



Log # 2020-0001711

## FINAL SUMMARY REPORT

### I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY<sup>1</sup>

On May 2, 2020, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) received a website complaint from [REDACTED] reporting alleged misconduct by a member of the Chicago Police Department (CPD). [REDACTED] alleged that on multiple occasions, Officer Daniel Ciampaglia verbally and physically abused her throughout their [REDACTED]<sup>2</sup> Following its investigation, COPA reached sustained findings regarding the allegations of verbal abuse based upon the preponderance of the evidence.

### II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE<sup>3</sup>

Officer Daniel Ciampaglia and [REDACTED] were [REDACTED] for approximately eighteen years and [REDACTED]. Their [REDACTED] was finalized in 2019 after [REDACTED] bought a home in LaGrange in 2016 and filed for [REDACTED] in 2017. [REDACTED] stated that on May 2, 2020, Daniel Ciampaglia's [REDACTED] called her to inform her that she was taking back the vehicle that she had provided for [REDACTED] because [REDACTED] had been driving it in violation of their agreement and threatened [REDACTED]. While Officer Ciampaglia did not threaten her on May 2, 2020, [REDACTED] stated that he had verbally and physically abused her in the past.

[REDACTED] related that on September 17, 2017, she went to their [REDACTED] home, located at [REDACTED], to retrieve tax documents.<sup>4</sup> When Officer Ciampaglia denied her access, she stated that she forced her way into the house where Officer Ciampaglia's [REDACTED] was located. [REDACTED] related that she continued to push her way into the home while Officer Ciampaglia pushed her back toward the door. [REDACTED] locked herself in the bathroom. [REDACTED] stated that she wanted to "embarrass" Officer Ciampaglia in front

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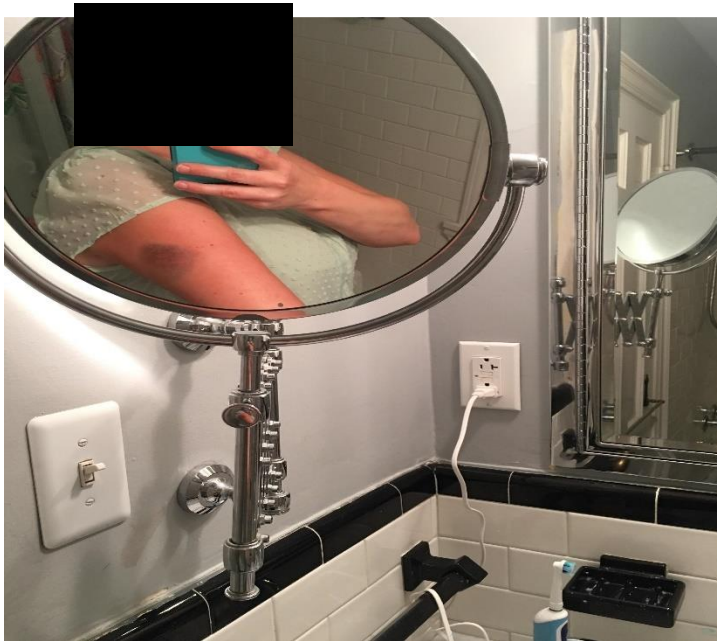
<sup>1</sup> Appendix A includes case identifiers such as the date, time, and location of the incident, the involved parties and their demographics, and the applicable rules and policies.

<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> The following is a summary of what COPA finds most likely occurred during this incident. This summary utilized information from several different sources, including two civilian interviews; [REDACTED] interview; audio recording; photographs; and the interview of the accused.

