

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident:	June 28, 2018
Time of Incident:	7:55 a.m.
Location of Incident:	4650 W. Harrison Street, Chicago, IL
Date of COPA Notification:	July 6, 2018
Time of COPA Notification:	3:42 p.m.

On the morning of June 28, 2018, [REDACTED] encountered his cousin, [REDACTED] as she waited for the bus. [REDACTED] was upset with [REDACTED] and attempted to stab her with an ice pick. A passerby intervened, and [REDACTED] called 911. Police officers arrived, and [REDACTED] rode away on his bicycle. The officers stopped [REDACTED] a few blocks away and unsuccessfully attempted to place him under arrest. Field Training Officer Carla Jackson (“FTO Jackson”) arrived on scene and engaged [REDACTED] for approximately thirty minutes. FTO Jackson and the other officers on scene used multiple de-escalation techniques to calm [REDACTED] and place him in handcuffs without using force. [REDACTED] refused to cooperate and became increasingly agitated. FTO Jackson deployed her Taser once, hitting [REDACTED] on his back. [REDACTED] fell onto a grassy parkway and some of the other officers on scene placed him in handcuffs. Paramedics transported [REDACTED] to the hospital for psychiatric treatment. [REDACTED] alleges that FTO Jackson’s actions amounted to excessive force. COPA reviewed this allegation.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Officer #1:	Carla Jackson Star #3481 / Employee ID # [REDACTED] Date of Appointment: June 19, 1991 Field Training Officer / Unit 015 Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1964 Female / Black
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1976 Male / Black

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding
FTO Carla Jackson	1. It is alleged that on or about June 28, 2018, at approximately 7:55 a.m., at or near 4650 W. Harrison Street, FTO Carla Jackson deployed	Exonerated

her Taser at [REDACTED] in violation
of Rules 8 and 9.

IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS

Rules

1. Rule 8: Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty.
2. Rule 9: Engaging in any unjustified physical or verbal altercation with any person, while on or off duty.

General Orders

1. G-03-02-01: Force Options
2. G-03-02-04: Taser Use Incidents

Special Orders

1. S-04-20-01 Responding to Incidents Involving Persons in Need of Mental Health Treatment

V. INVESTIGATION¹

a. Interviews

In his July 6, 2018 **statement to COPA**,² **Complainant** ██████████ stated that on the morning of June 28, 2018, he went outside to ride his bicycle and encountered his cousin, ██████████ standing at a bus stop. According to ██████████ ██████████ pulled a knife on him, then called the police and claimed that ██████████ had just pulled a knife on her. Police officers arrived, chased ██████████ down Harrison Street, and then made him get off his bicycle. ██████████ was surrounded by “ten or fifteen” officers, and a standoff ensued. ██████████ stated that the officers had their guns drawn and attempted to fight, shoot, and kill him. FTO Carla Jackson eventually deployed her Taser at ██████████ even though he told her he had done nothing wrong. He stated that he did not feel much when the Taser hit him because of his medical issues. The other officers then jumped on ██████████ back and twisted his arm while they handcuffed him. ██████████ went to Loretto Hospital in an ambulance and was discharged in thirty minutes. ██████████ added that he believed the Taser deployment could have killed him. When asked if he was carrying a knife on the day in question, ██████████ refused to answer the question.

In her July 27, 2018 **statement to COPA**,³ **Witness** ██████████ stated that on June 28, 2018 she was waiting for the bus when she was approached by her cousin, ██████████ ██████████ stated that ██████████ was ranting and raving and seemed irate. When ██████████ asked ██████████ to get out of her personal space, ██████████ dropped his bicycle and started cursing and lunging at her with his hands in his pockets. ██████████ said that they began to argue. ██████████ then pulled out an ice pick and lunged at ██████████. He threatened to kill ██████████ told her that he would gut her “like a fish”, and continued to argue with her. A passing driver pulled over and distracted ██████████ while ██████████ called 911. Police officers arrived on scene and ██████████ fled. ██████████ saw ██████████ up the street and pointed him out to the officers.

The officers pursued ██████████ while ██████████ went inside her apartment. A few minutes later, an officer retrieved ██████████ from her apartment and brought her to the scene so she could identify ██████████. Once they arrived on scene, ██████████ saw ██████████ surrounded by multiple officers, including FTO Jackson. ██████████ notified the officers that ██████████ has a history of paranoid schizophrenia and had not been taking his medication. ██████████ was on scene while she filled out paperwork and witnessed the officers treating ██████████ very well. ██████████ asked for a cigarette and a bottle of water, and the officers provided him with both. ██████████ also noted that the officers stood back in a wide circle formation and gave ██████████ space to walk around. She also stated that the entire time she was on scene, no one touched ██████████ or threatened him with a weapon. She observed FTO Jackson speaking to ██████████ in a calm voice and repeatedly trying to get him to go in the ambulance. ██████████ continually threatened the officers by saying things like, “If you touch me, I’ll kill you,” and, “I’m not going, you’re not taking me anywhere.” ██████████ left a few minutes before FTO Jackson deployed her Taser, because she was late for work. She added that she believes the officers did a good job and that it was necessary for FTO Jackson

¹ COPA conducted a thorough and complete investigation. The following is a summary of the material evidence gathered and relied upon in our analysis.

