

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	November 28, 2021; Approximately 9:00 pm, [REDACTED]
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	November 29, 2021, at 4:58 am.
Involved Officer #1:	Lashawn Taylor; Star #5523, Employee # [REDACTED]; DOA: April 18, 2010; Officer; 007; DOB: [REDACTED], 1981; Female; Black.
Involved Officer #2:	Armando Rosas; Star #1481, Employee # [REDACTED]; DOA: January 3, 1995; Sergeant; 018; DOB: [REDACTED], 1967; Male; Hispanic.
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED], 1987; Female; Black.
Case Type:	Domestic Violence

I. ALLEGATIONS¹

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer LaShawn Taylor, #5523	1. It is alleged that on or about November 28, 2021, at approximately 9:00 p.m., at or near the location of [REDACTED] Officer Lashawn Taylor, #5523, engaged in an unjustified physical altercation with [REDACTED]	Not Sustained
	2. It is alleged that on or about November 28, 2021, at approximately 9:00 p.m., at or near the location of [REDACTED], Officer Lashawn Taylor, #5523, restrained [REDACTED] in that she “pinned” her to the floor with her legs.	Not Sustained

¹ Sergeant Armando Rosas responded to the scene of the incident. COPA considered serving Sgt. Rosas with allegations for failing to separate Officer Taylor and [REDACTED] However, prior to being able to serve allegations on Sgt. Rosas, he resigned from the Department. See Att. 32.

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

The **Initiation Report**² states that at approximately 10:00 pm on November 28, 2021, Sgt. Armando Rosas responded to a domestic disturbance. Off-duty Chicago Police Department (CPD) Officer LaShawn Taylor attempted to remove her [REDACTED] from Officer Taylor's apartment. [REDACTED] was visiting with Officer Taylor from out of town. [REDACTED] alleged that Officer Taylor engaged in an unjustified physical altercation with [REDACTED]³

[REDACTED] declined to pursue criminal charges⁴ and declined to cooperate with COPA's investigation.⁵

The **Case Report**⁶ documented that [REDACTED] was asleep on a couch in Officer Taylor's apartment when Officer Taylor returned from a night of drinking with friends. [REDACTED] woke up. Officer Taylor and [REDACTED] argued. Officer Taylor told [REDACTED] to leave the apartment. [REDACTED] refused, because she was visiting with Officer Taylor from Georgia and had no place to go. Officer Taylor threw [REDACTED] items around the apartment and struck [REDACTED] with a shoe. [REDACTED] pushed Officer Taylor to stop her from throwing [REDACTED] things around the apartment. The argument continued and [REDACTED] pushed Officer Taylor a second time with an open hand. A struggle occurred, resulting in both Officer Taylor and [REDACTED] on the floor. Officer Taylor put [REDACTED] in "some kind of sumo hold/choke hold"⁷ with Officer Taylor's legs around [REDACTED] body, pinning [REDACTED] to the floor. Officer Taylor and [REDACTED] separated from each other, and both called CPD.

[REDACTED] had a "minor scratch" on her forearm and did not want to pursue any charges. CPD could not determine the aggressor; the responding officer noted that the residence was not in disarray. Both Officer Taylor and [REDACTED] declined medical attention. Officer Taylor, who was not "forthcoming with information regarding altercation,"⁸ was transported to 018 District Station, where the Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) administered a Breathalyzer test and ordered to Northwestern Hospital for further evaluation.⁹ When contacted by detectives, [REDACTED] again refused to press charges, adding that the altercation had been mostly verbal with her luggage being thrown and minor physical contact between the two parties. The criminal case was classified as "Exc. Cleared (Complainant Refused to Prosecute)."¹⁰

The **Office of Emergency Management Communications (OEMC)** recordings of the 911 calls documented that Officer Taylor called 911 at 10:49 pm on November 28, 2021 to request

² Att. 1.

³ Att. 1.

⁴ Att. 4.

⁵ After COPA attempted to contact her by telephone on December 1, 2021 and on December 2, 2021, [REDACTED] called COPA on December 3, 2021 and indicated that she would neither be pressing charges nor would she be cooperating with COPA's investigation.

⁶ Att. 2.

⁷ Att. 2 at 2.

⁸ Att. 2 at 2.

⁹ LOG #2021-0004746 for intoxication was investigated by BIA.

