

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident:	April 14, 2017
Time of Incident:	21:30
Location of Incident:	4242 W. Roosevelt Rd
Date of COPA Notification:	April 17, 2017
Time of COPA Notification:	10:07

It is alleged that Officer Craig Williams punched [REDACTED] in the head several times during a physical altercation. It is alleged that Officer Craig Williams pushed [REDACTED] to the ground before the physical altercation began.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Officer #1:	Craig Williams, Star # 19033, Employee ID# [REDACTED], Date of Appointment February 6, 1995, PO, Unit 015, DOB [REDACTED], 1962, M, Blk
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED], DOB [REDACTED], 1988, M, Blk
Involved Individual #2:	[REDACTED], DOB [REDACTED], 1975, F, Asian/PI

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Officer Craig Williams	1. It is alleged that Officer Williams engaged in a verbal altercation with [REDACTED] and threatened to harm him in violation of Rule 8, 9.	Not Sustained
	2. It is alleged that Officer Williams used excessive force when he punched Mr. [REDACTED], in the head and threw him to the ground, during a physical altercation in violation of Rule 8, 9.	Not Sustained
	3. It is alleged that Officer Williams used excessive force when he used his fist to strike [REDACTED] in the	Not Sustained

	<p>head multiple times, in violation of Rule 8, 9.</p> <p>4. It is alleged that Officer Williams pushed [REDACTED] to the ground, during a physical altercation with Mr. [REDACTED] in violation of Rule 8.</p> <p>5. It is alleged that Officer Williams used excessive force when he handcuffed [REDACTED] and put his knee in Mr. [REDACTED] back in violation of Rule 8, 9.</p> <p>6. It is alleged that Officer Williams failed to adequately secure his service weapon when he removed it from a holder on his hip and gave it to his wife in violation of Rule 13.</p> <p>7. It is alleged that Officer Williams failed to report promptly to the Department any information concerning any crime or other unlawful action in violation of Rule 21.</p> <p>8. It is alleged that Officer Williams failed to complete a Tactical Response Report, as provided by Chicago Police Department Directive, in violation of Rule 11.</p> <p>9. It is alleged that Officer Williams failed to follow Chicago Police Department Directive, <i>Releasing Arrestees Without Charging</i>, when he placed [REDACTED] under arrest and then released him without permission from a supervisor, in violation of Rule 10,11.</p>	<p>Not Sustained</p> <p>Not Sustained</p> <p>Exonerated</p> <p>Sustained/Reprimand</p> <p>Sustained/Reprimand</p> <p>Not Sustained</p>
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IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS

<p>Rules</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rule 8: Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty. 2. Rule 9: Engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty. 3. Rule 10: Inattention to duty.
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- 4. Rule 11: Incompetency or inefficiency in the performance of duty.
- 5. Rule 13: Failure to adequately secure and care for Department property.
- 6. Rule 21: Failure to report promptly to the Department any information concerning any crime or other unlawful action.

General Orders

- 1. G02-08-Use of Force – Effective Date October 1, 2001
- 2. U04-02- Department Approved Weapons and Ammunition – Effective Date December 27, 2013

Special Orders

- 1. S06-01-01- Releasing Arrestees Without Charging and Waiving Fingerprints – Effective Date July 25, 2013

