



Log # 2022-5379

## FINAL SUMMARY REPORT<sup>1</sup>

### I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On December 21, 2022, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) received a telephone complaint from [REDACTED] reporting alleged misconduct by members of the Chicago Police Department (CPD). [REDACTED] alleged that on December 18, 2022, Officer Lauren Holt detained and patted down [REDACTED] without justification.<sup>2</sup> Additionally [REDACTED] alleged that Officer Holt failed to return [REDACTED] driver's license. Upon review of the evidence, COPA served additional allegations that Officer Lauren Holt failed to activate and/or deactivate her body-worn camera in a timely fashion and failed to complete an Investigatory Stop Report. [REDACTED] alleged that on December 18, 2022, Officer Ariel Williams detained and patted down [REDACTED] without justification.<sup>3</sup> Additionally [REDACTED] alleged that Officer Williams failed to provide her star number upon his request. Upon review of the evidence, COPA served additional allegations that Officer Ariel Williams failed to complete an Investigatory Stop Report.

Following its investigation, COPA reached sustained findings regarding the allegations of failing to complete an Investigatory Stop Report for both officers, failing to provide their star number for Officer Williams, and failing to activate and/or deactivate their body-worn camera in a timely manner for Officer Holt. Additionally, COPA reached a sustained finding regarding Officer Holt's failure to return [REDACTED] driver's license.

### II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE<sup>4</sup>

On December 18, 2022, Officers Lauren Holt and Ariel Williams approached a vehicle parked in a tow-zone near a McDonald's restaurant. Officer Holt approached the driver side of the vehicle and spoke with the driver, [REDACTED]. Officer Holt asked [REDACTED] for her ID. [REDACTED] handed Officer Holt her driver's license and then displayed her proof of insurance.

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix A includes case identifiers such as the date, time, and location of the incident, the involved parties and their demographics, and the applicable rules and policies.

<sup>2</sup> One or more of these allegations fall within COPA's jurisdiction pursuant to Chicago Municipal Code § 2-78-120. Therefore, COPA determined it would be the primary investigative agency in this matter.

<sup>3</sup> One or more of these allegations fall within COPA's jurisdiction pursuant to Chicago Municipal Code § 2-78-120. Therefore, COPA determined it would be the primary investigative agency in this matter.

<sup>4</sup> The following is a summary of what COPA finds most likely occurred during this incident. This summary utilized information from several different sources, including body-worn camera footage, civilian interviews, and officer interviews.

Officer Holt noted that [REDACTED] hands were shaking. Officer Holt then returned to her police vehicle to validate [REDACTED] driver's license.<sup>5</sup>

Officer Williams approached the front passenger side of the vehicle and spoke with the passenger, [REDACTED] pointed to McDonald's and stated that Grubhub canceled her order. He noted that they pulled over at this spot to check what was going on with the order.<sup>6</sup>

Officer Williams asked [REDACTED] "If we asked you out the car, we're not going to find anything?"<sup>7</sup> [REDACTED] responded by saying that they do not consent to a search. Officer Williams said that they do not need their consent to search and that they can ask them out of the car at any time.<sup>8</sup>

When Officer Holt returned to [REDACTED] vehicle, she told [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to exit their vehicle. Officer Holt indicated the reason she was asking [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] out of their vehicle was because of their "nervousness, the shaking about the hands, (and) heavy breathing."<sup>9</sup> Officer Holt noted that she can ask anybody out of their vehicle for any reason. Then, Officer Holt and [REDACTED] had a brief discussion about case law.<sup>10</sup>

[REDACTED] exited the vehicle and Officer Holt conducted a pat-down of [REDACTED] Officer Holt said that [REDACTED] was being temporarily detained and not being arrested. Officer Holt handcuffed [REDACTED] and led her behind her vehicle.<sup>11</sup>

[REDACTED] exited the vehicle and Officer Williams conducted a pat-down of [REDACTED] Officer Williams said that [REDACTED] was being temporarily detained for officer safety and not being arrested. Officer Williams handcuffed [REDACTED] and led him to behind the vehicle. [REDACTED] asked Officer Williams for her badge number. She said that he can have her badge number but did not provide it.<sup>12</sup>

Officer Williams said that she was going to write a citation for their parking their car fifteen inches away from the curb. She indicated that the vehicle was in a tow zone and that it can be towed.<sup>13</sup>

Officer Williams then took [REDACTED] wallet from [REDACTED] back pocket. She pulled out his ID. Officer Williams then returned to her police vehicle and looked up Mr. [REDACTED] information on her PCAD. Officer Williams then walked back to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and returned [REDACTED] ID.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Att. 1 at 1:50-3:20

