SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident:	May 1, 2018
Time of Incident:	5:33 p.m.
Location of Incident:	5600 W Fullerton Avenue
Date of COPA Notification:	May 3, 2018
Time of COPA Notification:	6:34 p.m.

On May 1, 2018, officers stopped and friends.

alleged Officer Sean Deenihan ("Officer Deenihan") stopped without justification and used excessive force when he took to the ground.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Officer #1:	Sean Deenihan, star #7843, employee ID
	Date of Appointment: October 10, 2000, PO, Unit 025,
	DOB: , 1975, Male, White
Involved Officer #2:	Christopher Walberg, star #8607, employee ID
	Date of Appointment: August 29, 2016, PO, Unit 025,
	DOB: , 1982, Male, White
Involved Officer #3:	Lenny Pierri, star #10956, employee ID
	Date of Appointment: February 17, 1998, PO, Unit 025,
	DOB: , 1973, Male, White
Involved Individual #1:	DOB: , 1999, Male, Hispanic

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Officer Sean Deenihan	It is alleged that on May 1, 2018, in the vicinity of 2759 N Central Avenue, at approximately 5:15 p.m., you: 1. took to the ground without justification, in violation of Rule 8, 9; 2.failed to record the incident in its entirety on body worn camera, in violation of Rule 6; and	Exonerated Sustained

¹ and and are the same individual. Allegations were served prior to COPA investigators discovering the proper spelling.

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	3.improperly completed the Investigatory Stop Report, in violation of Rule 6, 10.	Exonerated
Officer Christopher Walberg	It is alleged that on May 1, 2018, in the vicinity of 2759 N Central Avenue, at approximately 5:15 p.m., you: 1.failed to record the incident in its entirety on body worn camera, in violation of Rule 6; and 2.improperly completed the Investigatory Stop Report, in violation of Rule 6, 10.	Sustained Unfounded
Officer Lenny Pierri	It is alleged that on May 1, 2018, in the vicinity of 2759 North Central Avenue, at approximately 5:15 p.m., you misidentified	Not Sustained

IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS

Rules

- 1. Rule 1: Violation of any law or ordinance.
- 2. Rule 6: Disobedience of an order or directive, whether written or oral.
- 3. Rule 8: Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty.
- 4. Rule 9: Engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person.
- 5. Rule 10: Inattention to duty.

General Orders

- 1. G02-02 The First Amendment and Police Actions
- 2. G03-02 Use of Force
- 3. G03-02-01 Force Options

Special Orders

- 1. S04-13-09 Investigatory Stop System
- 2. S03-14 Body Worn Cameras

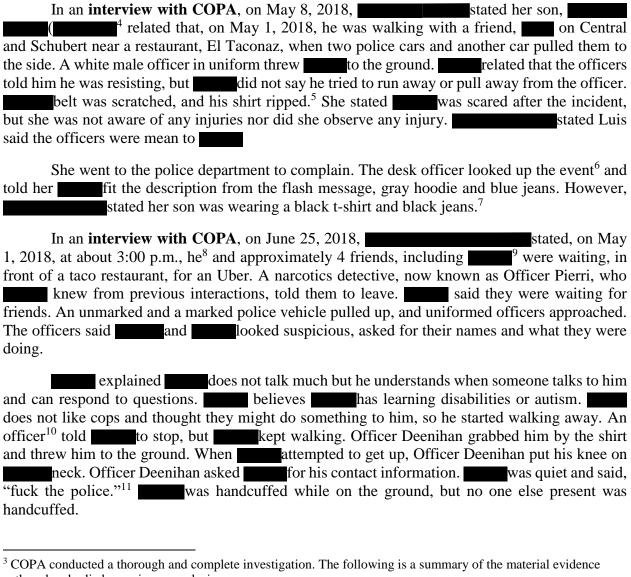
Federal Laws

United States Constitution, Amendment IV: Prohibits search and seizure without probable cause.²

² "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

V. INVESTIGATION³

a. Interviews



gathered and relied upon in our analysis.

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explained is 18 but has multiple disabilities and cannot carry a conversation.

brought shirt with her to the interview, and COPA investigator described the shirt, on record, as a black polo t-shirt with an emblem, ripped around the collar/neck area and approximately a quarter of the way down the back. was asked to send a photograph of the shirt, but stated she could no longer find the shirt. See Attachment 49.

had the Stop Receipt, which COPA investigator read into the record: Completed by: Officer Deenihan, #7843; Reason for Stop: fits description contained in flash message and in close proximity to the location of where a reported crime occurred.