² Attachment 10

³ Attachment 18

to deploy her Taser at [REDACTED] because he was highly agitated, refused to cooperate, kept trying to walk away and continually threatened the officers.

In her **August 17, 2018 statement to COPA**,⁴ **Accused Field Training Officer Carla Jackson** stated that on June 28, 2018, she responded to a call of a man with a knife. When she arrived on scene she observed [REDACTED] standing in the grass surrounded by several officers. As they approached [REDACTED] FTO Jackson's partner⁵ recovered the ice pick that [REDACTED] had used to accost [REDACTED] FTO Jackson observed [REDACTED] yelling and refusing to follow the officers' commands. FTO Jackson introduced herself to [REDACTED] and began conversing with him. [REDACTED] told FTO Jackson that he wanted to get on his bicycle and leave. FTO Jackson noticed a knife in [REDACTED] pocket, so she requested that [REDACTED] lower his voice, speak to her directly, and then asked him if she could take his knife. At first, [REDACTED] refused to give up his knife, but FTO Jackson convinced him to toss it on the ground. [REDACTED] asked for a cigarette, so FTO Jackson asked everyone on scene if they had one. No police personnel on scene had a cigarette, so FTO Jackson got one from a bystander. Another officer offered [REDACTED] a bottle of water. FTO Jackson noticed that [REDACTED] was rambling, which indicated to her that he may have been having a mental health episode. FTO Jackson called for an ambulance so [REDACTED] would have the option of being transported somewhere by non-CPD personnel.

Other officers on scene took turns speaking to [REDACTED] but he did not calm down. He threatened the officers, saying things like, "I've already had two batteries against officers," and "I've already disarmed officers." He also lunged at FTO Jackson but did not strike her. [REDACTED] tried to leave the scene, and at one point regained control of his bicycle. FTO Jackson convinced him to put his bicycle down before he could leave. She noticed that [REDACTED] was sweating profusely and was not calming down. This indicated to her that [REDACTED] was becoming more agitated. FTO Jackson stated she observed [REDACTED] attempting to flee, so she deployed her Taser at him. [REDACTED] fell onto a grassy parkway, and other officers on scene placed him in handcuffs. As soon as [REDACTED] was handcuffed, he told FTO Jackson that he would sue her. The paramedics then placed [REDACTED] on a stretcher and transported him to Loretto Hospital for mental health treatment.

FTO Jackson stated that she spoke with [REDACTED] for over 30 minutes before deploying her Taser. She said she used numerous de-escalation techniques, but [REDACTED] only became more agitated. FTO Jackson also said that she has taken numerous Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) courses, including special classes in dealing with mental health situations. She explained some of the de-escalation techniques she used, such as having different officers take turns speaking to [REDACTED] using time and distance, and offering [REDACTED] a cigarette and a bottle of water. FTO Jackson also said that she noticed [REDACTED] became agitated when [REDACTED] arrived on scene. She had another officer move [REDACTED] out of [REDACTED] view so he would not be agitated by her presence. FTO Jackson also stated that the officers on scene blocked traffic and re-routed CTA buses during morning rush hour to give [REDACTED] room to roam around. FTO Jackson explained that she decided to deploy her Taser because, based on her CIT training and 27 years of police experience, there was nothing else they could do. She said she did not know if [REDACTED] was an

⁴ Attachment 37

⁵ On June 28, 2018, Officer Jackson was working with Probationary Police Officer Brittne Jackson, #4476 (no relation).

offender, someone in need of mental health treatment, or both. As far as FTO Jackson was concerned, [REDACTED] was an active resister who was not following her verbal commands and could harm himself or others if he walked away. She said she used her professional decision to deploy her Taser and get [REDACTED] help.

b. Digital Evidence

Body-worn camera footage⁶ from numerous officers captured the incident. The footage shows essentially the same events as those described by FTO Jackson in her COPA statement. When FTO Jackson arrived on scene, there were already multiple officers present. [REDACTED] was highly agitated and acting aggressively. FTO Jackson approached [REDACTED] and spoke to him in a calm voice. She convinced [REDACTED] take a knife he had on his pants and toss it on the ground. Then, they conversed for about ten minutes before [REDACTED] became even more agitated. FTO Jackson asked him if he would be willing to go see a doctor, and [REDACTED] refused. FTO Jackson walked away to call for an ambulance and give a different officer the opportunity to speak with [REDACTED]. She then approached another officer on scene and asked him to move [REDACTED] down the street. As other officers attempted to de-escalate the situation with [REDACTED] FTO Jackson approached bystanders and obtained a cigarette for [REDACTED] as he requested. FTO Jackson offered [REDACTED] the cigarette, but he refused to take it. Another officer offered [REDACTED] a bottle of water, but he refused to take that, too. [REDACTED] walked back and forth and into the street. Officers directed traffic away from [REDACTED] to give him room to pace. [REDACTED] then picked up his bicycle and pushed it in the direction of some of the officers. The officers took the bicycle away from [REDACTED] but did not use any force or place him in handcuffs. Various officers took turns speaking to [REDACTED] in calm voices for another ten minutes. Then, as FTO Jackson detailed in her COPA statement, [REDACTED] moved toward an opening between two officers just before she deployed her Taser. [REDACTED] fell onto a grassy parkway and officers placed him in handcuffs. Throughout the handcuffing procedure, [REDACTED] cursed at the officers and repeatedly stated that he was going to sue.⁷ Once in handcuffs, the officers placed [REDACTED] onto a stretcher and paramedics transported him to Loretto Hospital.