<sup>4</sup> [REDACTED] bought a home in LaGrange and resided there in September 2017.

of [REDACTED] and yelled for her to call the police.<sup>5</sup> [REDACTED] stated, “So I was – we’re almost, like, fighting.”<sup>7</sup> [REDACTED] stated that she grabbed Officer Ciampaglia’s camera and that she also threw a wine bottle that did not break. Officer Ciampaglia grabbed her by the upper half of her body; pushed her against a wall; restrained her; and “forced” her out of the residence by pushing her through the front door.<sup>8</sup> She stated, “And I’m fighting to make my way in because I know that he’s not going to, like – if I don’t do this now, I’m not going to get what I need to because there’s this [REDACTED]”<sup>9</sup> [REDACTED] further stated that she had called her sister, now known as [REDACTED] but declined to provide her information to COPA, stating that they were estranged. [REDACTED] also submitted photographs of her injuries that consisted of bruises on her arms and chest that she attributed to the September 17, 2017, incident.<sup>10</sup>



<sup>5</sup> During her interview with COPA, [REDACTED] referred to Officer Ciampaglia’s [REDACTED] as [REDACTED] when she was in fact [REDACTED]

<sup>6</sup> Att. 6, Pg. 42, Ln. 18.

<sup>7</sup> Att. 6, Pg. 42, Lns 10 – 11.

<sup>8</sup> Att. 6, Pg. 45, Ln. 13.

<sup>9</sup> Att. 6, Pg. 45, Lns.18 – 21.

<sup>10</sup>Atts. 24 – 31.

██████████ now ██████████ to Officer Ciampaglia, stated that she was with Officer Ciampaglia at his residence on Sunday, September 17, 2017, when ██████████ came to the door. ██████████ stated that she heard Officer Ciampaglia go to the door and shut it behind him. She then went into the bathroom and remained there once she heard arguing and objects being thrown. ██████████ stated that she heard what she now knows to be Officer Ciampaglia's camera knocking around and that ██████████ repeatedly called for her to come out of the bathroom. ██████████ stated that she exited the bathroom after hearing the front door slam and the house become quiet. ██████████ estimated that the incident lasted twenty to thirty minutes and that she left soon after it ended. ██████████ did not observe the physical interaction between Officer and ██████████<sup>11</sup>

██████████ stated that she has no contact with ██████████ after ██████████ declined to seek treatment for her opiate addiction following an attempted intervention in 2020. ██████████ stated that she is in sporadic contact with Officer Ciampaglia but is not very close to him. ██████████ thought that they had a bad ██████████ stemming from health and money problems that they both wanted to end. ██████████ addiction also strained ██████████ ██████████ stated that ██████████ was "furious" when Officer Ciampaglia began dating ██████████ even though she had moved to LaGrange and ██████████<sup>12</sup> ██████████ recalled that ██████████ called her after leaving the ██████████ residence and told her that she had forced her way into Officer Ciampaglia's house to confront ██████████ and had broken a bottle of wine and tried to physically attack ██████████ while Officer Ciampaglia held her back. ██████████ hid in the bathroom. ██████████ told her sister that she was wrong and to just leave them alone since she had made the choice to ██████████ ██████████ also told her that Officer Ciampaglia had left bruises on her arms and ██████████ had responded that it was to be expected if he was holding her back from attacking ██████████

██████████ further stated that ██████████ complained of Officer Ciampaglia's verbal abuse in the past but that after experiencing her ██████████ addiction and seeing the text messages, emails, and verbal abuse that she directed at Officer Ciampaglia, she thinks she would have reacted the same way. ██████████ further stated that ██████████ would antagonize Officer Ciampaglia to react verbally to deflect from her addiction. ██████████ also recalled that ██████████ was angry on May 3, 2020, when ██████████ car was taken back by Officer Ciampaglia's ██████████ when ██████████ began using it after her car was repossessed. She sent videos to ██████████ stating that she had immediately filed police reports against her and had also contacted COPA to file complaints against Officer Ciampaglia.<sup>1314</sup>

██████████ also alleged that on June 10, 2015, during an argument, Officer Ciampaglia prevented her from leaving the residence by blocking the door with his body. She threw herself on

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<sup>11</sup> Att. 51.

<sup>12</sup> Att..52, Pg. 4, Ln.18.

<sup>13</sup> Atts. 45, 52.

<sup>14</sup> ██████████ stated that she would send copies of these videos to COPA. However, as of this report, ██████████ has not produced these recordings.

the floor and sustained a broken blood vessel in her eye from screaming.<sup>15 16</sup> Officer Ciampaglia had no recollection of blocking the door with his body and had no recollection of this day. He denied this allegation, stating there were times he tried to stop her from leaving because she was high on pills and would want to drive; however, he stated he never physically stopped her.

