

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident:	May 19, 2017
Time of Incident:	3:04 AM
Location of Incident:	The Hangge Uppe, 14 W. Elm St.
Date of COPA Notification:	May 26, 2017
Time of COPA Notification:	12:41 PM

On May 19, 2017, the complainant, [REDACTED] was at a bar with his brother, [REDACTED] and his cousins, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] relatives had an altercation with bar staff and police responded. [REDACTED] alleged that responding officers used unnecessary force. COPA also brought an allegation against Sergeant Kane for making comments unbecoming of a Chicago Police Officer. COPA’s findings are discussed in the Analysis portion of this report.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Officer #1:	Ronni Kane, Star #1418, Employee ID # [REDACTED] Date of Appointment: January 26, 2004, Sergeant, 5 th District, Date of Birth: [REDACTED], 1975, Female, White ²
Involved Officer #2:	Tim Piotrowski, Star #12164, Employee ID # [REDACTED] Date of Appointment: September 11, 2000, Police Officer, 18 th District, Date of Birth: [REDACTED], 1974, Male, White
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] Date of Birth: [REDACTED], 1986, Male, Black
Involved Individual #2:	[REDACTED] Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1990, Male, Black

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding/ 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.

² Sergeant Kane was a police officer on May 19, 2017, the date of [REDACTED] allegations.

Sergeant Kane	<p>1. Used the phrase “ghetto rats,” in violation of Rule 2 and Rule 6.</p> <p>2. Called the area around 117th and State, “the middle of shit, like the worst shit, like Englewood looks good compared to this shit,” in violation of Rule 2 and Rule 6.</p>	Sustained
Officer Piotrowski	1. Pushed ██████████ without justification, in violation of Rule 6 and Rule 9.	Unfounded

IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS

Rules

1. **Rule 2:** Prohibits any action or conduct which impedes the Department’s efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.
2. **Rule 6:** Prohibits disobedience of an order or directive, whether written or oral.
3. **Rule 9:** Prohibits engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.

General Orders

1. **G02-01:** Human Rights and Human Resources.³
2. **G03-02:** Use of Force Guidelines.⁴
3. **G03-02-02:** Force Options.⁵

V. INVESTIGATION⁶

a. Interviews

COPA interviewed the complainant, ██████████ on March 21, 2019.⁷ On May 19, 2017, he was leaving The Hangge Uppe, when his brother, ██████████ and cousin, ██████████

³ The Human Rights and Human Resources policy referenced in this report was effective from July 4, 1992 until October 5, 2017 (Att. 34).

⁴ The Use of Force Guidelines policy referenced in this reported was effective from October 1, 2002 until October 16, 2017 (Att. 35).

⁵ The Force Options policy referenced in this report was effective from January 1, 2016 until October 16, 2017 (Att. 36).

⁶ COPA conducted a thorough and complete investigation. The following is a summary of the material evidence gathered and relied upon in our analysis.

⁷ Att. 6

██████████ had a physical fight with the club's bouncers. ██████████ cousin, ██████████ was also present. Police responded and two white, female officers (identified by COPA as Sergeant Kane and Officer Nora Barry) "bum rushed [██████████] and pushed [him] on the ground, then threatened to arrest [██████████] if he did not get up off the ground."⁸ ██████████ elaborated that one officer chest-bumped him and he fell. Both female officers also told ██████████ to stand up or he would be arrested. Additional officers were also present, aside from the two female officers who pushed him. ██████████ recalled that the officers "detained [his] brother [...] for a little while and [...] just let him go."⁹ ██████████ also stated that the officers were disrespectful.

COPA interviewed **Sergeant Ronni Kane** on May 10, 2019.¹⁰ On May 19, 2017, Sergeant Kane was a police officer in the 18th District and assigned to the entertainment detail. Sergeant Kane elaborated that this included "maintaining calls for service within the bar districts."¹¹ Sergeant Kane did not recall ██████████ aside from watching her Body Worn Camera (BWC) footage and did not know who ██████████ was. Sergeant Kane related that, per BWC, she was at the Hangge Uppee and gave ██████████ a citation, but she did not independently recall this incident. Sergeant Kane did not recall ██████████ falling to the ground, nor did she know why he fell. Sergeant Kane did not recall seeing Officer Piotrowski pushing anyone, or physically engage anyone.