<sup>6</sup> Att. 2 at 2:00-2:30

<sup>7</sup> Att 2 at 2:50-3:04

<sup>8</sup> Att. 2 at 3:04-3:12

<sup>9</sup> Att. 1 at 4:20-4:27

<sup>10</sup> Att. 1 at 4:14-5:00

<sup>11</sup> Att. 1 at 5:25-5:51

<sup>12</sup> Att. 2 at 5:35-6:05

<sup>13</sup> Att. 2 at 6:10-6:25

<sup>14</sup> Att. 2 at 6:35-7:56

Officer Williams removed [REDACTED] handcuffs and Officer Holt removed [REDACTED] handcuffs. Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were free to leave the scene. Both officers then walked to their police vehicle and deactivated their body-worn cameras.<sup>15</sup>

### III. ALLEGATIONS

#### Officer Lauren Holt:

1. Detaining [REDACTED] without justification.
  - Exonerated
2. Patting down [REDACTED] without justification.
  - Exonerated
3. Failing to return [REDACTED] driver's license.
  - Sustained, Violation of Rules 3 & 10
4. Failing to activate and/or deactivate their body-worn camera in a timely manner, in violation of Special Order S03-14.
  - Sustained, Violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6 and Special Order S03-14
5. Failing to complete an ISR in violation of Special Order S04-13-09
  - Sustained, Violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6 and Special Order S04-13-09

#### Officer Ariel Williams:

6. Detaining [REDACTED] without justification.
  - Exonerated
7. Patting down [REDACTED] without justification.
  - Exonerated
8. Failing to identify themselves when requested by [REDACTED] in violation of Rule 37.
  - Sustained, Violation of Rules 2, 5, 37
9. Failing to complete an ISR, in violation of Special Order S04-13-09.
  - Sustained, Violation of Rules 2, 3, 5, 6 and Special Order S04-13-09

### IV. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

This investigation did not reveal any evidence that caused COPA to question the credibility of any of the individuals (sworn or unsworn) who provided statements.

### V. ANALYSIS<sup>16</sup>

#### a. Detention allegations

COPA finds the allegation that Officers Holt and Williams stopped [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in their vehicle without justification is **exonerated**. CPD members are authorized to conduct

<sup>15</sup> Att. 2 at 8:15-8:49 and Att. 1 at 8:10-8:25

<sup>16</sup> For a definition of COPA's findings and standards of proof, *see* Appendix B.

investigatory stops when they have reasonable articulable suspicion that the person stopped is committing, is about the commit, or has committed a criminal offense.<sup>17</sup> Reasonable articulable suspicion has been described as less than probable cause but more than a hunch or general suspicion. It “depends on the totality of the circumstances which the sworn member observes and the reasonable inferences that are drawn based on the sworn member’s training and experiences.”<sup>18</sup>

In this case, the officers observed the vehicle occupied by ██████████ and ██████████ in a tow-zone.<sup>19</sup> Officer Holt indicated that both ██████████ and Holt both exhibited “nervousness, shaking about the hands, (and) heavy breathing.”<sup>20</sup> For this reason, COPA finds there is clear and convincing evidence the officers had reasonable articulable suspicion to detain ██████████ and ██████████ long enough to confirm or dispel their suspicions, and these allegations against them are exonerated.

#### **b. Search allegations**

COPA finds the allegation that Officer Holt patted down ██████████ without justification is **exonerated**. CPD members have authority to perform a Protective Pat Down during a detention when they develop additional Reasonable Articulable Suspicion that the subject is armed and dangerous.<sup>21</sup> Officer Holt stated that ██████████ jacket “was protruding” and that she conducted a pat down to make “sure everything was fine.”<sup>22</sup> Officer Williams stated that she saw a “bulge” on ██████████ and that is why she did a pat down on ██████████<sup>23</sup> COPA finds that Officer Holt provided a suitable justification for this pat down search, and this allegation is exonerated.

#### **c. Failing to return ██████████ driver’s license allegation**

COPA finds the allegation that Officer Holt failed to return ██████████ driver’s license is **sustained**. Officer Holt’s body-worn camera footage depicts her taking ██████████ driver’s license, keeping it in her possession to review information on the PCAD, and eventually releasing ██████████ from handcuffs and permitting ██████████ and ██████████ to leave. The body-worn camera footage does not depict Officer Holt returning ██████████ driver’s license to her.<sup>24</sup> When asked what happened to the ID, Officer Holt stated, “I do not recall.”<sup>25</sup> As COPA did not find any evidence that Officer Holt returned ██████████ driver’s license to ██████████ this allegation is sustained.