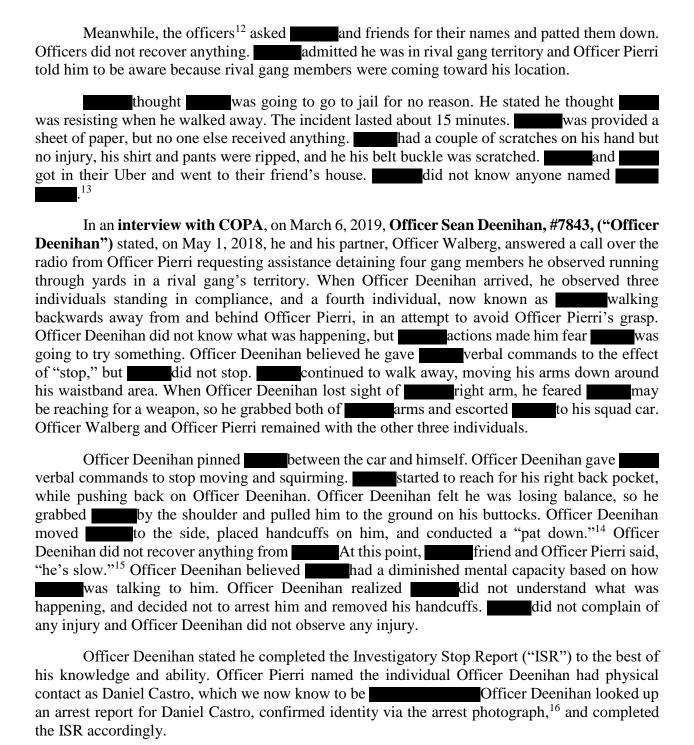
⁷ Attachment 8.

described what he was wearing that day as light skinny jeans, ripped at both knees and a red champion shirt.

said his friend was wearing a red shirt with blue and gold diamond wings in the back.

described the officer as tall and bald. The officer is now known as Officer Deenihan.

¹¹ Attachment 18 at 9:11-9:13.



Officer Deenihan stated he activated his Body Worn Camera after he performed an emergency takedown and handcuffed Officer Deenihan believed the cameras were fairly

indicated there were approximately 5 officers, including three white male officers.

¹³ Attachments 18,19.

¹⁴ Placed his hands against the body where a weapon might be. Attachment 46, page 22 lines 6-9.

¹⁵ Attachment 46, page 17 line 22-24.

¹⁶ See Attachment 44, Exhibit 1.

new for him, and he was more concerned with reaching Officer Pierri to provide assistance than turning on his camera.¹⁷

In an **interview with COPA**, on March 7, 2019, **Officer Christopher Walberg**, #8607, ("Officer Walberg") provided a statement consistent with Officer Deenihan's. Officer Walberg stated, while standing near Officer Pierri, he could hear Officer Deenihan provide unknown verbal commands to Officer Walberg did not see what actions took prior to the takedown and only saw a portion of the takedown, where it appeared Officer Deenihan was holding down and landed on his buttocks. Officer Walberg believed was in handcuffs before he was taken to the ground. Officer Walberg assisted Officer Deenihan pat down pockets to confirm he did not have any weapons. Nothing was recovered.

Officer Walberg stated he did not complete the ISR. Officer Deenihan did. Officer Walberg did not know where Officer Deenihan got the name Daniel Castro, but believed the name came from Officer Deenihan's conversation with the individual he took down. Officer Walberg was shown a photograph of Daniel Castro, to which Officer Walberg stated it looks like the individual Officer Deenihan interacted with. Officer Walberg explained that he activated his Body Worn Camera as soon as feasible. He was focused on assisting Officer Pierri and turned on his camera when he realized it was not on.¹⁸

In an **interview with COPA**, on March 20, 2019, **Officer Lenny Pierri**, #10956, ("Officer Pierri"), a gang intelligence officer, stated, on May 1, 2018, he stopped four individuals, ¹⁹ who were known members of the Imperial Gangsters, to let them know they were walking in rival gang territory and they should be careful to avoid being shot or killed. ²⁰ Officer Pierri, who was working alone, called for assistance. A second car with uniformed officers²¹ arrived. Officer Pierri was talking to the individuals without issue, but was acting "real weird, real nervous," ²² with his hand by his side and walking behind officer Pierri did not know if had a gun or if Officers Deenihan and Walberg felt the same. Officers Deenihan and Walberg spoke with and performed a protective pat down. Officer Pierri did not see Officers Deenihan and Walberg's interaction with because they were behind him, near their squad car. Officer Pierri related to Officers Deenihan and Walberg that had some type of mental deficiency, after related the same to him.