Sergeant Kane did not remember saying "ghetto rats" or calling the area around 117th and State, "the middle of shit, like the worst shit, like Englewood looks good compared to this shit." After watching the relevant portion of Officer Barry's BWC, Sergeant Kane acknowledged she made these comments. After conferring with her attorney, Sergeant Kane related that believed she made these comments only to Department members and out of civilian earshot. Sergeant Kane did not believe she made these comments, "to be derogatory towards any citizens that were there on the street or anybody involved in this incident."¹² Sergeant Kane did not remember who she referred to as "ghetto rats." Sergeant Kane could not recall if any civilians were nearby when she made these comments. Per Sergeant Kane, she was near the entrance of the Hangge Uppee, which closes around 3:00 AM – 4:00 AM. Sergeant Kane stated she may have been frustrated and understood that the language was unprofessional and inappropriate. Sergeant Kane was apologetic and related that she took these allegations as a learning experience.

COPA interviewed **Officer Tim Piotrowski** on May 24, 2019.¹³ On May 19, 2017, Officer Piotrowski was working the bar detail in the 18th District. Officer Piotrowski did not independently recall the incident or ██████████ aside from watching his own and Officer Barry's BWC. Officer Piotrowski stated that based on BWC, ██████████ was shouting at the officers, so Officer Piotrowski "attempted to guide him back to the sidewalk cause [sic] he was in the middle of the street."¹⁴ Officer Piotrowski denied pushing or shoving ██████████ and denied that his guiding movement was forceful. Officer Piotrowski stated that ██████████ was ignoring officers'

⁸ Approximately 3:12 minute mark of Att. 6.

⁹ Approximately 7:18 minute mark of Att. 6.

¹⁰ Att. 24

¹¹ Approximately 6:02 minute mark of Att. 24.

¹² Approximately 14:21 minute mark of Att. 24.

¹³ Att. 29

¹⁴ Approximately 7:35 minute mark of Att. 29.

verbal commands to move to the sidewalk. Officer Piotrowski did not hear Sergeant Kane say, “ghetto rats,” nor did he recall hearing her say that. Officer Piotrowski did not recall Sergeant Kane calling the area around 117th and State, “the middle of shit, like the worst shit, like Englewood looks good compared to this shit.”

b. Digital Evidence

The following **Body Worn Camera** (BWC) footage was obtained pertaining to [REDACTED] allegations from May 19, 2017.^{15 16}

Sergeant Kane

Sergeant Kane’s BWC began for a third time at roughly 3:31 AM. Sergeant Kane approached [REDACTED] and his family members on the sidewalk outside the Hangge Uppee. Officers were telling [REDACTED] and his associates to leave. [REDACTED] was then seen making a phone call and voicing his displeasure. Sergeant Kane engaged with [REDACTED] but her BWC was obscured for some of the incident. When picture restored, Sergeant Kane was handcuffing [REDACTED]. Shortly after, [REDACTED] was heard yelling that an officer just assaulted him. At approximately 3:34 AM, Sergeant Kane put [REDACTED] in a squad car and wrote him a citation shortly after.

Officer Barry

Officer Barry’s BWC initiated at approximately 3:14 AM as she approached [REDACTED] and his family members outside the Hangge Uppee. [REDACTED] was seen and heard shouting. At about 3:33 AM, Officer Piotrowski yelled at [REDACTED] to leave then pushed [REDACTED] shortly after. Sergeant Kane and Officer Barry then went hands on, and it appeared all three Department members physically engaged [REDACTED] before escorting [REDACTED] to a squad car. At approximately 3:34 AM, Officer Barry told [REDACTED] to stand on the sidewalk. [REDACTED] responded that his leg was injured. Seconds later, Officer Piotrowski pushed [REDACTED] towards the sidewalk (see Photo 1 below). When Officer Piotrowski released his hand from [REDACTED] arm, [REDACTED] fell onto his bottom. Both officers shouted at [REDACTED] that he was being recorded and told him to get up.