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<sup>17</sup> The authority for conducting an investigatory stop is delineated in 725 ILCS 5/107-14(a) and Special Order S04-13-09, Investigatory Stop System (effective July 10, 2017 – present).

<sup>18</sup> S04-13-09(II)(C).

<sup>19</sup> Att 19 – 4:40; Att 21 4:25

<sup>20</sup> Att 1 – 4:22-4:26

<sup>21</sup> Special Order S04-13-09, Investigatory Stop System (effective July 10, 2017 – present).

<sup>22</sup> Att 19 – 08:30-08:42

<sup>23</sup> Att 21 06:55-07:20

<sup>24</sup> Att 1 2:38-2:42, 3:29-3:40, 8:10-8:25

<sup>25</sup> Att 19 - 10:55-11:05

**d. Failing to identify themselves when requested by ██████████**

COPA finds the allegation that Officer Williams failed to identify themselves when requested by ██████████ is **sustained**. When ██████████ asked for her badge number, Officer Williams responded that ██████████ could have her badge number. However, at no point on the body worn camera footage did Officer Williams provide her badge number to ██████████ or ██████████. According to CPD's Rule 37, a CPD member is prohibited from failing to correctly identify himself by giving his name, rank and star number when requested by a private citizen.<sup>26</sup> Officer Williams did not deny this allegation and stated that she "forgot" to provide her badge number to ██████████.<sup>27</sup> It is clear, then, that Officer Williams failed to identify herself, and this allegation is sustained.

**d. Failing to activate and/or deactivate their body-worn camera in a timely manner**

COPA finds the allegation that Officer Holt failed to activate their body-worn camera in a time manner is **sustained**. Officer Holt interacts with ██████████ for approximately ten seconds before activating her body-worn camera.<sup>28</sup> Special Order S03-14<sup>29</sup> states that members "activate the system to "event" mode to record an entire on-scene incident. Since it is clear from her own footage that Officer Holt did not activate her body-worn camera at the beginning of an event, COPA finds that this allegation is sustained.

**e. Failing to complete an ISR in violation of Special Order S04-13-09**

COPA finds the allegation that Officer Holt and Officer Williams failed to complete an ISR is **sustained** for both officers. Special Order S04-13-09 states that sworn members who conduct an Investigatory Stop, Probable Cause stop when no other document captures the reason for the detention, and, if applicable, a Protective Pat Down or other search in a public place, are required to submit an Investigatory Stop Report into the Investigatory Stop Database.<sup>30</sup> A search of the Clearnet ISR database show no records indicating that an ISR was submitted for this Investigatory Stop.<sup>31</sup> When asked whether she completed an ISR, Officer Holt responded "I don't recall. I'm not sure if I did or if my partner did."<sup>32</sup> When asked whether she completed an ISR, Officer Williams responded "Honestly, I forgot."<sup>33</sup> Given that COPA found no ISR documenting this traffic stop, and that the officers conceded that they did not complete one, the allegation that the Officers failed to complete an ISR is sustained.

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<sup>26</sup> Rules and Regulation of the Chicago Police Department (effective April 16, 2015 – present)

<sup>27</sup> Att 21 10:00-10:45

<sup>28</sup> Att 1 1:50-2:00

<sup>29</sup> Special Order S03-14 (effective May 10, 2016-present)

<sup>30</sup> Special Order S04-13-09 (effective July 10, 2017-present)

<sup>31</sup> Att 22, Att 23, Att 24, Att 25

<sup>32</sup> Att 19 – 14:30-14:50

<sup>33</sup> Att 21 – 12:00-12:15

## **VI. DISCIPLINARY RECOMMENDATION**

### **a. Officer Lauren Holt**

#### **i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History<sup>34</sup>**

Officer Holt's complimentary history is comprised of 112 awards, including one Department Commendation, one Annual Bureau Award of Recognition, and 108 Honorable Mentions. Her recent disciplinary history includes a March 2020 sustained finding (Operations/Personnel Violations Neglect of Duty) resulting in a one-day suspension and an October 2022 SPAR (Court Appearance Violation) resulting in no disciplinary action taken.

#### **ii. Recommended Discipline**

COPA has found that Officer Holt violated Rules 2, 3, 5, 6 and 10 by failing to return [REDACTED] driver's license, failing to activate their body-worn camera in a timely manner and failing to complete an ISR. Officer Holt's action displayed an overall inattention to duty. By neglecting to complete simple tasks, such as returning a civilian's driver's license at the end of a traffic stop or activating a body-worn camera at the beginning of an event, Officer Holt has shown an overall disregard for the Department's policies and goals. Accordingly, COPA recommends that Officer Holt receive an 7-day suspension.

