1, Domestic Battery
4. 326, Criminal Damage to Property
5. 720 ILCS 5/12-3.5-A, Interfering with the reporting of domestic violence

V. INVESTIGATION ²

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.

██████████ provided a digitally recorded interview to the Independent Police Review Authority on November 17, 2015. According to ██████████ on November 15, 2015, she was hosting a dinner party at her home around 7:00 PM. In attendance were herself, ██████████ and ██████████ Officer Taylor, ██████████ romantic partner, was invited, but did not appear until approximately 9:00 PM. In the interview, ██████████ stated that Officer Taylor smelled of Hennessy and appeared to be intoxicated and agitated when she arrived. Officer Taylor grabbed a beer, walked through the group and into the bedroom.

██████████ felt that Officer Taylor's attitude soured the mood and guests grew uncomfortable and wrapped up their conversation. ██████████ denied drinking alcohol at the party. After cleaning, ██████████ went to speak to Officer Taylor and Taylor insisted that everything was okay. Officer Taylor insisted that she had said hello, but no one heard it. According to ██████████ Officer Taylor took issue with the presence of ██████████ and a verbal argument began. ██████████ left the room and Officer Taylor followed her into the kitchen.

██████████ told Officer Taylor words to the effect of "if you can't chill, you've gotta go home because I have to get up for work." At this time, Officer Taylor was standing in the doorway between the kitchen and living room. ██████████ attempted to pass by Officer Taylor into the living room, but she was pushed backward by Officer Taylor and struck the kitchen table. ██████████ again attempted to pass through and again Officer Taylor pushed her backwards, this time pushing ██████████ hands back into ██████████ face, busting her bottom lip.

██████████ told Officer Taylor to leave. Officer Taylor refused, so ██████████ threatened to call the police. Officer Taylor told her to "ask for a sergeant" when she made the call. ██████████ picked up her phone and dialed 911 and requested a sergeant come to her home. ██████████ alleged that while she was on the phone, Officer Taylor attacked her from behind and started punching her and knocked the phone out of her hand. They fell to the floor wrestling. ██████████ stated, "I don't know if I hit her back while we were wrestling." At some point, she managed to escape, grabbed her telephone and ran to the bathroom, locking herself in.

While in the bathroom, she called ██████████ and asked her to return to the home. She also began recording Officer Taylor through the bathroom door. Approximately fifteen minutes later, ██████████ returned to the home. ██████████ repeatedly told Officer Taylor that she needed to leave. Officer Taylor objected to ██████████ authority to tell her to leave. ██████████ asked ██████████ what she wanted Officer Taylor to do. ██████████ insisted that Officer Taylor leave. According to ██████████ Officer Taylor lifted her shirt revealing a firearm in her waistline and said, "make me leave."

██████████ gathered ██████████ shoes for her and escorted her out of the apartment, with ██████████ in front of ██████████ As they got out of the apartment, Officer Taylor shoved ██████████ in the back, knocking her into ██████████ When they got downstairs, ██████████ called the police using her telephone. Within a few minutes, several police officers showed up. ██████████ took the police upstairs, where they searched the apartment and found that Officer Taylor had left the scene. She filed a police report about the incident. While she was making the report, ██████████ who had returned shortly after

³ Transcribed Interview of ██████████ Att. 54. Summarized and not verbatim unless otherwise indicated.

the police, discovered [REDACTED] iPods and iPad submerged in water. After the police left, Officer Taylor called five times. She also received text messages from Officer Taylor. One text message said something along the lines of, "you hit me and now you're playing with my career." When [REDACTED] left for work the following morning, Officer Taylor's vehicle was still outside.

[REDACTED] was interviewed by IPRA investigators on November 30, 2015. She has known [REDACTED] for nearly twenty years. [REDACTED] is a friend of [REDACTED] and is also a Cook County Sheriff. She is an acquaintance of Officer Taylor and only knows Officer Taylor because of her relationship with [REDACTED] stated that prior to the incident, she had no concerns about the relationship of [REDACTED] and Officer Taylor. According to [REDACTED] on the night of the incident, [REDACTED] was hosting a dinner party. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were all in attendance. According to [REDACTED] no alcohol was served at dinner. [REDACTED] understood that [REDACTED] told Officer Taylor she was invited, but was told "if you can't be cordial, then don't come."

According to [REDACTED] that night, Officer Taylor came in, did not speak to anyone, went straight through to the kitchen, got a beer from the fridge, threw the cap on the floor, and went to the bedroom to sit alone. [REDACTED] did not recall smelling any alcohol on Officer Taylor at the time. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] left shortly after because they felt that interaction made the mood tense. [REDACTED] recalled a previous event where [REDACTED] attempted to introduce Officer Taylor to [REDACTED] and it turned in to a huge argument between the couple.

After [REDACTED] left the party, she got to roughly 103rd St on the expressway when she received a call from [REDACTED] was crying on the phone and told [REDACTED] that she had an emergency and needed [REDACTED] to come back. [REDACTED] then called [REDACTED] and asked her to come back as well. When [REDACTED] returned to the home, she entered the home using a key that was given to her by [REDACTED] When [REDACTED] entered the apartment, she found Officer Taylor standing in the living room and [REDACTED] was locked in the bathroom. Officer Taylor told [REDACTED] "what are you, her savior?" [REDACTED] went straight to the bathroom and knocked on the door. [REDACTED] opened the door and came out.

[REDACTED] noted that there was a cut on [REDACTED] lip, a red mark on her forehead, and a cut on her eye. [REDACTED] and Officer Taylor began to argue. According to [REDACTED] she told Officer Taylor that she needed to leave. Officer Taylor refused to leave and told [REDACTED] that she did not have the authority to ask her to leave. [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] what she would like for Officer Taylor to do. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that she wanted Officer Taylor to leave. Officer Taylor told [REDACTED] "she hit me too." [REDACTED] continued insisting that Officer Taylor leave.