c. Physical Evidence

The **Chicago Fire Department Ambulance Report**⁸ from Ambulance 23 reveals that when paramedics arrived on scene, [REDACTED] refused to get into the ambulance and was verbally aggressive. Paramedics heard [REDACTED] threaten the officers on scene by stating, "I'll end you if you touch me," and heard him repeatedly say, "You'll have to kill me to get me to go in that ambulance." The paramedics were on scene for 20 minutes before FTO Jackson deployed her Taser. They also noted that [REDACTED] was not injured by the Taser deployment.

d. Documentary Evidence

⁶ Attachments 21 and 22

⁷ [REDACTED] also complained that the officers choked him while they were placing him in handcuffs. The body-worn camera footage definitively proves that the officers did not choke [REDACTED]. As such, it is not necessary for them to address this allegation in any way.

⁸ Attachment 32

The **Original Case Incident Report**⁹ provides essentially the same account of events as ██████████ and FTO Jackson. FTO Jackson's **Tactical Response Report**¹⁰ states that FTO Jackson deployed her Taser at ██████████ because he resisted attempts to place him in handcuffs and was attempting to flee.

FTO Jackson's **Taser Download Report**¹¹ indicates that she deployed her Taser once at 7:58 a.m.

OEMC Event Query 1817903120¹² documented that ██████████ called 911 at 7:16 a.m. and reported that her cousin was trying to attack her with an ice pick.

VI. ANALYSIS

COPA recommends a finding of **EXONERATED** for Allegation 1 against FTO Jackson.

Whether FTO Jackson deployed her Taser at ██████████ is not in question. Rather, it is a matter of whether FTO Jackson's Taser deployment was an appropriate use of force considering all relevant evidence. CPD Policy dictates that an officer may deploy a Taser against active resisters and assailants.¹³ CPD defines an active resister as, "a person who attempts to create distance between himself or herself and the member's reach with the intent to avoid physical control and/or defeat the arrest,"¹⁴ while assailants are defined as, "a subject who is using or threatening the use of force against another person or himself/herself which is likely to cause physical injury."¹⁵ Additionally, CPD's Use of Force Policy specifies that, "members will continually assess situations and...determine the authorized force option based on the totality of the circumstances."¹⁶ Moreover, CPD policy requires that officers responding to incidents involving persons in need of mental health treatment will, "use every possible means to verbally de-escalate the situation before resorting to the use of equipment, physical restraints, or other use of force options..."¹⁷

When weighing the totality of the circumstances, FTO Jackson's Taser deployment was a permissible and appropriate use of force under CPD policy. The officers on scene, and in particular FTO Jackson, employed numerous de-escalation techniques in a creditable attempt to place ██████████ in handcuffs and obtain mental health treatment without using force. Despite their best efforts, ██████████ refused to cooperate with the officers. Indeed, the body-worn camera footage shows that ██████████ seemed to become more agitated as time progressed. Further, ██████████ actively resisted the officers by refusing to comply and attempting to leave the scene. CPD Policy

⁹ Attachments 4 and 5

¹⁰ Attachment 6

¹¹ Attachment 27

¹² Attachment 7

¹³ General Order G-03-02-02-IV-B-2-c-4 and General Order G-03-02-04-II-C

¹⁴ General Order G-03-02-01-IV-B-2

¹⁵ General Order G-03-02-01-IV-C

¹⁶ General Order G-03-02-01-II-F-2

¹⁷ Special Order S-04-20-VI-G-12

permits officers to deploy their Tasers at active resisters and assailants.¹⁸ Finally, the officers used every possible means they had at their disposal on scene to de-escalate the situation with [REDACTED] before FTO Jackson resorted to using force, as required by CPD policy. Considering the totality of the circumstances, FTO Jackson’s use of force was within policy, and Allegation 1 is **EXONERATED**.

VII. CONCLUSION

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

Officer	Allegation	Finding
FTO Carla Jackson	1. It is alleged that on or about June 28, 2018, at approximately 7:55 a.m., at or near 4650 W. Harrison Street, FTO Carla Jackson deployed her Taser at [REDACTED] in violation of Rules 8 and 9.	Exonerated

Approved:

[REDACTED]

Angela Hearts-Glass
Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

9-6-18
Date

¹⁸ General Order G-03-02-02-IV-B-2-c-4 and General Order G-03-02-04-II-C

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad:	9
Investigator:	Jessica Ciacco
Supervising Investigator:	Shannon Hayes
Deputy Chief Administrator:	Angela Hearts-Glass