

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident/Time of Incident:	August 2, 2020 / Approximately 2:25 am
Location of Incident:	[REDACTED]
Date of COPA Notification:	July 26, 2021
Time of COPA Notification:	11:30 am

On August 2, 2020, at approximately 3:25 a.m. [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] reported to the Saint Louis Park Police Department (SLPPD) that she had been a victim of criminal sexual conduct. SLPPD initiated an investigation against CPD Officer Pierre Meeks [REDACTED] for alleged criminal sexual conduct occurring in St. Louis Park, Minnesota.

After reviewing the results of the SLPPD investigation, the Hennepin County Attorney’s office declined to prosecute a charge of Criminal Sexual Contact² against Officer Meeks, concluding that “there is not a reasonable likelihood of obtaining a conviction” anticipating difficulties proving that the interaction was nonconsensual.³

Almost a year later, the SLPPD investigation was brought to COPA’s attention by CPD’s Bureau of Internal Affairs. COPA was unable to obtain the cooperation of [REDACTED] in its investigation.⁴ COPA acquired an affidavit override⁵ from CPD to proceed. A significant part of COPA’s investigation was based upon information from SLPPD’s criminal investigation #SL20004511.⁶ COPA finds the allegations regarding sexual assault not to be sustained; Officer Meeks admitted failing to report the SLPPD investigation to CPD as required and, accordingly, COPA finds the allegation in that regard to be sustained.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Member [REDACTED]	Pierre Meeks, Star# 14737, Employee# [REDACTED] Date of Appointment: December 12, 2016 Police Officer, Unit of Assignment 001 DOB: [REDACTED], 1989, M/B
Involved Party:	[REDACTED] DOB [REDACTED], 1996, F/W

¹ The following is a summary of the material evidence gathered and relied upon in COPA’s analysis.
² 2023 Minnesota Statutes sec. 609.345 and 609.3451 available at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes>.
³ Att. 4.
⁴ COPA made contact and scheduled a telephone statement with [REDACTED] on September 10, 2021. [REDACTED] later cancelled and declined to cooperate with COPA’s investigation (see CMS notes for September 15, 2021).
⁵ Att. 73.
⁶ Att. 1.

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
<p>Pierre Officer Meeks</p>	<p>1. It is alleged on or about August 1, 2020, sometime between the hours of 9:00 pm and 2:30 am, August 2, 2020, the accused identified himself to ██████████ and ██████████ as a “Federal Agent” for the City of Minneapolis during their Interactions in St. Louis Park, MN.</p>	<p>Not Sustained</p>
	<p>2. It is alleged on or about August 1, 2020, sometime between the hours of 9:00 pm and 12:00 am, August 2, 2020, the accused displayed a silver in color badge with blue on it as verification that he was a “Federal Agent” to ██████████ and ██████████ at the Uptown Tavern & Rooftop located at 1400 Lagoon Ave., St. Louis Park, MN.</p>	<p>Not Sustained</p>
	<p>3. It is alleged that on or about August 2, 2020, at approximately 2:25 am, while in the area of Cambridge St. and Alabama Ave., St. Louis Park, MN, the accused grabbed ██████████ by the leg(s) and pulled her cross the bed without her consent.</p>	<p>Not Sustained</p>
	<p>4. It is alleged that on or about August 2, 2020, at approximately 2:25 am, while in the area of Cambridge St. and Alabama Ave., St. Louis Park, MN, the accused removed clothing item(s) from ██████████ ██████████ body without her consent.</p>	<p>Not Sustained</p>
	<p>5. It is alleged that on or about August 2, 2020, at approximately 2:25 am, while in the area of Cambridge St. and Alabama Ave., St. Louis Park, MN, the accused unbuttoned ██████████ leotard without her consent.</p>	<p>Not Sustained</p>
	<p>6. It is alleged that on or about August 2,</p>	<p>Not Sustained</p>