Officer Taylor then kept repeating, "make me leave," in a threatening way. [REDACTED] was recording while this was happening. Officer Taylor lifted her shirt displaying a gun that was tucked in her waistline, and said, "you can't make me leave," which [REDACTED] took to be a threat. [REDACTED] responded by saying, "you know what, you stay. We'll leave." [REDACTED] then grabbed a pair of shoes belonging to [REDACTED] and led her out of the house with [REDACTED] in the front. As [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] reached the doorway, Officer Taylor shoved [REDACTED] in the back, pushing her into [REDACTED] When they reached the bottom of the stairs, [REDACTED] called the police from her telephone.

⁴ Digitally Recorded Interview of [REDACTED] Att. 55. This account has been paraphrased and is not verbatim, unless otherwise indicated.

When the police arrived, ██████ took the police upstairs and Officer Taylor had already left the scene. Later, while the police were interviewing ██████ noticed that the music that had been playing during dinner was not playing anymore. ██████ asked ██████ to find her iPod. ██████ found two iPods and an iPad submerged in water in the sink. They also found pictures, writings, and recipes torn up.

██████ mentioned that in conversations about the incident with ██████ mentioned that she fought back.

██████ gave a digitally recorded telephone statement to IPRA investigators. She has known ██████ through ██████ since they were in high school. ██████ is the best friend of ██████. ██████ also recounted an abrasive first meeting with Officer Taylor in the past. On the night of the incident, ██████ indicated that Officer Taylor rang the doorbell twice – first a short quick ring that they barely heard, then Officer Taylor laid on the bell for several seconds until she was buzzed in. When Officer Taylor entered the apartment, the dinner guests were laughing and joking about a possible trip to Miami. Officer Taylor made a snide comment about “life being a joke,” then proceeded to the kitchen. Officer Taylor got a beer and threw the bottle cap on the floor. In her opinion, Officer Taylor was intoxicated and smelled of alcohol. Officer Taylor was within two or three feet of ██████. The tense exchange prompted her to end the night at ██████ residence. In her opinion, ██████ did not appear to be afraid of Officer Taylor.

██████ left the party and drove separately from ██████ was at 91st and Justine when ██████ called her back. ██████ told her that, “Shawn won’t leave her apartment. She asked her to leave, she won’t leave. I believe they got into an argument.” When ██████ got there, the police cars were already present. When she got upstairs, ██████ relayed to ██████ that Officer Taylor had been there. ██████ asked Officer Taylor to leave. Officer Taylor refused. ██████ tried to get ██████ out and Officer Taylor would not allow them to leave. Then Officer Taylor lifted her shirt revealing her gun and said, “make me leave.” They walked around together trying to find ██████ belongings. They discovered the iPod and iPad in water, and other torn up memorabilia.

Officer LaShawn Taylor,⁶ with her attorney William Fahy, interviewed with IPRA regarding the incident on the night of November 15, 2015. Prior to the incident, Officer Taylor testified that she believed that she and ██████ had a good relationship. On the night of the incident, Officer Taylor stated that she had finished her shift at work at approximately 6:00 PM. She went home to change, then went to visit her sister’s home on South Michigan Avenue for approximately one hour. Officer Taylor denied drinking any alcohol during this time.

When Officer Taylor arrived at ██████ home, ██████ was having a dinner party with friends. Officer Taylor stated that she thought it would only be her and ██████. Officer Taylor believed that the dinner guests had been drinking when she arrived. She saw a bottle of

⁵ Digitally Recorded Interview of ██████ Attachment 56. This account has been paraphrased and is not verbatim, unless otherwise indicated.

⁶ Transcript of the Digitally Recorded Interview of Officer LaShawn Taylor, Attachment 81. This account has been paraphrased and is not verbatim, unless otherwise indicated.

tequila and a bottle of Hennessey on the table. Officer Taylor went to the kitchen and got a beer, then went to the bedroom.

According to Officer Taylor, after her friends left, █████ came to the bedroom upset and seeking to confront her about not being nicer to her friends. Officer Taylor then got up and left the bedroom and went into the living room. █████ followed her yelling and cursing. █████ told Officer Taylor that, "I'm rude to her friends and, if I didn't know how to be nice or something I could leave."⁷ Officer Taylor told investigators, "And I told her I wasn't leaving."⁸ She continued, "I didn't have a reason to. I wasn't – they were gone and so I didn't think it would be a problem."⁹ A verbal altercation ensued.

Officer Taylor told investigators, "and in between that altercation she struck me in the face."¹⁰ Officer Taylor said that █████ struck her in the lip to be exact. Officer Taylor denied having any physical contact with █████ before being struck in the face.¹¹ After striking Officer Taylor in the face, █████ grabbed her by the hair and they fell to the ground wrestling. "So we were on the ground and she was striking me. And then I like shoved her off of me,"¹² Officer Taylor told investigators. She continued, "I shoved her off of me. I didn't punch her."¹³ She denied pushing █████ hands into her face. When shown photographs of █████ injuries, Officer Taylor insisted, "well she said herself that she hit herself in the face, so."¹⁴ When pressed, Officer Taylor added, "well, there was an altercation between us on the floor and when she was striking me, pulling my hair. So, any time during that she could've hit herself in the face."¹⁵ Officer Taylor denied striking █████ while they were wrestling on the ground.

Next, █████ threatened to call the police. Officer Taylor said █████ took her cell phone, but she could not tell who she was calling, if anyone. Officer Taylor stated that she did not call the police herself because she did not think they needed to be involved. █████ then resumed yelling about how disrespectful Officer Taylor had been earlier. In the midst of the argument, █████ took the phone into the bathroom with her. Officer Taylor denied trying to enter the bathroom. Officer Taylor said that she intended to leave while █████ was in the bathroom but was unable to find her car keys. Officer Taylor called her friend █████ to come pick her up.