██████████ submitted ten separate recordings of conversations between herself and Officer Ciampaglia that included talk of ██████████ reconciliation, rejection, infidelity, addiction, and the accompanying emotional turmoil their waning ██████████ caused. The June 19, 2015 – Part 1 -- recording documented Officer Ciampaglia calling ██████████ “a bitch, and “a cunt.” Even though Officer Ciampaglia stated to COPA that he was unaware that ██████████ was recording; Officer Ciampaglia was aware that he was being recorded and periodically spoke directly to the recorder regarding future arrangements. ██████████ denied stealing her father’s Vicodin pills. Officer Ciampaglia responded by saying, “Fuck you, shut up and listen.”<sup>17</sup> When Officer Ciampaglia stated that he would expose her drug abuse that would cause her to lose her licensing as a pharmacist, she countered that she would make domestic violence allegations against him in court and to the Chicago Police Department. Officer Ciampaglia stated, “Would you shut the fuck up and listen?”<sup>18</sup> After commotion and tears, including ██████████ telling Officer Ciampaglia to get away from her, Officer Ciampaglia stated, “Bitch, cunt. Suck his four-inch dick. Fuck you.”<sup>19</sup>

Officer Ciampaglia admitted to using profane language and calling ██████████ derogatory names such as “bitch” and “cunt.”<sup>20</sup> Regarding using his language, Officer Ciampaglia stated, “I admit to saying those words, but it was not in a – verbally abusive. It was in the context of the issues that were going on in the ██████████ between the infidelity, the drug use, the gambling.”<sup>21</sup>

### III. ALLEGATIONS

#### Officer Daniel Ciampaglia:

1. Engaging in an unjustified physical altercation with ██████████ grabbing her by the upper half of her body; pushing her against a wall; restraining her; and “forcing” her out of the residence by pushing her through the front door.

- Exonerated

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<sup>15</sup>Att. 6, Pg. 97, Lns. 15 – 16.

<sup>16</sup> It should be noted that ██████████ made additional allegations of earlier specific physical abuse prior to June 10, 2015, that were outside the five-year range limited by the Fraternal Order of Police Bargaining Agreement with the City of Chicago; and that these allegations did not meet the criteria to request permission from the Superintendent to investigate beyond the scope of the Bargaining Agreement.

<sup>17</sup> Att. 20, 09:30 minutes.

<sup>18</sup> Att. 20, 13:02 minutes

<sup>19</sup> Att. 20, 16:26 minutes.

<sup>20</sup> Att. 53, Pg. 54; Lns. 14 – 18.

<sup>21</sup> Att. 53, Pg.

2. Preventing ██████████ from leaving the residence by blocking the front door with his body.
  - Not Sustained
  
3. Verbally abused ██████████ by using various profane words such as “fuck you” and calling her derogatory names such as “bitch, cunt.”
  - Sustained, Violation of Rule 9

#### IV. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The credibility of an individual relies primarily on two factors: 1) the individual’s truthfulness and 2) the reliability of the individual’s account. The first factor addresses the honesty of the individual making the statement, while the second factor speaks to the individual’s ability to accurately perceive the event at the time of the incident and then accurately recall the event from memory. In this case, COPA finds that both ██████████ and Officer Ciampaglia provided mostly reliable accounts of what happened. She spoke with COPA and provided recordings. However, she failed to disclose her addictions and downplayed other factors in the relationship that should be considered when analyzing the recordings, including her addictions to prescription pills and reported gambling that impacted the ██████████ dynamic. ██████████ did not make this complaint to COPA until 2020 and made these allegations after being informed that COPA had no jurisdiction over her initial complaint of Officer Ciampaglia’s ██████████ taking back her car. In this light, these allegations have the appearance of being retaliatory. However, ██████████ account of the September 17, 2017, enforces her credibility in that it documented her as the aggressor who initiated physical contact with Officer Ciampaglia after forcing her way into his home.

