

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident:	March 1, 2018 through April 23, 2018
Time of Incident:	3:30 PM – 10:00 PM
Location of Incident:	[REDACTED]
Date of COPA Notification:	April 27, 2018
Time of COPA Notification:	9:02 PM

On April 27, 2018, [REDACTED], reported an alleged incident of domestic abuse via the Child Abuse Notification Hotline of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). [REDACTED] reported that [REDACTED] stated that she had been struck by her [REDACTED] Sgt. Sandi Hawwat. [REDACTED] indicated to [REDACTED] that Sgt. Hawwat would strike [REDACTED] with a shoe, an open hand, or a closed hand.

As a result of the notification to DCFS, a Chicago Police Department criminal investigation and a DCFS investigation commenced. The Chicago Police Department found no credible evidence that suggested or that supported the allegation of abuse, thus no criminal charges were brought. Likewise, DCFS indicated that allegations of physical abuse were unfounded, due to the recantation of the allegations.

COPA received a CR Initiation Report from Sgt. Blaul based upon the Child Abuse Notification hotline and thereafter brought allegations against Sgt. Hawwat for unjustifiably striking [REDACTED]. In an interview with COPA, Sgt. Hawwat admitted to striking [REDACTED] with an open hand, on [REDACTED] arm, hand, and buttocks, when [REDACTED] was non-compliant. Sgt. Hawwat denied physical abusing [REDACTED]. After a thorough investigation, COPA determined the evidence supports an UNFOUNDED finding with respect to Sgt. Hawwat unjustifiably striking [REDACTED].

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Officer #1:	Sandi Hawwat, Star #: 2116, Employee ID#: [REDACTED] Date of Appointment: June 25, 2001, Sergeant, Unit of Assignment: 25th District, Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1977, Female, White.
Subject #1:	[REDACTED] Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 2007, Female, White.

III. ALLEGATIONS

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. The recommendation(s) set forth herein are the recommendation(s) of COPA.

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Sergeant Sandi Hawwat	1. It is alleged that on or about April 23, 2018, Sandi Hawwat, unjustifiably struck the minor child, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] thereby causing injuries, in violation of Rule 1, 2, 6, 8, and 9.	Unfounded
	2. It is alleged that between March 1, 2018 and April 22, 2018, Sandi Hawwat, unjustifiably struck the minor child, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] thereby causing injuries, in violation of Rule 1, 2, 6, 8, and 9.	Unfounded

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 6: Disobedience of an order or directive, whether written or oral.
4. Rule 8: Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty.
5. Rule 9: Engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.

General Orders

1. General Order G04-04 – Domestic Incidents

State Laws

1. 720 ILCS 5/12-3.2 – Domestic Battery

V. INVESTIGATION²

a. Interviews

COPA interviewed Witness [REDACTED]³ on May 31, 2018. [REDACTED] signed a sworn affidavit attesting to the truth and accuracy of the statement she provided to COPA.⁴

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

³ Attachment 21.

⁴ Attachment 19.

██████████ stated that on April 27, 2018 ██████████, ██████████ observed ██████████ throwing food in the lunch room. ██████████ was informed that ██████████ and ██████████ had a brief conversation in which ██████████ indicated that she wanted detention because she needed a break from everyone.

██████████ spoke with ██████████ who relayed that ██████████ (Sgt. Hawwat) becomes stressed when the house is not clean. ██████████ is therefore tasked with cleaning the home before and after school. ██████████ stated that ██████████ strikes her with a shoe, open hand, or a closed hand when she does not follow directions, or the house is not clean enough.⁵ A week prior to the conversation with ██████████, ██████████ did not clean the bathroom and ██████████ struck her with an open hand. ██████████ reported that ██████████ did not complain of any other specific incidents.⁶ ██████████ did not complain of bruises, only red marks, and hand prints. ██████████ did not observe any marks on ██████████ ██████████

COPA interviewed **Witness** ██████████ on June 14, 2018. ██████████. On April 27, 2018, ██████████. During lunch, she observed ██████████ throw food in the lunchroom. ██████████ approached ██████████ and told her not to do that. ██████████ replied that she wanted to sit with security and she needed a break. ██████████ and ██████████ then spoke privately. ██████████ was emotional during this conversation and expressed that her ██████████ would hit her and would leave red marks. She indicated that her ██████████ hits her a lot and would hit her if she did not clean the house.