	<p>2020, at approximately 2:25 am, while in the area of Cambridge St. and Alabama Ave., St. Louis Park, MN, the accused touched [REDACTED] vagina with his hands without her consent.</p> <p>7. It is alleged that on or about August 2, 2020, at approximately 2:25 am, while in the area of Cambridge St. and Alabama Ave., St. Louis Park, MN, the accused used his mouth and tongue to kiss and or suck [REDACTED] breast(s) without her consent.</p> <p>8. It is alleged that on or about August 2, 2020, at approximately 2:25 am, while in the area of Cambridge St. and Alabama Ave., St. Louis Park, MN, the accused made unwanted verbal sexual advances towards [REDACTED]</p> <p>9. It is alleged that the accused failed to notify the Department of his involvement as an alleged offender in a Criminal Sexual Assault documented under Case No. SL20004511 with the St. Louis Park Police Department.</p>	<p>Not Sustained</p> <p>Not Sustained</p> <p>Sustained</p>
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IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS

Rules

Rule 2- Any action or conduct which impeded the Department’s efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.

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 20- Failure to submit immediately a written report that any member, including self, is under investigation by any law enforcement agency other than the Chicago Police Department.

Special/General Orders

Special Order 08-01-02 Special Situations Involving Allegations of Misconduct

V. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION**a. Digital Evidence**

Responding SLPPD Officer Ballard activated his **Body Worn Camera (BWC)**⁷ as he investigated the incident and interacted with the involved parties. Officer Ballard interviewed ██████████ her friend ██████████ and her roommate ██████████

██████████ recounted that on the night of August 1, 2020, through the early morning of August 2, 2020, she and her two friends were out having food and alcoholic beverages at the Tavern Bar in Minneapolis when they met two males ██████████ and “Rico,” later identified as Officer Meeks⁸). Subsequently, they all relocated to the nearby Williams Bar where the group indulged in more alcoholic beverages. After a while and upon the Bar’s 2:00 am closing time, the group left together in Officer Meeks’ vehicle. The destination was ██████████ and ██████████ shared residence. Upon arrival, ██████████ and Officer Meeks went inside.

At some point thereafter, ██████████ retreated to her bedroom to lay down. Officer Meeks later entered her bedroom unexpectedly. He insisted that she change her clothes so that she could become more comfortable. At some point, he grabbed her legs, pulling her to the edge of the bed, and removed her pants. While unbuttoning the snap closures of her leotard, located between her legs over her genitals, Officer Meeks briefly touched her vagina with his hand, but she pushed his hand away. Sometime during this encounter, Officer Meeks retrieved a t-shirt for ██████████ to change into from ██████████ closet. ██████████ pulled the shirt on over her leotard. Officer Meeks pulled the shirt up, exposing ██████████ breast and used his mouth and/or tongue to kiss her breast. ██████████ indicated on multiple occasions that she “froze” for parts of the encounter.⁹ She pulled her shirt down and turned away from him and he exited the room. At that time, ██████████ sent ██████████ a text message and asked ██████████ to come to her room and later told ██████████ what happened. Shortly thereafter, ██████████ asked the two males to leave and they did so.

It should also be noted that ██████████ and ██████████ largely corroborated ██████████ account. All mentioned that throughout the night Officer Meeks identified himself as a law enforcement officer, flashed identification, and stated he was in town to monitor recent riot activity.

In the BWC footage, ██████████ said she contacted the police because she was uncomfortable. On multiple occasions ██████████ expressed concern about what might happen in the future (now that Officer Meeks and his friend knew her home address and at the prospect of their

⁷ Atts. 10-12 and Att. 6 (transcript of a discussion with the Claimant captured on BWC footage).

⁸ In his statement to COPA, Officer Meeks explained that “Rico” was a high school nickname typically used by his friend, ██████████, when referring to him. Att. 16 at pg. 144.