Officer Pierri recognized but did not know his name. Officer Pierri explained the same about and indicated that he has a file containing most active gang members. Officer Pierri thought Officers Deenihan and Walberg asked him who was, but he did not know. Officer Pierri denied providing the name "to Officer Deenihan. Officer Pierri told"

¹⁷ Attachments 26, 46.

¹⁸ Attachments 34, 35, 47.

¹⁹ Now known to include and

²⁰ Officer Pierri stated he observed an individual known as a shooter for the rival gang near the individuals.

²¹ Now known as Officers Deenihan and Walberg.

²² Attachment 48, page 13 lines 11-12.

Officer Deenihan the individuals were members of Imperial Gangsters, and he could use a police database²³ to identify an individual by photograph.²⁴

b. Digital Evidence

In-car camera video from Beat 2511, showed a group of 3-4 young men at the corner of a street where this incident occurred, but did not capture this incident.²⁵

Body Worn Camera ("BWC") obtained from Officers Deenihan and Walberg started recording after a male individual, now known as was on the ground in handcuffs. Officer Deenihan asks "why were you reaching?" responds, "I was reaching for nothing, bro. Can I get up, sir?" Officer Deenihan allows to stand up. Officer Deenihan orders him to stay and not push back again. denied pushing back and says, "you pulled me down. Officers ask for identification. He does not provide a license or his name.
Officers explain they will provide with a receipt to document the interaction. denies doing anything. At this time Officer Pierri can be seen near an unmarked police vehicle talking to three male individuals. Officer Pierri tells the individuals they are free to leave. Officer Pierri approaches asking, "why you tweaking?" responds that Officer Deenihan was tweaking and used expletives. Officer Pierri asks, you do not have any contraband, why were you "twisting and twisting and twisting. You can't do that." Then, Officer Pierri explains the situation, where he saw two individuals with their hoodies up, checking and his friends out, and he did not know if there was going to be a confrontation. Officer Deenihan removes the handcuffs, and walks away.
Officer Deenihan walks over to speak to an officer, wearing a white uniform shirt, sitting inside a marked police vehicle explaining that he had to take down because he was squirming and pulling away from Officer Pierri. Officer Deenihan stated he was not arresting because it was minimal force used and he realized that was "not all there." 31,32
c. Documentary Evidence
Investigatory Stop Report ("ISR"), #ISR000512503, documented that Officer Pierri observed a known gang member, with three individuals in rival gang area. On approach for a field interview, Officer Pierri observed Joseph Cano, a rival gang member, dressed in a gray hoodie watching Officer Pierri stopped and spoke to friends explaining it may be a good idea for them to leave the area. 33
²³ COPA searched the database for and Castro with negative results. Attachment 49.

²⁴ Attachments 43, 44, 48.

²⁵ Attachment 36.

²⁶ Attachment 37 at 0:31-0:33.

²⁷ *Id.* at 0:45-0:48.

²⁸ Attachment 38 at 3:17.

²⁹ *Id.* at 3:22-3:24.

³⁰ Attachment 37.
31 Attachment 37 at 5:30-6:12.
32 Attachments 37,38.

³³ Attachment 13.

Investigatory Stop Report ("ISR"), #ISR000512506, documented that Officers Deenihan and Walberg responded to Officer Pierri's call for assistance with four known Imperial Gangster gang members, who fled when Officer Pierri attempted a field interview. Officer Deenihan and Walberg toured the area with Officer Pierri. Officer Pierri observed the individuals and approached. Officer Deenihan observed Daniel Castro ("Castro")³⁴ turn and back away from Officer Pierri. When Castro moved his right arm behind his body, Officer Deenihan, out of fear he may have a weapon, detained Castro and escorted him to the patrol car. Officer Deenihan performed a protective pat down, Castro reached toward his back pocket/waistband, and Officer Deenihan ordered him to "cease these actions."³⁵ Castro continued to reach and pushed into Officer Deenihan's body. Officer Deenihan, "in fear of being knocked off balance, performed an emergency takedown. After the takedown, Officer Deenihan completed a pat down, recovering nothing. Castro was not injured and did not complain of pain or injury. Upon further investigation Officer Deenihan learned Castro had a diminished mental capacity, and no arrest was made. ³⁶