Officer Barry later stood with Sergeant Kane, Officer Piotrowski and other Department members. At about 3:47 AM, the officers blamed the situation on the bar employees. Sergeant Kane called someone “ghetto rats.” Sergeant Kane then called the neighborhood where the bar owner lives, near 117th and State “the middle of shit, like the worst shit, like Englewood looks good compared to this shit.”

¹⁵ Att. 22

¹⁶ BWC from Officer Brezinski, Officer Cagadas, Officer Corral, Officer Rivera, Officer Rogus, Officer Rollins, Officer Zatora, and Officer Zodo recorded nothing of note, aside from redundant information contained in the following summaries.



Photo 1

Officer Piotrowski

Officer Piotrowski's BWC initiated at roughly 3:31 AM, as he arrived at The Hangge-
Uppe. At about 3:33 AM, Officer Piotrowski attempted to grab [REDACTED] Officer
Piotrowski's BWC then lost picture until the officers were seen handcuffing [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] was escorted into a police car at about 3:34 AM and Officer Piotrowski told him
he was going to jail for spitting on the bouncer. At about 3:34 AM, Officer Piotrowski and Officer
Barry told [REDACTED] to get out of the street. Seconds later, [REDACTED] asked for the officer's name.
Officer Piotrowski provided it as he pushed [REDACTED] towards the sidewalk. [REDACTED]
was then seen laying on the sidewalk.

c. Physical Evidence

No relevant physical evidence was obtained pertaining to the present investigation.

d. Documentary Evidence

[REDACTED] ANOV citation from this incident was obtained.¹⁷ Per this document,
[REDACTED] committed a disorderly offense by spitting on the complainant (believed to be a
bar employee). A default judgement was entered on July 11, 2017

The following relevant **Calls for Service** and **Office of Emergency Management and
Communications (OEMC) Events** were located.

- **Event Number 1713901357** initiated at approximately 3:04 AM with a report of two
people fighting without weapons at the Hangge Uppe night club."¹⁸ The event was
closed at roughly 3:08 AM.

¹⁷ Att. 23

¹⁸ Atts. 12, 13

- **Event Number 1713901409** initiated at roughly 3:12 AM.¹⁹ A caller related that “people who were removed for fighting staff are now back.” The event was closed at approximately 3:20 AM.
- **Event Number 1713901516** initiated at about 3:30 AM with a caller reporting three males returned to fight the bartender at the Hangge Uppe.²⁰ At about 3:35 PM, it was reported that a male was screaming “he was just shoved by an officer” but the male “refused to answer questions, just keeps screaming the location.” At approximately 3:28 AM, Beat 1884K (Sergeant Kane) ran [REDACTED] driver’s license. The event was closed at about 3:51 AM.
- **Event Numbers 1713901506, 1713901542, 1713901600, 1713901610, 1713901746, and 1713902083** were all initiated from phone calls made by [REDACTED] between roughly 3:29 AM and 5:36 AM.²¹ Per available information, [REDACTED] was calling to report that an officer shoved him. [REDACTED] was also looking for his brother, “who police took.”

VI. ANALYSIS

Allegations 1 and 2 against **Sergeant Kane**, that she used the phrase “ghetto rats,” and called the area around 117th and State, “the middle of shit, like the worst shit, like Englewood looks good compared to this shit,” are both **Sustained**. BWC shows Sergeant Kane making these statements and she acknowledged such. Per General Order G02-01, “Department members will act, speak and conduct themselves in a professional manner, recognizing their obligation to safeguard life and property, and maintain a courteous, professional attitude in all contacts with the public.” This policy also states, “Members will not exhibit a condescending attitude or direct any derogatory terms toward any person in any manner.” While Sergeant Kane believed she was only speaking to fellow Department members, she was outside the entrance of a night club at its closing time. Presumably, many people were leaving the club and could have heard her. Whether or not she was overheard, policy clearly prohibits derogatory terms from being directed “toward *any* person in *any* manner [emphasis added].” Comments like this can discredit the Department and cultivate public perception that Department members are disrespectful. Also, while not racially explicit, the comments could be perceived as biased against African Americans. Since Sergeant Kane’s comments may have been overheard by civilians, were discourteous and unprofessional, and could be seen as racially discriminatory, both allegations are Sustained.