¹⁰ Atts. 2, 3, and 4.

a CPD sergeant because Officer Taylor wanted her ██████ to leave Officer Taylor's apartment. A subsequent call, from the 911 operator to Officer Taylor, is also captured. In the initial call, ██████ is heard in the background finishing Officer Taylor's sentences as Officer Taylor spoke to 911. ██████ can be heard stating that the police were needed due to a "domestic altercation."¹¹ Officer Taylor further stated that Officer Taylor's job was the most important thing to her. Officer Taylor was not entirely coherent during the call and appeared to have trouble following the operator's questions. ██████ called 911 at 10:51 pm to report domestic violence because Officer Taylor was trying to put ██████ out of the apartment. ██████ was from Atlanta and had nowhere to stay. ██████ related that she offered to leave in the morning, but that Officer Taylor wanted ██████ gone now and had called the police to request a sergeant.¹² There are no specific allegations of physical violence by ██████ against Officer Taylor in the call.¹³

The **Body Worn Camera (BWC) Recordings** by **Martinez**¹⁴ documented ██████ statement that Officer Taylor had returned to the apartment intoxicated and yelled at ██████ before telling her to leave the apartment. ██████ related that she was invited to the apartment by Officer Taylor and had nowhere else to go. ██████ then stated that no physical violence had occurred¹⁵ but later indicates that Officer Taylor pinned her down and she has marks from the struggle.¹⁶ Officer Taylor is heard stating that ██████ took her phone because Officer Taylor was filming ██████

The first **BWC Recording** by **Rosas**¹⁷ documented that Rosas initially interviewed Taylor and ██████ together in the living room of Officer Taylor's apartment for approximately six minutes, during which time Officer Taylor repeatedly interrupted while ██████ spoke. ██████ stated that Officer Taylor came home drunk and started yelling at her. ██████ then stated that Officer Taylor wanted to put her out of the apartment even though ██████ lived in Atlanta. ██████ made the allegation of Officer Taylor pinning her down in both Rosas and Officer Taylor's presence; Officer Taylor did not deny having done so. ██████ described Officer Taylor as calm now but having acted "crazy" earlier. Officer Taylor said that ██████ entire family lives in the Chicago area and that ██████ took Officer Taylor's phone and that Officer Taylor does not know where the phone is.¹⁸ Officer Taylor is repeatedly calling out and interrupting Rosas. Officer Taylor showed Rosas videos of ██████ on her phone. At one point, ██████ told Sergeant Rosas that there was no physical violence and that she had a friend coming to pick her up from Officer Taylor's apartment. Officer Taylor stated that she had videos of ██████ being the aggressor on her phone. ██████ stated that Officer Taylor threw ██████ luggage at ██████ and pinned ██████ down, leaving marks all over ██████ body.

Eventually, ██████ spoke privately with Rosas in the hallway. ██████ denied that she had been drinking; ██████ said Officer Taylor had been intoxicated when Officer Taylor had returned

¹¹ Att. 8 at 00:50.

¹² Atts. 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

¹³ Att. 7.

¹⁴ Atts. 12 and 13.

¹⁵ Att. 13 at 7:15.

¹⁶ Att. 13 at 7:50.

¹⁷ Att. 14.

¹⁸ Att. 14 at 6:26 to 6:50.

to the apartment. ██████ stated that Officer Taylor was verbally abusive to ██████ and became irate, telling ██████ to leave the apartment and refusing to let ██████ stay until the morning. ██████ stated that Officer Taylor kept throwing ██████ things out of the apartment. ██████ pushed Officer Taylor to make Officer Taylor stop moving her luggage, at which time they grabbed each other and ended up on the floor. According to ██████ Officer Taylor “pinned” ██████ with her legs, describing it as a ‘Sumo chokehold.’¹⁹ ██████ stated that she was not injured and was not pressing charges but was embarrassed to be put out of Officer Taylor’s apartment. No injuries to ██████ were observed.

Next, Rosas interviewed Officer Taylor separately. Officer Taylor stated that whatever ██████ told Rosas is what actually occurred. Officer Taylor seemed to indicate that she had marks on her neck, implicating that ██████ was responsible. Officer Taylor indicated that ██████ took Officer Taylor’s phone. Officer Taylor also stated that she did not get physical with ██████ and that she tried to put ██████ stuff in her suitcase. No injuries to Officer Taylor were observed.²⁰

In the second **BWC Recording** by Rosas, Officer Taylor stated that she had a video recording of ██████ threatening to report that she had hit her “just because.”²¹ Officer Taylor stated that she had been drinking but was not currently drinking. Officer Taylor also stated that ██████ threw her belongings around the apartment herself; ██████ did not want to leave. Officer Taylor played a recording from her cell phone where cursing is heard but it is not clear who is cursing.²²

In an **interview** with COPA on July 25, 2022, Officer Taylor stated that her romantic relationship with ██████ continued after the event subject to this complaint. Officer Taylor reported that she and ██████ recently moved in together; at the time of the interview Officer Taylor and ██████ were living together in Officer Taylor’s apartment in Chicago (from early July, 2022).