While Officer Taylor was waiting for █████ █████ returned to the apartment. █████ and Officer Taylor began arguing almost immediately. "She was saying you know, I needed to get out of here. And I basically was like you know, "this is not your house. You don't tell me what to do," Officer Taylor told investigators.¹⁶ Officer Taylor stated her belief that

⁷ Transcript of Interview with Officer Taylor, Attachment 81, p.17

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.* at p.18.

¹¹ *Id.* at p.19.

¹² *Id.* at p.20.

¹³ *Id.* at p.21.

¹⁴ *Id.* at p. 28.

¹⁵ *Id.* at p.29.

¹⁶ *Id.* at pgs. 32-33.

█████ was attempting to provoke her into a fight, saying, "... and once again you know, █████ was like, 'Oh, you want me to make you leave. I'll make you leave if you want to.' Kind of provoking me."¹⁷ Officer Taylor was aware that █████ was also a member of law enforcement.

Officer Taylor tried to explain the situation to █████. She told █████ "she the one who punched me in the face." █████ did not care to hear both sides and continued insisting that Officer Taylor leave. Officer Taylor told investigators that she told █████ "well, you make me leave then. I'm not leaving. But all along I was just waiting for my friend to get there. Like I wasn't finnin to walk outside right then at the moment and go walk home. So, no."¹⁸ The argument ended with █████ saying, "don't worry about it, we'll leave," and █████ and █████ walking out the front door.

Officer Taylor also admitted having her service weapon on her at the time but denied displaying it intentionally.¹⁹ Officer Taylor denied preventing █████ from leaving at any time. After █████ and █████ left the apartment, █████ called Officer Taylor and suggested that she should leave out of the backdoor because █████ and █████ were waiting downstairs at the front entrance. When asked by investigators, Officer Taylor stated that she did not find it odd that █████ left her own home. Officer Taylor denied damaging any of █████ property on her way out. Officer Taylor found the story of the discovery of the items suspicious, but did not deny being the last person in the apartment.

Officer Taylor told her sergeant about the incident the following day. She did not complete a report about the incident. Officer Taylor's sergeant and lieutenant helped her get an evidence technician to get photographs of her injuries. Officer Taylor was arrested on November 17, 2015, after receiving instructions to turn herself in. Officer Taylor was found not guilty in a bench trial on March 10, 2016.

b. Digital Evidence.

At some point during the altercation, █████ began **recording**²⁰ the argument. On the audio, Officer Taylor can be heard talking in the background. Officer Taylor can be heard saying, "I ain't did shit to her at all. Then she call 911, really?"²¹ Officer Taylor says, "I just showed up normal. Bitch throwing up in the bathroom." Officer Taylor says, "where yo rescue at? Where █████ and 'em? Tell █████ and 'em to show up. Bet you I fucking ... *inaudible*... bitches out." Officer Taylor can also be heard saying, "she locked herself in the bathroom like I'm trying to kill her.... Locked herself in the bathroom like I'm trying to do something to her. You the one that punched me in the fucking lip, dude, really."²²

¹⁷ *Id.* at p. 33.

¹⁸ *Id.* at p. 34.

¹⁹ *Id.* at p. 37.

²⁰ Recording of Incident provided by █████ Attachment 22. Summarized, not verbatim except where quoted.

²¹ *Id.* at :30.

²² *Id.* at 1:06.

A few seconds later Officer Taylor can be heard saying, “oh you really walk in here like – like what, what you the savior? *Inaudible* upper lip.” A door can be heard opening. ██████ said, “what’s up?” ██████ responded, “she hit me.” Officer Taylor responded, “I hit you, really?”

Officer Taylor insisted that she is not trying to get to ██████ saying, “dude, I’m not trying to get to her. You don’t think I could have been got through this door?”²³ ██████ asked ██████ what she wanted Officer Taylor to do. ██████ responded, “I want her to leave.” ██████ and Officer Taylor can be heard arguing.

██████ continued asking Officer Taylor to leave and she refuses. ██████ confirms that she wants Officer Taylor to leave and Officer Taylor responds, “you can’t tell me what to do.” ██████ responded, “I’m not telling you what to do.” Meanwhile, ██████ repeatedly said “leave. Please leave. I’m asking you to leave.” Officer Taylor can be heard saying, “you can record if you want to, ██████ You can record if you want to.”²⁴

Officer Taylor said to ██████ “Dude, you punched me in my fucking face... you punched me in my fucking face, didn’t you? Didn’t you punch me in my...”²⁵ ██████ interjected, “after what? After you fucking hit me. Leave! ... Dude, be right for the rest of your life, just leave.” Officer Taylor’s tone changed. She started repeating, “make me leave. Make me leave.” ██████ started repeating, “Shawn, you want me to make you leave?” Officer Taylor responded, “she already called 911.”²⁶ ██████ said, “she knocked the phone out of my hand, which is how I ended up in the bathroom.” Officer Taylor said, “she ain’t never going to make me lose my job, ever.”²⁷

██████ told Officer Taylor, “ain’t nobody trying to make you lose your job. She just wants you to leave, Shawn.” ██████ then said, “police don’t even have to get involved, just go.” ██████ continued telling Officer Taylor to “leave.” Officer Taylor responded, “I’m not going nowhere.”²⁸ ██████ said more calmly, “she’s asking you to leave.” Officer Taylor responded saying, “It ain’t asking. Cause it’s to you, it’s asking, right? she punched me in my fucking face, dude, had my hair and everything. Ask her when I punched her. Ask her when I punched her. When I punch you? After you punched me in my face, punched me in my face, grab my hair, then what I do? Ask her. Ask her.”²⁹ ██████ asked, “what is she asking you to do right now?” Officer Taylor responded defiantly, “make me leave.” The recording went quiet for approximately two seconds. Then, ██████ said, “don’t worry about it.” Officer Taylor repeated, “Make me leave.” ██████ answered back, “don’t worry about it.” Officer Taylor called out, “Call 911.” ██████ replied, “you can stay. Let’s go,” then the audio ended.