⁹ In the BWC footage ██████████ herself expresses concern that she failed to indicate any objection regarding the behavior to Officer Meeks at the time it occurred. Att. 11 at 08:57.

return). When asked, ██████ did not express a particular interest in pressing charges, merely in preventing any future encounters.

b. Interviews

During his **interview with COPA** on March 18, 2022¹⁰, Officer Meeks relayed that he was visiting Minnesota in August 2020 to participate in a bike ride to observe the recently established riot memorials around Minnesota.¹¹ On the night of August 1, 2020, he and his friend ██████ a resident of Minnesota with whom Officer Meeks attended high school, were at a bar in downtown Minneapolis. A third friend of Officer Meeks' was present for a time. They met ██████ and her two friends. After meeting and hanging out with the three women for a few hours, he drove the women and ██████ back to their residence where they continued to mingle. While there, the group consumed additional alcoholic beverages. After some time had passed, ██████ stepped away from the crowd and invited Officer Meeks to sit with her on a nearby couch. While sitting with ██████ Officer Meeks elaborated on the purpose of his visit to Minnesota and further discussed his employment. However, sometime throughout the night he also shared with the women his aspirations of becoming a federal agent (U.S. Marshal).¹² He showed ██████ his CPD identification card. He was unsure if he traveled with his badge and denied displaying a badge. He showed ██████ photos and videos of him depicting him in full tactical uniform in Chicago during the period of civil unrest in May 2020.

██████ mentioned to Officer Meeks she had recently broken up with her boyfriend, also a police officer, due to the stresses of his job during the riots surrounding the killing of George Floyd. They discussed how Officer Meeks handles stress as an officer. ██████ kissed him and invited him to her bedroom. She went to the room first, and he followed later.

He observed ██████ sitting on her bed with her back against the headboard. He approached her and sat on her bed, while holding her dog. ██████ mentioned she needed to change into her pajamas and proceeded to remove her pants.¹³ At that time, he asked her what she normally slept in. He asserted that he never asked or suggested she undress. Rather she directed him to her closet to retrieve a t-shirt for her to wear. After doing so, he noticed that her leotard was unbuttoned. She took the shirt from him and removed her leotard, exposing her breast. This led to them kissing on the lips and him moving to her neck and upper chest/breast. Officer Meeks insisted at this time her bedroom door was open and the lights were on, and it is his belief the interaction was consensual; as he understood it the intimate interaction did not go further because ██████ thought she heard someone coming. At that time, she got up to retrieve trousers from her closet. Up until that point she was only wearing the t-shirt from the closet and thong underwear. The moment passed and Officer Meeks left the room.¹⁴

As it pertains to the specific allegations of sexual misconduct, Officer Meeks stated ██████ gave no indication (verbally or physically) that she was uncomfortable with him during

¹⁰ Att. 15 (audio) /Att. 16 (transcript).

¹¹ Officer Meeks indicated he is a member of a traveling cycling group.

¹² Att. 16 at pgs. 56-58.

¹³ Att. 16 at pg. 18, lns. 22-24.

¹⁴ Att. 16 at pgs. 16-20.

their encounter.¹⁵ When Officer Meeks left ██████ residence, he thought he, ██████ and the other individuals parted ways on good terms. Officer Meeks stated he had not had any communication with ██████ since the day of incident.

Officer Meeks admitted noncompliance with the requirement to report the SLPPD investigation to the CPD chain of command.¹⁶

It should be noted, **Officer Meeks** had previously submitted to a **voluntary interview with SLPPD** Detective Allison Jones on March 18, 2021.¹⁷ Officer Meeks was not represented by counsel. He provided SLPPD with essentially the same account as he provided to COPA, with some minor inconsistencies. In that interview, Meeks stated that ██████ initiated all physical contact between them; he expressed significant surprise at ██████ interpretation of the evening's events.

COPA reviewed recordings of follow-up telephonic interviews conducted by SLPPD Detective Allison Jones of ██████¹⁸ ██████¹⁹ and ██████. COPA made attempts to independently contact ██████ and ██████ to include letters sent by United States Postal Service certified mail, but these attempts were unsuccessful.²¹

During ██████ follow-up interview with Detective Jones, ██████ was informed of DNA test results reflecting a positive match with Officer Meeks' DNA from the DNA recovered on the night of the incident. During the call, ██████ also confirmed that she and Officer Meeks spoke about him being employed a police officer but that he never displayed a badge to her.²²

Both of the other witnesses only learned of the events in the bedroom from ██████. ██████ did corroborate ██████ account in that she received a text from ██████ shortly after the incident requesting that she come into her bedroom. Upon her arrival, ██████ shared some details of the incident with her and asked her to ask both men to leave. She did so, and the men left without incident. She further stated, sometime throughout the night, Officer Meeks told them that he was a "Federal Agent" and flashed a badge that was silver with blue highlights.