Office of Emergency Management and Communications ("OEMC") Event Query #18182112827 documented Beat 2506D assisted by Beat 2521 for a traffic stop, and the officers changed locations, providing the following details: "wb south alley," "gry hoodyt," "blu jeans all blk," "whi shurt blu jeans, "towards central." The event cleared noting "3 ISR C/NO" before arriving on scene, approximately 2 minutes later.³⁷

VI. LEGAL STANDARD

For each Allegation COPA must make one of the following findings:

- 1. Sustained where it is determined the allegation is supported by a preponderance of the evidence;
- 2. <u>Not Sustained</u> where it is determined there is insufficient evidence to prove the allegations by a preponderance of the evidence;
- 3. <u>Unfounded</u> where it is determined by clear and convincing evidence that an allegation is false or not factual; or
- 4. <u>Exonerated</u> where it is determined by clear and convincing evidence that the conduct described in the allegation occurred, but it is lawful and proper.

A **preponderance of evidence** can be described as evidence indicating that it is **more likely than not** that the conduct occurred and violated Department policy. *See Avery v. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co.*, 216 Ill. 2d 100, 191 (2005), (a proposition is proved by a preponderance of the evidence when it has found to be more probably true than not). If the evidence gathered in an investigation establishes that it is more likely that the misconduct occurred, even if by a narrow margin, then the preponderance of the evidence standard is met.

³⁴ Now known as

³⁵ Attachment 12 at page 2.

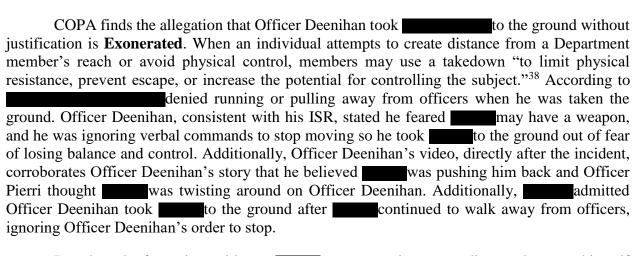
³⁶ Attachment 12.

³⁷ Attachment 15.

Clear and convincing evidence is a higher standard than a preponderance of the evidence but lower than the "beyond-a-reasonable doubt" standard required to convict a person of a criminal offense. See *e.g.*, *People v. Coan*, 2016 IL App (2d) 151036 (2016). Clear and Convincing can be defined as a "degree of proof, which, considering all the evidence in the case, produces the firm and abiding belief that it is highly probable that the proposition . . . is true." *Id.* at ¶ 28.

VII. ANALYSIS

a. Officer Sean Deenihan



Based on the foregoing evidence, was attempting create distance between himself and Officer Deenihan, and it was within CPD policy for Officer Deenihan to take him to the ground. Therefore, this allegation is **Exonerated**.

ii. Allegation 2: Failed to record the incident in its entirety on body worn camera

i. Allegation 1: Took to the ground without justification

COPA finds the allegation that Officer Deenihan failed to record the incident in its entirety on body worn camera is **Sustained**. An officer will start recording, on BWC, "at the beginning of an incident and will record the entire incident for all law-enforcement-related activities, including traffic stops and investigatory stops. If circumstances prevent activating the BWC at the beginning of the incident, the member will activate the BWC as soon as practical." Officer Deenihan and Officer Walberg activated their cameras at approximately the same time, which was after officers had contact with was on the ground and handcuffed. Officers Deenihan and Walberg stated they activated their cameras as soon as possible, but they were more focused on assisting Officer Pierri with the individuals he had stopped. Officers Deenihan and Walberg indicated they believed the individuals could have weapons based on their behavior of running through residential yards. Department Reports and Officer accounts indicated Officers Deenihan and Walberg knew

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³⁸ General Order G03-02-01, Force Options, IV.B.2.c.(3).

³⁹ Special Order S03-14 III.A.2.

Officer Pierri needed assistance with multiple known gang members, and they drove for approximately two minutes before arriving on scene.