Audio log EV15094-a³⁰ was recorded at 2129 hours. The caller requested a sergeant. A scuffle can be heard in the background of the call. A woman screams, “I’m sick of it, Shawn.

²³ *Id.* at 2:35.

²⁴ *Id.* at 3:15.

²⁵ *Id.* at 3:18.

²⁶ *Id.* at 3:41.

²⁷ *Id.* at 3:50.

²⁸ *Id.* at 4:04.

²⁹ *Id.* at 4:05.

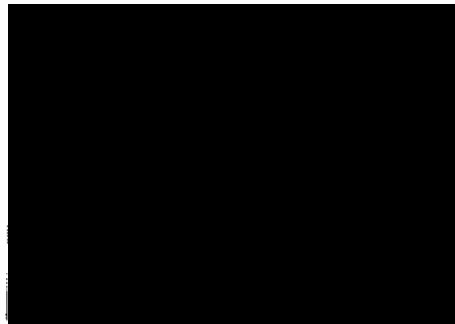
³⁰ Att. 23

Inaudible... then you gon' hit me in my fucking mouth, hit me in my fucking eye. Come in here disrespect my company. Get the fuck out of my house." Another woman can be heard faintly saying what sounds like, "baby, please." Later that same woman appears to say, "don't do that. Don't bite me," followed by, "my fucking hand is bleeding." The first woman said, "let me go." The second woman responded, "you fucking bit me," then the call disconnected.

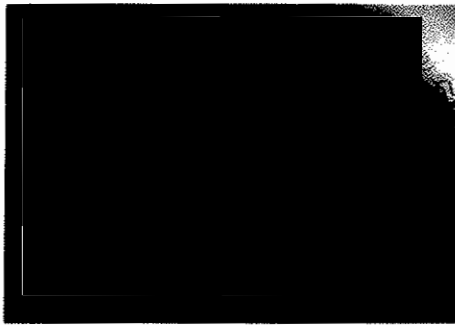
Audio Log EV15393³¹ was recorded at 2154 hours. The call was made by [REDACTED] Cook County Sheriff Department. She told dispatchers that her friends had a domestic incident and that the offender was unwilling to leave the apartment. [REDACTED] added that "she's intoxicated and has a weapon on her." Later in the audio, responding units describe coming to the unit and discovering that the offender had left apartment prior to their arrival.

Photographs³²

(Below) Photograph of [REDACTED] showing busted lip and slight puffiness to left side of the face.



(Below) Closeup photograph of the injury to [REDACTED] lip.



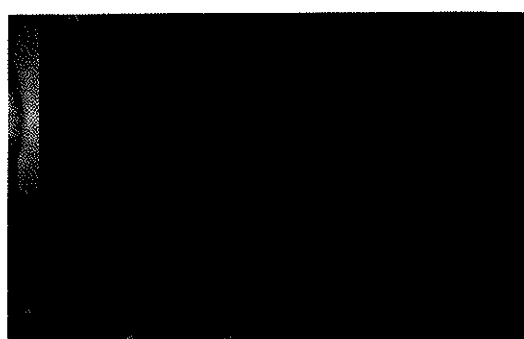
(Left) Side angle view of [REDACTED] intended to show the swelling of her face and cheek.

³¹ Att. 86

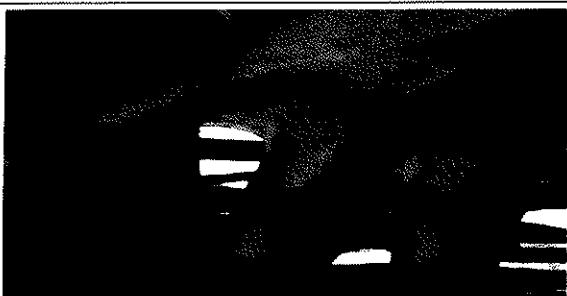
³² See Attachments 50 and 78.



(Above) Photograph of Officer LaShawn Taylor showing injury to lower lip and slight swelling around the mouth.

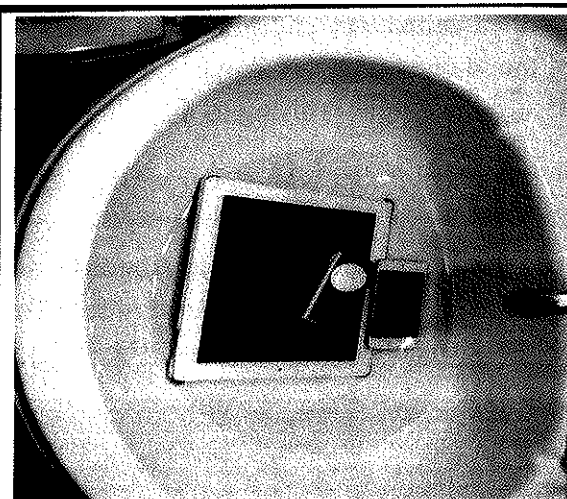


(Above) Photograph of Officer LaShawn Taylor showing a closer view on the injury to her lip.



(Left) Photograph of Officer LaShawn Taylor showing an injury to left hand.

(Right) Photograph of Officer LaShawn Taylor taken on November 17, 2015. The photograph shows an injury to the right hand of Officer Taylor.