### **b. Officer Ariel Williams**

#### **i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History<sup>35</sup>**

Officer Williams' complimentary history is comprised of 157 awards, including one Superintendent's Award of Tactical Excellence, one Life Saving Award, one Annual Bureau Award of Recognition, two Special Commendations and 144 Honorable Mentions. She has no recent disciplinary history.

#### **ii. Recommended Discipline**

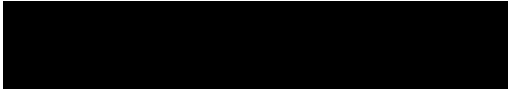
COPA has found that Officer Williams violated Rule 2, 3, 5, 6 and 37 by failing to identify herself when requested and by failing to complete an ISR. Officer Williams demonstrated a disregard for Department policy when she failed to complete and ISR and a declined to satisfy the request of the civilian who asked her name. Accordingly, COPA recommends that Officer Holt receive a written reprimand.

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<sup>34</sup> Attachment 27.

<sup>35</sup> Attachment 26.

Approved:



*Sharday Jackson*  
*Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator*

May 30, 2023

Date

Appendix A**Case Details**

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	December 18, 2022 / 87 <sup>th</sup> St. and S. Wabash Ave, Chicago, IL 60619
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	December 18, 2022, 5:00 pm
Involved Member #1:	Officer Lauren Holt, Star#18899 / Employee # [REDACTED] / Date of Appointment: February 20, 2018 / Unit 006/ Female / Black
Involved Member #2:	Officer Ariel Williams / Star#6885 / Employee# [REDACTED] / Date of appointment: April 16, 2018 / Unit 06 / Female / Black
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] / Male
Involved Individual #2:	[REDACTED] / Female / White

**Applicable Rules**

- Rule 2:** Any action or conduct which impedes the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.
- Rule 3:** Any failure to promote the Department's efforts to implement its policy or accomplish its goals.
- Rule 5:** Failure to perform any duty.
- Rule 6:** Disobedience of an order or directive, whether written or oral.
- Rule 8:** Disrespect to or maltreatment of any person, while on or off duty.
- Rule 9:** Engaging in any unjustified verbal or physical altercation with any person, while on or off duty.
- Rule 10:** Inattention to duty.
- Rule 14:** Making a false report, written or oral.
- Rule 38:** Unlawful or unnecessary use or display of a weapon.
- Rule 37:** Failure of a member, whether on or off duty, to correctly identify himself by giving his name, rank and star number when so requested by other members of the Department or by a private citizen.

**Applicable Policies and Laws**

- Special Order S04-13-09 effective July 10, 2017 - present
- Special Order S03-14 effective May 10, 2016 - present



## Appendix B

### **Definition of COPA’s Findings and Standards of Proof**

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. Not Sustained – where it is determined there is insufficient evidence to prove the allegations by a preponderance of the evidence;
3. Unfounded – where it is determined by clear and convincing evidence that an allegation is false or not factual; or
4. Exonerated – 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 a proposition is proved.<sup>36</sup> For example, if the evidence gathered in an investigation establishes that it is more likely that the conduct complied with CPD policy than that it did not, even if by a narrow margin, then the preponderance of the evidence standard is met.

**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. 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.”<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> 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 is found to be more probably true than not).

<sup>37</sup> *People v. Coan*, 2016 IL App (2d) 151036, ¶ 28 (quoting Illinois Pattern Jury Instructions, Criminal, No. 4.19 (4<sup>th</sup> ed. 2000)).

**Appendix C**

**Transparency and Publication Categories**

Check all that apply:

- Abuse of Authority
- Body Worn Camera Violation
- Coercion
- Death or Serious Bodily Injury in Custody
- Domestic Violence
- Excessive Force
- Failure to Report Misconduct
- False Statement
- Firearm Discharge
- Firearm Discharge – Animal
- Firearm Discharge – Suicide
- Firearm Discharge – Unintentional
- First Amendment
- Improper Search and Seizure – Fourth Amendment Violation
- Incidents in Lockup
- Motor Vehicle Incidents
- OC Spray Discharge
- Search Warrants
- Sexual Misconduct
- Taser Discharge
- Unlawful Denial of Access to Counsel
- Unnecessary Display of a Weapon
- Use of Deadly Force – other
- Verbal Abuse
- Other Investigation