V. INVESTIGATION

a. Interviews

In his statement to COPA¹ on April 19, 2017, ██████████ stated that he entered United Baptist Church, and while talking to parishioners, Officer Williams approached him and spoke. Mr. ██████████ explained that he recognized him from his neighborhood and told Officer Williams to get away from him. He walked away, but Officer Williams followed him around the church and kept asking him to repeat his remark. He said Officer Williams tried to confront him three times before he exited the church. Mr. ██████████ said that after Officer Williams exited the church, he remained inside the church for approximately 15 minutes before leaving with his girlfriend, ██████████, and son. Once outside of the church, Mr. ██████████ said he saw the officer standing next to his truck. Mr. ██████████ explained that he began walking to his car and Officer Williams began antagonizing him and threatening to smack him. Mr. ██████████ said he saw Officer Williams raise his shirt and display his badge on his right hip. Mr. ██████████ stated that the woman who accompanied Officer Williams was jumping up and down and screaming at Mr. ██████████. Mr. ██████████ stated that he continued to walk to his car but called the woman, with Officer Williams, a bitch. He said this comment upset Officer Williams, who stormed across the street to get him. Mr. ██████████ said Ms. ██████████ was standing in front of him and Officer Williams told her to move out of the way. He said that when she did not move, Officer Williams shoved her to the ground. Mr. ██████████ stated that he and Officer Williams started to wrestle, and Officer Williams took him to the ground. Mr. ██████████ stated that Officer Williams hit him multiple times on the left side of his head while admonishing him for calling the woman a bitch. Mr. ██████████ explained that Officer Williams put his knee in his back and cuffed his left hand. He said he hit him one time after he cuffed him. Mr. ██████████ stated that Officer Williams is left handed because he only hit him with his left hand. Mr. ██████████ said that while he was on the ground, Ms. ██████████ witnessed Officer Williams hit him in the head. He said Officer Williams told him he was under arrest but eventually uncuffed him and let him leave.

¹ Att. 5

In her statement to COPA² on April 19, 2017, Witness ██████████, stated that she did not witness the confrontation between Mr. ██████████ and Officer Williams, inside the church. She explained that she did not see what happened during the physical altercation because she was getting up from the ground. She said that once she was back on her feet, she never saw Officer Williams hit Mr. ██████████. She did not state that she heard Officer Williams tell Mr. ██████████ that he was under arrest. The remainder of Ms. ██████████ statement corroborates Mr. ██████████ statement.

In his statement to COPA³ on August 7 and September 21, 2018, Officer Craig Williams stated that he knows Mr. ██████████ because he arrested him a few times when he was a juvenile and they live in the same neighborhood. He explained that throughout the years, he had seen Mr. ██████████ at church but they never had any interaction. Officer Williams said that on the date in question, Mr. ██████████ approached him and began swearing at him and talking crazy. Officer Williams said he walked away from Mr. ██████████ without responding to his rant. He said Mr. ██████████ approached him two more times and he never responded to him. Officer Williams explained that after the third encounter, he and his wife exited the church and within minutes of exiting, Mr. ██████████ followed him outside and continued to rant. He explained that Mr. ██████████ approached him with his hands up, which indicated that he wanted to fight. At this point, Officer Williams removed his service weapon and asked his wife, ██████████, to secure the weapon in their car. He said he asked her to do this because Mr. ██████████ wanted to fight, and he did not want Mr. ██████████ to be able to grab his weapon. Officer Williams told Mr. ██████████ to go on his way and when Mr. ██████████ continued toward him, he prepared to defend himself against Mr. ██████████. Officer Williams said Mr. ██████████ tried to hit him twice but did not connect and he grabbed Mr. ██████████. The two men struggled for a minute before Officer Williams got Mr. ██████████ on the ground and cuffed him. Officer Williams stated that he never punched Mr. ██████████ in the head. He explained that when he got him on the ground, he cuffed him to deescalate the situation and to give Mr. ██████████ time to calm down. He said that it was never his intent to arrest Mr. ██████████. He did not think that a crime had been committed because he thought that Mr. ██████████ was having a mental meltdown. He explained that Mr. ██████████ was a troubled juvenile and that he had recently heard, from parishioners, that he took psychotropic medication. Officer Williams stated that after the incident, he spoke to the 911 operator and informed him that Mr. ██████████ had left the scene and that he did not need assistance. He explained that he did not report the incident to the Department because he did not think that there was anything to report. He did not complete a Tactical Response Report because he was not aware that he was obligated to complete one for an off-duty incident.