(Left) Photograph depicting one iPad, one iPod and one iPhone submerged in water in the bathroom sink.

c. Documentary Evidence

The **Case Initiation Report**³³ says that on November 15, 2015, at 2130 hours, [REDACTED] related to officers that she was having a verbal dispute with her [REDACTED] Officer LaShawn Taylor. During the argument Officer Taylor pushed [REDACTED] knocked a cell phone out of her hand, then punched her in the face. [REDACTED] a witness, asked Officer Taylor to leave. In response, Officer Taylor lifted her shirt and displayed her holstered weapon saying, "you can't make me leave." When [REDACTED] tried to call 911, it is alleged that Officer Taylor pushed [REDACTED] and slammed the door. Both witnesses describe the weapon as a black automatic pistol. The offender was gone by the time officers arrived on the scene.

The **Original Case Incident Report**³⁴ says Officers responded to a call for an Officer Needing Assistance. There, they learned that [REDACTED] and had been in a verbal altercation with her [REDACTED]. The offender pushed the victim's hands into her face. [REDACTED] attempted to call police when the phone was knocked out of her hand. [REDACTED] then ran to the bathroom and locked the door. [REDACTED] entered the apartment with a key and told Officer Taylor that she needed to leave. The offender lifted her shirt, displaying a gun in her waistband, and told [REDACTED] to "you can't make me leave." [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] agreed to leave and allow Officer Taylor to stay. While they were leaving, Officer Taylor pushed [REDACTED] all the way out of the door. Once outside, they called the police and the offender had fled. Officer Taylor's car was still there. Officer Taylor is believed to have submerged the victim's iPad and iPod in water before leaving.

According to **Case Supplementary Report HY502939**³⁵, On November 16, 2016, Officers followed up with [REDACTED] regarding the incident the night before. According to the report and [REDACTED] was hosting a dinner party with [REDACTED] and Officer Taylor, though Officer Taylor came late. Officer Taylor entered the apartment, got a beer, and went to the bedroom without acknowledging anyone. Once alone, [REDACTED] and Officer Taylor began to argue. [REDACTED] asked Officer Taylor to leave. Officer Taylor refused and pushed [REDACTED] causing her to fall into the table. [REDACTED] tried to pass again and was pushed again, only Officer Taylor pushed [REDACTED] hands into her own face, causing a busted lip. [REDACTED] then called 911 and requested a sergeant. While she was on the phone, Officer Taylor knocked the phone out of her hand. Officer Taylor and [REDACTED] fought on the floor over the phone. [REDACTED] sustained light bruising to the left eye.

[REDACTED] recovered the phone and locked herself in the bathroom with it. [REDACTED] then called [REDACTED] and asked her to return. [REDACTED] also recorded Officer Taylor while she was in the bathroom. [REDACTED] returned to the apartment and let herself in with a key. [REDACTED] heard [REDACTED] talking to Officer Taylor and opened the door. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] repeatedly told Officer Taylor to leave. Officer Taylor again refused. Officer Taylor then insisted that [REDACTED] make her leave. Then Officer Taylor

³³ Att. 4

³⁴ Att. 5

³⁵ Att. 74

lifted her shirt, displaying a semiautomatic weapon tucked in her waistband. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] retreated from the apartment. As they were fleeing, Officer Taylor shoved [REDACTED] in the back, knocking her into [REDACTED]. When they got outside, [REDACTED] called the police and requested a sergeant.

In an interview with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] told officers that she was not present for the physical altercation between [REDACTED] and Officer Taylor but had been present at the dinner beforehand. [REDACTED] felt that Officer Taylor was drunk and was trying to explain herself, but [REDACTED] would not listen. [REDACTED] observed [REDACTED] busted lip and the redness around her eye. [REDACTED] relayed that Officer Taylor had lifted her shirt revealing a black semi-automatic pistol, while telling [REDACTED] to make her leave. [REDACTED] retreated from the apartment with [REDACTED]. While fleeing, Officer Taylor pushed her in the back, shoving her into [REDACTED].

Officers also followed up with [REDACTED] but she did not observe any of the altercations involving Officer Taylor, except to note she a similarly felt uncomfortable at dinner with Officer Taylor.

d. Additional Evidence

After her interview with investigators, [REDACTED] mentioned that she forgot to tell the investigators that she noticed Officer Taylor had a “busted lip” when she returned to the residence and that it had not been there earlier in the night. Investigator Goodwin immediately wrote a memorandum to preserve her memory of the conversation.

[REDACTED] was granted an **Emergency Order of Protection**³⁷ against Officer Taylor for the incident that occurred November 15, 2015 on November 16, 2015. On December 7, 2015 the order was terminated.

Officer Taylor met with her sister [REDACTED]³⁸ before the incident. [REDACTED] told investigators that she had seen her sister between 1800 and 2100 hours and that her sister only stayed for approximately one hour. [REDACTED] told investigators that she and Officer Taylor did not drink during that time, nor did it appear that her sister had been drinking. She believed that [REDACTED] made up the complaints.

[REDACTED] On June 8th, 2016, [REDACTED] had a telephone interview with IPRA regarding her knowledge of the incident. [REDACTED] was not present at the dinner party. She received a call at approximately 2100 hours that night from Officer Taylor. Officer Taylor informed [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] had taken her keys and would not return them. Officer Taylor asked [REDACTED] for a ride. [REDACTED] overheard [REDACTED] threatening to call the police on Officer Taylor. [REDACTED] also overheard Officer Taylor tell [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] hit her in the face. [REDACTED] also heard Officer Taylor say that she did not strike [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] did not recall any other conversation. Upon

³⁶ Att. 49

³⁷ See Attachments 13 and 14.