At the conclusion of the conversation, ██████████ sought out assistance from ██████████. ██████████ relayed to ██████████ what ██████████ had previously stated. ██████████ indicated that ██████████ grew concerned and they decided to discuss the matter further with ██████████. During the conversation between the three of them, ██████████ relayed essentially the same details she previously relayed to ██████████

COPA interviewed **Accused Sergeant Sandi Hawwat** on July 23, 2018. On March 1, 2018 through and including April 23, 2018, Sgt. Hawwat lived with ██████████ and ██████████, ██████████⁸ ██████████ attended ██████████⁹ Sgt. Hawwat relayed that both of the children perform chores in the morning.¹⁰ She will tell the children to “do their room,”¹¹ but the chores are not daily tasks.¹² If something needs to be done in the house, Sgt. Hawwat will tell ██████████ she can not be on the iPhone and that she needs to help.¹³ Sgt. Hawwat relayed that sometimes ██████████ does not want to do chores, and if ██████████ says she will do the chores, but fails to do the chores, Sgt. Hawwat will tell her to “get

⁵ ██████████ indicated that during the conversation with ██████████ implied that she would be struck a lot and at other times ██████████ implied that she would be rarely struck.

⁶ ██████████ stated that ██████████ did not offer a clear answer on how often she would be struck.

⁷ Attachment 27.

⁸ Attachment 29 at 4:12.

⁹ *Id.* at 4:58.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 14:24.

¹¹ *Id.* at 14:30.

¹² *Id.* at 14:50

¹³ *Id.* at 15:30

up” and do the chores.¹⁴ [REDACTED] usually will then do the requested chores.¹⁵ If Angelia still does not do the chores, [REDACTED] is not punished.¹⁶ Sgt. Hawwat stated that [REDACTED] knows this is their “environment”, that she is not going to be punished, but at the same time she needs to listen to her.¹⁷ If [REDACTED] is reluctant to do the chores, Sgt. Hawwat does not physically punish her.¹⁸

Sgt. Hawwat stated that if [REDACTED] is constantly non-compliant, constantly not listening, or constantly being “smart”, Sgt. Hawwat will strike [REDACTED] on the arm, hand, or buttocks.¹⁹ This only happens after Sgt. Hawwat tells [REDACTED] to do something numerous times and [REDACTED] does not listen.²⁰ Sgt. Hawwat admitted to slapping [REDACTED] hand with an open hand²¹ and slapping [REDACTED] forearm with an open hand.²² She resorts to spanking her on the buttocks with her hand, if she “really does not listen.”²³ Prior to slapping [REDACTED] hands, Sgt. Hawwat gives her verbal directions.²⁴ Sgt. Hawwat has not noticed bruising on [REDACTED] hands,²⁵ has not noticed bruising on [REDACTED] forearm,²⁶ and has not noticed red marks on [REDACTED] hands or forearms.²⁷ Sgt. Hawwat stated that she has never struck [REDACTED] with a belt²⁸, has never struck her with a shoe²⁹, and has never thrown a shoe at [REDACTED]³⁰ Sgt. Hawwat affirmatively denied the first allegation³¹ and the second allegation.³²

b. Digital Evidence³³

On April 27, 2018, Evidence Technician, Thomas Worthem, Star No: 12110, responded to [REDACTED] to take **photographs of the two minor children.**³⁴ The **Crime Scene Processing Report**³⁵ indicated that no injuries were show on the minor children’s arms, legs, chest, back, or face.

c. Documentary Evidence

¹⁴ *Id.* at 15:45.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id.* at 16:19.

¹⁷ *Id.* at 16:30.

¹⁸ *Id.* at 16:42.