Allegation 1 against **Officer Piotrowski**, that he pushed [REDACTED] without justification, is **Unfounded**. COPA believes that [REDACTED] did not fully recall the details of the incident because he only remembered Sergeant Kane’s and Officer Barry’s involvement, while BWC showed it was actually Officer Piotrowski (a male) involved in his fall. However, [REDACTED] told COPA that two female officers pushed him to the ground. Additionally, [REDACTED] was outside of a nightclub at about 3:30 AM, so it is reasonable to suspect he may have been intoxicated. BWC shows Officer Piotrowski did not use force, and he certainly did not “bum

¹⁹ Atts. 12, 14

²⁰ Atts. 12, 15

²¹ Atts. 16 - 21

rush” or “chest bump” as [REDACTED] alleged. Rather, it appears [REDACTED] stumbled on the curb and fell as Officer Piotrowski was guiding him backwards. While [REDACTED] may have perceived this to be push, his memory appears to be faulty and BWC shows no unreasonable force was used. At the very least, [REDACTED] refused multiple verbal commands to step back onto the curb and off the street and was clearly noncompliant. Officer Piotrowski attempted to move [REDACTED] back on the sidewalk when he fell. Any force that was used was minimal, in an attempt to herd a passive resister and within policy. Therefore, this allegation is Unfounded.

VII. RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE FOR SUSTAINED ALLEGATIONS

a. Sergeant Ronni Kane

i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History

Sergeant Kane has received six (6) DEPARTMENT COMMENDATIONS, one (1) SUPERINTENDENT'S HONORABLE MENTION, one (1) RECOGNITION / OUTSIDE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY AWARD, sixty nine (69) HONORABLE MENTION, one (1) LIFE SAVING AWARD, one (1) HONORABLE MENTION RIBBON AWARD, and one (1) ANNUAL BUREAU AWARD OF RECOGNITION. Sergeant Kane has no publishable disciplinary history.

ii. Recommended Penalty, by Allegation

1. **Allegation No. 1:** Used the phrase “ghetto rats.”
2. **Allegation No. 2:** Called the area around 117th and State, “the middle of shit, like the worst shit, like Englewood looks good compared to this shit.”

As articulated above, the type of speech uttered in the instant case has severely detrimental effects on the community, the department and even Sergeant Kane’s partners that night. It was unprofessional and unnecessary. Sergeant Kane took responsibility for her conduct and apologized for the comments. As such, COPA recommends a penalty of a reprimand and procedural justice training from an outside agency.

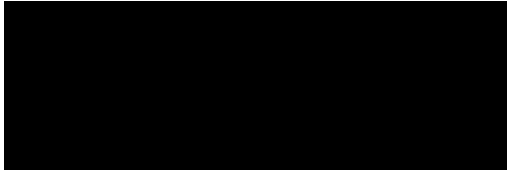
VIII. CONCLUSION

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

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Sergeant Kane	1. Used the phrase “ghetto rats,” in violation of Rule 2 and Rule 6.	Sustained/Reprimand
	2. Called the area around 117 th and State, “the middle of shit, like the worst shit, like Englewood	Sustained/Reprimand

	looks good compared to this shit,” in violation of Rule 2 and Rule 6.	
Officer Piotrowski	1. Pushed [REDACTED] without justification, in violation of Rule 6 and Rule 9.	Unfounded

Approved:



June 28, 2019

Andrea Kersten
Chief Administrator

Date

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad#:	Four
Investigator:	Kelsey Fitzpatrick, #61
Supervising Investigator:	James Murphy-Aguilu, #19
Deputy Chief Administrator:	Andrea Kersten