³⁸ Att. 83

³⁹ Att. 82

arriving to pick up Officer Taylor, ██████ saw ██████ and ██████ near the front door of the building, then called Officer Taylor to advise her not to use the front door to avoid further trouble. ██████ appeared to have a cut, puffy lip.

VI. ANALYSIS

COPA's investigative case conclusions must be proven by a preponderance of the evidence. To satisfy a preponderance of the evidence standard, the evidence must prove that it is more likely than not that the conduct alleged occurred.

Based upon a preponderance of the evidence, as it pertains to the allegations brought against Officer Lashawn Taylor, COPA determines the following:

It is recommended that Allegation 1: On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor was the aggressor in a physical altercation with ██████ is **SUSTAINED**.

Rule 9 prohibits an officer from engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty. Officer Taylor provoked a physical altercation and engaged in an unjustified physical altercation with ██████ Evidence suggest that it was more likely than not that Officer Taylor was the aggressor in a physical altercation with ██████

██████ account of the altercation was more credible than the account given by Officer Taylor. Both parties admitted to a verbal altercation. ██████ told investigators that during the verbal altercation, Officer Taylor shoved her backward, twice while they were in the kitchen. During the second shove, Officer Taylor forced the hands of ██████ into ██████ own face. After the shoves, Officer Taylor and ██████ ended up wrestling on the ground. ██████ confided in ██████ that she fought Officer Taylor back. ██████ was candid in admitting that ██████ admitted to her that she fought back and to admitting that she observed injuries to Officer Taylor as well.

Conversely, Officer Taylor's account was that during the verbal altercation, ██████ followed Officer Taylor around the house, then punched Officer Taylor in the face, without any physical provocation from Officer Taylor. After punching Officer Taylor in the face, ██████ grabbed Officer Taylor by the hair and dragged her to the ground, while Officer Taylor, a trained Chicago Police Officer, did nothing to defend herself, except shove her off.

In ██████ recording the night of the incident, ██████ admits that she hit Officer Taylor after Officer Taylor hit her. Similarly, Officer Taylor protested that she did not punch ██████ until after ██████ hit her. While it was clear that both parties struck one another, in her interviews Officer Taylor never admitted to striking ██████ at all. When asked about the injuries sustained by ██████ Officer Taylor's contention was that ██████ injured herself while they wrestled.

██████ clear recollection of the push that caused the busted lip and started the physical altercation was more credible than Officer Taylor's account, which did not include a reasonable explanation for ██████ injuries. Further, ██████ told a consistent story to police officers on the night of the incident, in court filings for an Order of Protection, to Independent Police Review Authority investigators, and to her own friends; whereas, Officer Taylor seemed to tell no one

about the incident until after she was arrested. Officer Taylor also left the residence prior to the police arriving eliminating her ability to document her perspective of the altercation the night of the incident.

For these reasons, COPA finds that Officer Taylor was the aggressor in an unjustified physical altercation in violation of rules 8 and 9.

It is recommended that Allegation 2: On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor pushed ██████ ██████ hands into her face causing injury, is **SUSTAINED**

Rule 8 prohibits an officer from committing an act of disrespect or maltreatment to any person, while on or off duty. Pushing someone's hands into their own face in a manner that results in injury would be a maltreatment of that person and would result in an altercation.

As discussed in allegation 1, Officer Taylor was likely the aggressor in the confrontation. In her statement, ██████ told investigators that in the course of the second shove, Officer Taylor's shove forced ██████ hands backward into ██████ own face, causing injury to her lip. The photographs of ██████ lip confirm the injury. As mentioned in Allegation 1, ██████ was consistent in multiple accounts about how and when the injury to her lip occurred. Officer Taylor's recollection of the events suspiciously omits shoving ██████ an act which ██████ states started the physical altercation; though, there is evidence that the shove occurred. Compared to Officer Taylor's statement, that during their struggle, ██████ *may have* hit herself in the face, we again find ██████ more credible. For these reasons, COPA finds Officer Taylor pushed ██████ hands into ██████ own face in violation of rule 8.

It is recommended that Allegation 3: On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor struck ██████ on the left side of her face, causing injury, is **SUSTAINED**.

Rule 8 prohibits an officer from committing an act of disrespect or maltreatment to any person, while on or off duty. Photographs of ██████ show puffiness to the left side of her face. ██████ also stated seeing the puffiness around the eyes of ██████ which supports finding that the injury occurred. We found ██████ particularly credible because she also admitted to seeing injuries to Officer Taylor. Because there is corroboration by way of a witness with familiarity of ██████ face and photographs showing injury, COPA finds that the strikes to the left side of ██████ face likely occurred.

The allegation is also sustained because the injuries are more consistent with the account given by ██████ told investigators that while she was on the phone with 9-1-1, Officer Taylor attacked her, knocking the phone out of her hand. In ██████ recording of the incident, Officer Taylor said to ██████ "you punched me in my fucking face, didn't you? Didn't you punch me in my..." and ██████ interjected, "after what? After you fucking hit me." ██████ then told ██████ that Officer Taylor knocked the phone out of her hand during the confrontation. Audio log EV15094-a is from ██████ call to 9-1-1 and captures ██████ near real-time statement that Officer Taylor punched her in the eye, then ends with the phone being abruptly disconnected.

Again, Officer's Taylor's denial of striking [REDACTED] and her contention that [REDACTED] injured herself is not credible, especially in light of the evidence that there are injuries consistent with said strike. For these reasons, COPA finds that Officer Taylor struck [REDACTED] on the left side of her face in violation of rule 8.

It is recommended that Allegation 4: On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor shoved [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which resulted in her arrest for Domestic Battery, is **SUSTAINED**.

Rule 2 prohibits an officer from engaging in any action or conduct that impedes the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the department. Police officers are always on duty, in that they have a higher duty to be exemplary and law abiding in their conduct on and off duty than an average citizen. An officer engaging in any conduct that results in their arrest brings discredit to the Department in violation of rule 2.