¹⁹ *Id.* at 17:19.

²⁰ *Id.* at 17:40.

²¹ *Id.* at 19:30.

²² *Id.* at 19:32.

²³ *Id.* at 19:35.

²⁴ *Id.* at 19:58.

²⁵ *Id.* at 20:39.

²⁶ *Id.* at 20:40.

²⁷ *Id.* at 20:47.

²⁸ *Id.* at 20:50.

²⁹ *Id.* at 20:54.

³⁰ *Id.* at 20:57.

³¹ *Id.* at 23:21.

³² *Id.* at 23:39.

³³ Body Worn Camera Videos were requested for videos related to RD #: [REDACTED] and Event No: [REDACTED] See Attachment 4. No Body Worn Camera Video footage was found or available related to the incident. See Attachment 18.

³⁴ Attachment 14.

³⁵ Attachment 11.

A **Child Abuse Hotline Notification**³⁶ report was generated on April 27, 2018 when [REDACTED]. The report indicated that [REDACTED] had been struck by Sandi (Hawwat) with a belt, a hand, and a shoe. [REDACTED] would get red marks and “sometimes they stay and sometimes they don’t.” The physical contact occurs when Sgt. Hawwat thinks [REDACTED] is not listening. [REDACTED] was struck four days prior by Sgt. Hawwat. [REDACTED] complained that most of the “abuse” comes from Sgt. Hawwat in the way of making her clean the home for about two hours each day. When [REDACTED] does not clean correctly, Sgt. Hawwat physically punishes [REDACTED].

An **Original Case Incident Report**³⁷ for RD#: [REDACTED]³⁸, dated April 27, 2018, indicated that [REDACTED] Sgt. Hawwat (listed in the reports with last name [REDACTED] hit [REDACTED]).

A **Case Supplementary Report**³⁹ for RD# [REDACTED] was authored by Detective Alice Casanova on May 19, 2018. At 9:36 PM on April 27, 2018, Detective Casanova and Detective Diaz met with Sgt. Hawwat, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] relayed that she attends [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] live with [REDACTED] Sgt. Hawwat, at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that she was hit by [REDACTED] a “couple [of] weeks ago” because she did not do the cleaning as she was asked to do. When Sgt. Hawwat does strike [REDACTED] Sgt. Hawwat slaps her hands and only threatens her with a belt. When she is struck there is minor redness but never any marks of bruises. [REDACTED] related that she is struck as a form of discipline because she is not responding to her [REDACTED] requests. No marks, bruises, or injuries on [REDACTED] were observed.

Detective Casanova and Detective Diaz interviewed [REDACTED]. He stated that only [REDACTED] is struck by [REDACTED], but he has never witnessed [REDACTED] being hit.

Sgt. Hawwat and [REDACTED] were interviewed by Detective Casanova and Detective Diaz. They relayed that they do not abuse [REDACTED], rather they partake in corporal punishment. They state they have never left marks or bruising on [REDACTED]. They further relayed that [REDACTED] is an overall good child; however, she does not always do as instructed. [REDACTED] is sometimes disrespectful and therefore disciplined, but not abused.

Detective Casanova recorded the incident as Unfounded. Detective Casanova noted that no credible evidence suggested or supported the allegations of physical abuse.

d. Additional Evidence

COPA obtained the **DCFS Unfounded Investigation Report**.⁴⁰ DCFS conducted interviews with Sgt. Hawwat, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Sgt. Hawwat stated to DCFS that she does not abuse [REDACTED] and that [REDACTED] made these allegations

³⁶ Attachment 7.

³⁷ Attachment 6.

³⁸ See Attachment 38 and Attachment 39 for OEMC Communication.

³⁹ Attachment 5.