Officer Taylor stated that she had been dating ██████ for about two years. The relationship began as a long distance one, with ██████ residing in Atlanta while Officer Taylor lived in Chicago. At Officer Taylor’s invitation, ██████ came to Chicago for the Thanksgiving holiday in 2021. On November 28, 2021, the day after Thanksgiving, Officer Taylor went out with friends while ██████ visited family in Chicago. ██████ was at Officer Taylor’s apartment when Officer Taylor arrived home that evening. They had an argument. According to Officer Taylor, ██████ threatened to call the police and have Officer Taylor fired from CPD. Officer Taylor asked ██████ to leave but ██████ refused. Officer Taylor put ██████ suitcase by the door. ██████ pushed Officer Taylor and pulled Officer Taylor’s hair. Officer Taylor attempted to call CPD and ██████ took her phone.

Officer Taylor used her watch to call 911 and request that ██████ be removed from her apartment. ██████ then called 911 after she realized Officer Taylor was on the phone with 911. Officer Taylor stated that she sat on the couch and waited for the police while ██████ waited in the bedroom. The police, including Rosas, arrived and spoke with them separately. He asked

¹⁹ Att. 14 at 15:50 to 16:10.

²⁰ Att. 14.

²¹ Att. 15 at 1:00.

²² Att. 15.

Officer Taylor if she wanted [REDACTED] arrested. Officer Taylor stated that she did not want her arrested but wanted her to leave. [REDACTED] heard the word “arrested” and became upset. According to Officer Taylor, [REDACTED] then provided an incorrect narrative of the incident to CPD as a result.

According to Officer Taylor, she only touched [REDACTED] defensively to keep [REDACTED] off and away from her. Officer Taylor denied striking or attacking [REDACTED] stating that they did not scuffle on the floor, nor had Officer Taylor restrained her with her legs. Officer Taylor stated that [REDACTED] later told Officer Taylor that she took back some of what she said, including stating that she had been “tipsy.”²³ Officer Taylor stated that [REDACTED] had been drinking; Officer Taylor observed an open bottle of Hennessy. [REDACTED] left Officer Taylor’s apartment with her cousin. Officer Taylor stated that [REDACTED] subsequently called Officer Taylor while Officer Taylor was at the 018 District but did not take her calls.

Officer Taylor did not present any video recordings from the November 28, 2021 incident and, when asked, stated that she had none.²⁴

III. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

COPA finds that **Allegations 1 – 2**, that on or about November 28, 2021, at approximately 9:00 p.m., at or near the location of [REDACTED] **Officer LaShawn Taylor, #5523**, engaged in an unjustified physical altercation with [REDACTED] and restrained [REDACTED] in that she “pinned” her to the floor, should be **Not Sustained**. [REDACTED] was recorded on BWC providing inconsistent accounts of the incident, stating that Officer Taylor pushed her and pinned her to the floor, that nothing physical happened, and that she and Officer Taylor were mutual combatants after she initially pushed Officer Taylor who was yelling at her to leave. [REDACTED] did not cooperate with COPA. Although the case report noted that [REDACTED] had a scratch on her forearm, this scratch is not seen on BWC. [REDACTED] stated on BWC that she had marks all over her body and then stated that she had no injuries.

Officer Taylor denied the allegations, stating that the only physical interaction between them was when she pushed [REDACTED] to keep her off and away. Officer Taylor also stated that [REDACTED] pulled her hair and attacked her when she told her to leave. Officer Taylor called 911 first with [REDACTED] calling within a minute when she realized Officer Taylor had called. Officer Taylor also repeatedly stated that [REDACTED] had taken her phone and repeatedly asked for its return while police were there. Officer Taylor stated that she called 911 on her watch. There are no independent witnesses to the incident. The case report noted that the aggressor could not be determined by police. Although Officer Taylor stated that she had recordings of [REDACTED] during this incident, and is seen on BWC showing some recording, Officer Taylor did not present these recordings to COPA for inclusion in the file and stated that she had no recordings. The totality of the circumstances indicates that it is not possible for COPA to determine if these allegations did or did not occur as alleged. Therefore, these allegations should be **Not Sustained**.

²³ Att. 33, pg. 16, ln. 12.

²⁴ Atts. 30, 31, and 33.

Approved:



Sharday Jackson
Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

December 29, 2023

Date