COPA finds that Officer Taylor pushed [REDACTED] shoved [REDACTED] hand in her face causing injury and struck [REDACTED] on the left side of her face in violation of Department rules. Officer Taylor is also alleged to have committed domestic battery in violation of the Illinois Criminal Code (720 ILCS 5/12-3/2-A-1). On November 18, 2015, the Court found probable cause to detain her. Officer Taylor was notified of the charges and turned herself in for arrest.

Officer Taylor's arrest was based on a warrant, which found that there was probable cause to believe she was guilty of the actions alleged. Though she was not convicted on the criminal standard of "beyond a reasonable doubt," she was still found to have acted in a way that resulted in her arrest and further exploration of the issue of her criminality. Moreover, an Order of Protection was issued to restrain Officer Taylor from engaging in further violent or threatening acts against [REDACTED]. Engaging in any conduct that results in arrest, especially where that conduct leads to criminal prosecution, is inconsistent with the policy goals of the Chicago Police Department in violation of Rule 2.

It is recommended that Allegation 5: On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor threatened both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] by displaying a firearm tucked in her pants while stating, "make me leave," which resulted in her arrest for Aggravated Assault/Use Deadly Weapon, is **SUSTAINED**.⁴⁰

Rule 8 prohibits an officer from committing an act of disrespect or maltreatment to any person, while on or off duty. Rule 9 prohibits an officer from engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty. Rule 38 prohibits an officer from unlawfully or unnecessarily displaying their weapon.

Officer Taylor admitted to investigators that she took her service weapon with her to [REDACTED] residence that night and that she kept it in a holster in her the waistband of her pants. She stated that it may have been revealed throughout the course of the night but not that she During the verbal altercation between Officer Taylor, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] all parties stated that Officer

⁴⁰ Because the issue of the arrest has been dealt with in allegation 4, the finding here only pertains to whether Officer Taylor threatened [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] by displaying a firearm tucked in her pants while stating "make me leave."

Taylor was being asked to leave and repeatedly refused. Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] told investigators that during this part of the conversation, Officer Taylor lifted her shirt, displaying her gun, while stating, "make me leave." [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] recalled when the gun was displayed, where it was displayed, the color of the gun, and the action taken to display it. Because Officer Taylor refused to leave and made the threatening gesture displaying her weapon, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] decided to leave [REDACTED] residence.

Officer Taylor gave a nearly identical account of this part of the altercation, only her account failed to mention the display of a gun. Officer Taylor admits to refusing to leave; she admits to the verbal exchange and she admits that, at some point, her gun "may" have been displayed. Officer Taylor's contention that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] freely departed [REDACTED] own home lacks credibility.

Based on the statements and the audio recording of the incident, COPA finds that Officer Taylor threatened [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] by displaying her firearm while stating, "make me leave."

It is recommended that Allegation 6: On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor pushed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is **SUSTAINED**.

Rule 9 prohibits an officer from engaging in unjustified combative behavior. Shoving a noncombative civilian would be exactly this sort of action. Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] indicated that Officer Taylor shoved [REDACTED] in the back, knocking her into [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was found to be credible because of her candor, admitting that she did not see the shove because she was walking in front of [REDACTED] but felt [REDACTED] thrust into her. [REDACTED] was found credible because she did not pursue charges against Officer Taylor and hoped to stay out of further proceedings, so her statement lacked the incentive to fabricate additional charges.

Officer Taylor was not credible because of the selective omissions in her account that defied the evidence to the contrary. According to Officer Taylor, the altercation ended after [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] simply stated that they would leave and then left. This, too, seems unlikely given that Officer Taylor's last recorded statements before the alleged shove were "make me leave" and "call 9-1-1," which are combative and taunting, even after [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had already stated they would leave instead. This was also following Officer Taylor's display of a gun.

It is recommended that Allegation 7: On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor refused to leave the residence of [REDACTED] is **SUSTAINED**.

Under rule 9, an officer refusing to leave the residence of an individual when not performing a policing act, would be an unjustified verbal altercation. Here, Officer Taylor admitted to engaging in this activity in her interview with IPRA. In response to the question of whether she refused to leave the home of [REDACTED] she answered in the affirmative. Additionally, Officer Taylor told investigators that she told [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that she was not leaving and invited [REDACTED] to force her out. Officer Taylor's refusal to leave is also apparent throughout [REDACTED] audio recording of the incident.

It is recommended that Allegation 8: On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor was intoxicated, is **SUSTAINED**.

Special Order U04-02 instructs officers to refrain from carrying firearms when there is a likelihood that they will be consuming alcoholic beverages which may impair their physical or mental abilities. Under Special Order U04-02, Officer Taylor should not have carried her firearm to [REDACTED] dinner party at all because of the substantial likelihood that alcohol would be consumed at such a social function. Officer Taylor knew that consuming alcohol was a possibility because that was one the first actions she took while there by her own admission. While that single drink would be a violation of the special order, there is also evidence that Officer Taylor allowed herself to become intoxicated prior to arriving at [REDACTED] residence in violation of rule 15.

[REDACTED] described Officer Taylor as intoxicated and agitated upon her arrival to [REDACTED] residence, adding that she smelled of Hennessy. It was also the opinion of [REDACTED] that Officer [REDACTED] was intoxicated and smelled of alcohol immediately upon her arrival. This was [REDACTED] only interaction with Officer Taylor that night. It was also the opinion of [REDACTED] a Cook County Sheriff, that Officer Taylor was intoxicated. [REDACTED] did not notice the intoxication when Officer Taylor first arrived but did when she came in close proximity to her fifteen to thirty minutes after when [REDACTED] returned to assist [REDACTED] passed that information on to police dispatchers immediately upon leaving [REDACTED] apartment.