Considering, Officer Deenihan and Walberg knew they were going to assist Officer Pierri with a traffic stop, investigatory stop, they suspected the individuals may have weapons, and they had sufficient time in the car before arriving on scene to activate their cameras, there is no justification for why Officers Deenihan and Walberg did not activate their cameras before initiating contact with Therefore, this allegation is **Sustained.**

iii. Allegation 3: Improperly completed the Investigatory Stop Report

COPA finds the allegation that Officer Deenihan improperly completed the Investigatory Stop Report is **Not Sustained**. The Investigatory Stop Report, which Officer Deenihan admitted he completed, documented the interaction between officers and but the name listed on the report was Daniel Castro. Officer Deenihan stated he received Castro's name from Officer Pierri, and believed he used a prior arrest report photograph to confirm the individual he was interacting with was Castro. Officer Pierri denies providing Officer Deenihan with Castro's name, but states he may have directed him to search a police database. Neither for Castro appear in that police database. Officer Pierri, Officer Deenihan and Officer Walberg deny knowing Castro.

While it is clear Officer Deenihan inaccurately reported Castro as the individual involved in this incident, there is insufficient evidence to determine how Officer Deenihan acquired Castro's name. COPA finds Officer Deenihan and Officer Pierri equally credible, and Castro's arrest photograph from that day could reasonably be mistaken to be Therefore, this allegation is **Not Sustained**.

b. Officer Christopher Walberg

i. Allegation 1: Failed to record the incident in its entirety on body worn camera

As discussed above, Officer Walberg admitted he did not activate his camera before his interaction with and the other individuals, and it was reasonable and practical for Officer Walberg to do so. Therefore, this allegation is **Sustained**.

ii. Allegation 2: Improperly completed the Investigatory Stop Report

COPA finds the allegation that Officer Walberg improperly completed the Investigatory Stop Report is **Unfounded**. Officer Deenihan and Officer Walberg stated Officer Walberg did not complete the Investigatory Stop Report. Officer Deenihan wrote the reports. Therefore, this allegation is **Unfounded**.

c. Officer Lenny Pierri

i. Allegation 1: Misidentified

As discussed above, there is insufficient evidence to determine whether Officer Pierri provided Castro's name to Officer Deenihan to complete his report for this incident. Therefore, this allegation is **Not Sustained**.

VIII. RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE FOR SUSTAINED ALLEGATIONS⁴⁰

a. Officer Sean Deenihan

Officer Deenihan's complimentary, disciplinary and training history were considered when recommending discipline in the matter. Officer Deenihan does not have a history of discipline. Office Deenihan acknowledged the he did not capture this entire event on his Body Worn Camera.

Therefore, COPA recommends that Officer Deenihan be retrained on the use of Body Worn Cameras to ensure compliance with compliance with Special Order S03-14. It is also recommended that Officer Deenihan receive discipline of violation-noted.

b. Officer Christopher Walberg

Officer Walberg's complimentary, disciplinary and training history were considered when recommending discipline in the matter. Officer Walberg received a Reprimand July 31, 2019 for a Back In Service Violation. Office Walberg acknowledged the he did not capture this entire event on his Body Worn Camera.

Therefore, COPA recommends that Officer Walberg be retrained on the use of Body Worn Cameras to ensure compliance with Special Order S03-14. It is also recommended that Officer Walberg receive discipline of violation-noted.

IX. CONCLUSION

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

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Officer Sean Deenihan	It is alleged that on May 1, 2018, in the vicinity of 2759 N Central Avenue, at approximately 5:15 p.m., you: 1. took to the ground without justification, in violation of Rule 8, 9;	Exonerated

⁴⁰ Only include this section for investigations with at least one sustained allegation.

⁴¹ and and are the same individual. Allegations were served prior to COPA investigators discovering the proper spelling.

	2. failed to record the incident in its	Sustained
	entirety on body worn camera, in	
	violation of Rule 6; and	
	3. improperly completed the Investigatory	Not Sustained
	Stop Report, in violation of Rule 6, 10.	
Officer Christopher Walberg	It is alleged that on May 1, 2018, in the	
	vicinity of 2759 N Central Avenue, at	
	approximately 5:15 p.m., you:	
	1. failed to record the incident in its	Sustained
	entirety on body worn camera, in	
	violation of Rule 6; and	
	2. improperly completed the Investigatory	Unfounded
	Stop Report, in violation of Rule 6, 10.	
Officer Lenny Pierri	It is alleged that on May 1, 2018, in the	Not Sustained
	vicinity of 2759 North Central Avenue, at	
	approximately 5:15 p.m., you	
	misidentified	

Approved:

	September 27, 2019
Andrea Kersten Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator	Date

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad#:SixInvestigator:Elizabeth BrettSupervising Investigator:Elaine TarverDeputy Chief Administrator:Andrea Kersten