In her statement to COPA⁴ on August 20, 2018, ██████████ denied screaming at Mr. ██████████ outside of the church. The remainder of Mrs. ██████████ statement corroborates Officer Williams' statement.

b. Digital Evidence

² Att. 9

³ Att. 12,15

⁴ Att. 13

Office of Emergency Management and Communications 911 audio⁵ consists of Carolyn Williams stating that Officer Williams is engaged in an altercation with a male that threatened him. Officer Williams speaks to the 911 operator and explains that he was in an altercation with someone he had previously locked up and that the person had left the scene.

c. Documentary Evidence

Mr. ██████'s medical records from Loretto Hospital, dated April 15, 2017, state the medical complaint as Left Neck Pain. Mr. ██████ told hospital personnel that he was restrained by CPD and struck on the left side of his head. He was diagnosed with a scalp contusion.

IV. ANALYSIS

The statements of Mr. ██████ and Officer Williams mirror each other except that both allege the other party started the altercation and Officer Williams denied striking Mr. ██████ and pushing Ms. ██████ to the ground. Mr. ██████ witness, who is his girlfriend, corroborated his allegations, except she did not see Officer Williams strike Mr. ██████. Mr. ██████ explained that he thought Officer Williams was left-handed because he only hit him with his left hand. Officer Williams, in his statement to COPA, said that his right hand is his dominant hand. The fact that neither witness saw Officer Williams strike Mr. ██████ and Officer Williams is right-handed, lends more credence to Officer Williams's statement that he did not hit Mr. ██████ in the head. Officer Williams' disciplinary history also weighs in favor of his statement. He has been a member of the department since 1995 and has not had any disciplinary history. Neither Mr. ██████ or Officer Williams have presented any other witnesses to this incident. A canvass of the area near 4242 W. Roosevelt Road was conducted by this office and no witnesses were found. There is no video footage of the incident. Therefore, there is not sufficient evidence to determine that Officer Williams used excessive force in the altercation with Mr. ██████ or that he pushed Ms. ██████ to the ground and the allegations cannot be sustained. The allegation regarding the unsecured service weapon cannot be sustained because according to Chicago Police Directive U04-02 (II) (O.)⁶, during an emergency an officer may lend his firearm to a person who has been summoned to assist him in the performance of his official duty. Allegations #7 and #8 are sustained because Officer Williams admitted that he did not report the incident to the Department or complete a Tactical Response Report.

VI. RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE FOR SUSTAINED ALLEGATIONS

a. Officer Craig Williams

- i. Officer Williams' Complimentary History includes one Department Commendation, one Complimentary Letter, and more than twenty Honorable Mentions. He does not have a Disciplinary History.

⁵ Att. 16

⁶ U04-02 – Department Approved Weapons and Ammunition- Effective Date December 27, 2013

ii. Recommended Penalty, by Allegation

1. Allegation No. 7

Mitigating factors include Officer Williams did not think that a crime or unlawful act had been committed. He viewed it as the action of a mentally troubled young man, who was also a neighbor and fellow church parishioner.

2. Allegation No. 8

Mitigating factors include Officer Williams was not aware that he had a duty to complete a Tactical Response Report for off-duty incidents.


VII. CONCLUSION

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

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Officer Craig Williams	1. It is alleged that Officer Williams engaged in a verbal altercation with [REDACTED] and threatened to harm him in violation of Rule 8, 9.	Not Sustained
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	6. It is alleged that Officer Williams failed to adequately secure his weapon when he removed it from a holder on	Exonerated

	<p>his hip and gave it to his wife in violation of Rule 13.</p> <p>7. It is alleged that Officer Williams failed to report promptly to the Department any information concerning any crime or other unlawful action in violation of Rule 21.</p> <p>8. It is alleged that Officer Williams failed to complete a Tactical Response Report, as provided by Chicago Police Department Directive, in violation of Rule 11.</p> <p>9. It is alleged that Officer Williams failed to follow Chicago Police Department Directive, <i>Releasing Arrestees Without Charging</i>, when he placed Cornealius Brown under arrest and then released him without permission from a supervisor in violation of Rule 10, 11.</p>	<p>Sustained/Reprimand</p> <p>Sustained/Reprimand</p> <p>Not Sustained</p>
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Approved:


Angela Hearts-Glass
Deputy Chief Administrator

Date

10-31-18

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad#:	12
Investigator:	J. Looper
Supervising Investigator:	A. Dalkin
Deputy Chief Administrator:	Angela Hearts-Glass