Officer Ciampaglia admitted using derogatory, profane names toward ██████████ bolstering his credibility, but downplayed it as verbal abuse, instead insinuating that this language was acceptable given their strained ██████████ and ultimate ██████████

#### V. ANALYSIS<sup>22</sup>

##### a. Force Allegations

COPA finds Allegation #1 against Officer Ciampaglia, that he engaged in an unjustified physical altercation with ██████████ on September 17, 2017, in which he grabbed her by the upper half of her body; pushed her against a wall; restrained her; and “forced” her out of the residence is **exonerated**. ██████████ admitted to COPA that she entered the residence without permission and damaged Officer Ciampaglia’s property while demanding that ██████████ call the police. She told COPA that she wanted to cause him embarrassment in front of ██████████ who stated that she feared ██████████ who demanded that she come out of the bathroom. The

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<sup>22</sup> For a definition of COPA’s findings and standards of proof, *see* Appendix B.

photographs of her arms with bruises are consistent with those caused by trying to restrain someone from causing further damage. ██████ sustained no other injuries other than bruising on her arms. Officer Ciampaglia and ██████ gave similar accounts that are consistent with ██████ except for her minimization of her aggression. ██████ stated to COPA that ██████ called her and told her that she was in Officer Ciampaglia's house confronting him and ██████. For all these reasons, this allegation is **exonerated**.

Additionally, COPA finds Allegation #2 against Officer Ciampaglia, that on June 10, 2015, he prevented ██████ from leaving the residence in that he blocked the front door with his body is **not sustained**. Officer Ciampaglia denied the allegation. There are no witnesses. There is no evidence. This allegation was made to COPA approximately four years and eleven months after it was alleged to have occurred.

#### **b. Verbal Abuse Allegations**

COPA finds that Allegation #3 against Officer Ciampaglia, that between approximately June 19, 2015, and January 31, 2016, he verbally abused ██████ in that he used various profane words such as "fuck you;" and called her derogatory names such as "bitch, cunt," is **sustained**. There are the recordings of verbal abuse that Officer Ciampaglia admitted to, explaining that his language use should be viewed as occurring during the emotionally charged days of their imploding ██████. Despite his rationale, the verbal abuse occurred. For all these reasons, this allegation is **sustained**.

## **VI. DISCIPLINARY RECOMMENDATION**

### **A. Officer Daniel Ciampaglia**

#### **i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History<sup>23</sup>**

Officer Ciampaglia has 39 various awards. He has no disciplinary history.

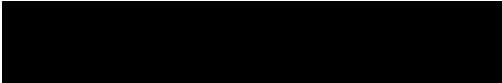
#### **ii. Recommended Discipline**

COPA has found that Officer Ciampaglia's conduct violated Rule 9. Officer Ciampaglia verbally abused ██████ on various dates between June 19, 2015, and January 31, 2016. Officer Ciampaglia admitted to this behavior. COPA has considered his complimentary history and lack of disciplinary history. COPA has considered the age of these allegations. COPA has also considered the fact that Officer Ciampaglia and ██████ are now ██████ minimizing the likelihood of this continuing. COPA recommends that Officer Ciampaglia receive a **written reprimand**.

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<sup>23</sup> Attachment 54.

Approved:



Sharday Jackson  
*Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator*

November 30, 2023

Date

**Appendix A**

**Case Details**

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	September 17, 2017; Between 8:00 and 9:00 pm; [REDACTED]
Date/Time/Location of Incident:	June 10, 2015; Unspecified time; [REDACTED]
Date/Time/Location of Incident:	June 19, 2015, and January 31, 2016; Unspecified times; [REDACTED]
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	May 5, 2020
Involved Member #1:	Daniel Ciampaglia; Star #11097; Employee # [REDACTED]; DOA: Unit 002 –Medical Leave /Disability; Male; White
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED]/Female/White
Involved Individual #2:	[REDACTED]Female/White
Involved Individual #3:	[REDACTED] [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 \_\_:** *[Insert text of any additional rule(s) violated]*

**Applicable Policies and Laws**

Not applicable for this investigation.



## 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>24</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>25</sup>

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<sup>24</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>25</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