⁴⁰ Attachment 42

“to a teacher at school while she was being admonished for inappropriate behavior.”⁴¹ [REDACTED] relayed to DCFS investigators that while at school she became upset at a student and threw a bun.⁴² She related that she was being threatened with a detention and “started saying things to get out of it.”⁴³ She stated that she told school staff that she would get hit by [REDACTED]; but “ma[de] things up so that she wouldn’t be in trouble for throwing a bun.”⁴⁴ [REDACTED] stated that when she is in trouble with [REDACTED] does not hit her, she “mainly yells.”⁴⁵ When she does “something really bad,” her phone is taken away.⁴⁶

VI. ANALYSIS

The burden of proof COPA must reach for a finding on each allegation is the preponderance of the evidence standard.

It is alleged that Sergeant Sandi Hawwat: (1) unjustifiably struck her minor child on or about April 23, 2018 and (2) unjustifiably struck her minor child between March 1, 2018 and April 22, 2018.

a. Allegation 1: Unjustifiably Struck [REDACTED] on April 23, 2018.

The evidence shows that Sgt. Hawwat did not strike [REDACTED] on April 23, 2018. [REDACTED] initially stated to [REDACTED] that Sgt. Hawwat would strike her with her hands, a belt, and a shoe. When [REDACTED] was interviewed by the Chicago Police Department she modified her narrative and indicated that she was slapped on the hands by Sgt. Hawwat and only threatened to be hit with a belt. [REDACTED] made no indication to the Chicago Police Department that she was struck by a shoe. When DCFS interviewed her, she made a complete recantation of the physical punishment she had alleged to have endured. She denied being struck by [REDACTED]. She provided a rationale for making these false allegations, in that [REDACTED] was about to receive a school detention and did what she thought was necessary to avoid the detention.

The Chicago Police Department initiated a criminal investigation and found no evidence to substantiate [REDACTED] allegations. Photographs of [REDACTED] showed no physical marks or bruising. DCFS initiated an investigation and found no evidence to substantiate [REDACTED] allegations. When posited with questions regarding striking [REDACTED] Sgt. Hawwat answered credibly that she struck [REDACTED] with an open hand only if [REDACTED] was constantly non-compliant, constantly not listening, or constantly being “smart.” She denied striking [REDACTED] with a belt or a shoe. She denied striking [REDACTED] on April 23, 2018. Therefore, COPA recommends a finding of UNFOUNDED with regards to this allegation.

b. Allegation 2: Unjustifiably Struck [REDACTED] between March 1, 2018 and April 22, 2018.

⁴¹ *Id.* at Page 29.

⁴² *Id.* at Page 31.

⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴ *Id.*

⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁶ *Id.*

The evidence shows that Sgt. Hawwat did not unjustifiably strike [REDACTED], [REDACTED] between March 1, 2018 and April 23, 2018. As aforementioned, [REDACTED] narrative changed when she was subsequently interviewed by various entities. When asked if she struck [REDACTED] during the aforesaid time range, Sgt. Hawwat denied striking [REDACTED] during this time range.

The Chicago Police Department initiated a criminal investigation and found no evidence to substantiate [REDACTED] allegations. Photographs of [REDACTED] showed no physical marks or bruising. DCFS initiated an investigation and found no evidence to substantiate [REDACTED] allegations. No evidence was obtained suggesting that Sgt. Hawwat unjustifiably struck [REDACTED] during this time period. Therefore, COPA recommends a finding of UNFOUNDED with regards to this allegation.

VII. CONCLUSION

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

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Sergeant Sandi Hawwat	<p>1. It is alleged that on or about April 23, 2018, [REDACTED], unjustifiably struck the minor child, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] thereby causing injuries, in violation of Rule 1, 2, 6, 8, and 9.</p> <p>2. It is alleged that between March 1, 2018 and April 22, 2018, [REDACTED], unjustifiably struck the minor child, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] thereby causing injuries, in violation of Rule 1, 2, 6, 8, and 9.</p>	<p>Unfounded</p> <p>Unfounded</p>

Approved:

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

Angela Hearts-Glass
Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

12-4-18

Date

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad#:	12
Investigator:	Jason Lee, Badge #93
Supervising Investigator:	Andrew Dalkin,
Deputy Chief Administrator:	Angela Hearts-Glass