Further, Officer Taylor's flight from the scene of the incident and failure to report it of her own volition are possible indicators that she knew that she was intoxicated and, if discovered, would have been compelled to take a breathalyzer.

It is recommended that Allegation 9: On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor purposely submerged an iPad and 2 iPods belonging to [REDACTED] thereby damaging them, is **NOT SUSTAINED**.

There is insufficient evidence to prove that Officer Taylor damaged [REDACTED] property. While Officer Taylor admits being the last known person at the residence before the submerged items were discovered, there is no clear indication that the items were submerged by Officer Taylor. Police officers searched [REDACTED] apartment for Officer Taylor following the incident and no one noticed the items submerged in the sink. Instead, either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] discovered the items in the middle of [REDACTED] giving her statement to the Police. Ultimately, there is insufficient evidence conclude that Officer Taylor damaged [REDACTED] property.

It is recommended that Allegation 10: On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor tried to prevent [REDACTED] from calling 911 by knocking the phone out of her hands, is **SUSTAINED**.

The evidence gathered in this case is more consistent with [REDACTED] account than the account given by Officer Taylor. [REDACTED] told investigators that she was on the phone with 911 dispatchers when Officer Taylor attacked her, knocking the phone out of her hand, and disconnecting the call. Audio log EV15094-a documented a call between [REDACTED] and 911 dispatchers in which a woman, now known to be [REDACTED] requests a sergeant's presence at her home. As the dispatcher asks for

the address, a scuffle breaks out in the background and [REDACTED] never returns to the call, only for the call to be disconnected.

During the course of the argument, another woman, now known to be Officer Taylor, can be heard faintly saying, “don’t do that. Don’t bite me,” followed by, “my fucking hand is bleeding.” [REDACTED] can be heard telling Officer Taylor to let her go before the call drops. Photographs of Officer Taylor show an injury to the back side of her right hand near the intersection of the middle finger, pointer, and thumb. The injury combined with the audio would suggest that Officer Taylor was bitten while attempting to restrain [REDACTED]. There is also circumstantial evidence that Officer Taylor wanted to prevent the call out of fear for her job. In a recording by [REDACTED] Officer Taylor can be heard telling [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] will not cause Taylor to lose her job. There is also circumstantial evidence that Officer Taylor may have been involved in the destruction of [REDACTED] audio devices to destroy the recording. violation of rules 8 and 9

It is recommended that Allegation 11: On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor damaged pictures, photographs and writings belonging to [REDACTED] by tearing them up, is **NOT SUSTAINED**.

The analysis for this allegation is the same as Allegation 9 against Officer Taylor in the previous section.

It is recommended that Allegation 12: On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor engaged in an unjustified physical altercation with [REDACTED] is **SUSTAINED**.

The analysis for this allegation is the same as Allegations 1-5 against Officer Taylor in their respective sections.

VII. RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE FOR SUSTAINED ALLEGATIONS

Officer LaShawn Taylor

i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History

- a. Officer Taylor’s Complimentary history, listed below, was taken into consideration when deciding the recommended discipline in this case.

EMBLEM OF RECOGNITION - PHYSICAL FITNESS	1
ATTENDANCE RECOGNITION AWARD	1
DEPARTMENT COMMENDATION	1
HONORABLE MENTION	52
COMPLIMENTARY LETTER	3
HONORABLE MENTION RIBBON AWARD	1
NATO SUMMIT SERVICE AWARD	1
UNIT MERITORIOUS PERFORMANCE AWARD	1

b. Officer Taylor’s Disciplinary history consists of the following:

- i. 5 Day Suspension – Miscellaneous, Incident occurred 25-Jan-2015

ii. 30 Day Suspension – D.U.I. Off-Duty, Incident occurred 09-Jun-2016

ii. Recommended Penalty, by Allegation


The incident that gave rise to the allegations in this case occurred November 15, 2015. Here, COPA has sustained allegations related to Officer Taylor being intoxicated and engaging in a physical and verbal altercation. Prior to the date of this incident, Officer Taylor had received a 5-day suspension. Based on her disciplinary history at the time of this incident COPA recommends a 25 day suspension.

VIII. CONCLUSION

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

Officer	Allegation	Recommendation
Officer LaShawn Taylor	1. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor was the aggressor in a physical altercation with [REDACTED]	Sustained
	2. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor pushed [REDACTED] hands into her face causing injury.	Sustained
	3. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor struck [REDACTED] on the left side of her face, causing injury.	Sustained
	4. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor shoved [REDACTED] which resulted in her arrest for Domestic Battery.	Sustained
	5. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor threatened both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] by displaying a firearm tucked in her pants while stating, "make me leave," which resulted in her arrest for Aggravated Assault/Use Deadly Weapon.	Sustained
	6. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor pushed [REDACTED]	Sustained

	<p>7. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor refused to leave the residence of [REDACTED]</p> <p>8. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor was intoxicated.</p> <p>9. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor purposely submerged an iPad and 2 iPods belonging to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] thereby damaging them.</p> <p>10. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor tried to prevent [REDACTED] from calling 911 by knocking the phone out of her hands.</p> <p>11. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor damaged pictures, photographs and writings belonging to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] by tearing them up.</p> <p>12. On November 15, 2015, Officer Taylor engaged in an unjustified physical altercation with [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Sustained</p> <p>Sustained</p> <p>Not Sustained</p> <p>Sustained</p> <p>Not Sustained</p> <p>Sustained</p>
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Approved: 

[REDACTED]

Andrea Kersten
 Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

10/2/18

Date

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad# 6	
Investigator	Adam Burns
Supervising Investigator	Elaine Tarver
Deputy Chief Administrator	Andrea Kersten