Similarly, ██████ recalled conversations about Officer Meeks being in law enforcement but was unsure if he used the term "Cop" or "Agent". In addition, she recalled him displaying and/or flipping open a black leather case but could not definitively state that a badge was displayed.

¹⁵ Att. 16 at pgs. 125-126.

¹⁶ Att. 16 at pgs. 162-164.

¹⁷ Att. 13 (video) and Att. 14 (transcript).

¹⁸ Att. 7.

¹⁹ Att. 9.

²⁰ Att. 8.

²¹ See case notes documenting attempts made.

²² Att. 11.

b. Documentary Evidence

The investigation revealed the case file of the **Saint Louis Park Police Department documented under #SL20004511.**²³ Over the course of their investigation, detectives successfully identified Officer Meeks and collected significant evidence. Officer David Ballard and Detective Allison Jones interviewed multiple individuals. The remainder of the case file included but is not limited to; a warrant for the accused DNA and results, BWC footage, evidence technician photos,²⁴ cell phone records, surveillance video, and text messages/photos/videos from involved parties.

The DNA profile taken from the left breast of ██████ included a mixture of DNA from at least three individuals. A lab report concluded that ██████ and Officer Meeks “cannot be excluded as being contributors to the major DNA mixture. It is estimated that 99.9999999993% of the general population can be excluded...”²⁵ This result is consistent with the uncontroverted evidence that both parties gave to SLPPD regarding the events of the evening in question, presuming that the genetic material found on ██████ breast was saliva.

VI. Applicable legal standards

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 allegation 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** is 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 than not that the misconduct occurred, 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

²³ Att. 1.

²⁴ Atts. 24 to 63.

²⁵ Att. 3.

of a criminal offense. See *e.g.*, *People v. Coan*, 2016 IL App (2d) 151036 (2016). Clear and Convincing is 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. 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 there is no necessary conflict in the essential evidence of what occurred nor credibility concerns concerning ██████████ or Officer Meeks.

b. Allegations

COPA finds that **Allegations 2** against Officer Meeks, that he identified himself as a “Federal Agent” or displayed a silver badge, is **Not Sustained**. COPA found insufficient evidence to support this allegation. Although Officer Meeks admitted to flashing his CPD identification card, he denied representing himself as an agent and added that it was not typical of him to travel with his badge. Subsequently, during his statement with COPA he presented his identification card which was enclosed in a black leather case. The case matched the description given by Witness ██████████ during her interview with SLPPD Det. Jones. Officer Meeks admitted to having discussions of seeking employment with the U.S. Marshals department but denied representing himself as a federal agent of any sort.²⁶ The two third-party witnesses who were interviewed by SLPPD were unable to agree if Officer Meeks stated that he was an “Agent” or “Cop.” COPA did not obtain other evidence.

Likewise, COPA finds **Allegations #3-8** against Officer Meeks, that on August 2, 2020, he grabbed ██████████ by the legs and pulled her across the bed, removed clothing items from her body, unbuttoned her leotard, touched her vagina with his hands, and used his mouth and tongue to kiss and/or suck her breasts(s) against her will, and made unwanted verbal sexual advances towards ██████████ are **Not Sustained**. Essentially, ██████████ and Officer Meeks offered the same account including his admissions to assisting to remove her clothing items and kissing ██████████ breast(s). However, Officer Meeks recalls the acts were welcomed. Officer Meeks claimed ██████████ was the initiator of the intimate contact when she kissed him while sitting on the couch and later inviting him into her bedroom. In her statements to the SLPPD, ██████████ never mentioned kissing Officer Meeks. There is insufficient evidence to determine that Officer Meeks was aware of ██████████ lack of consent in this case, and COPA’s inability to interview ██████████ contributes to the lack of supporting evidence. COPA recognizes that trauma responses can include a “freeze” response, wherein the individual does not respond verbally or physically

²⁶ Att. 16 at pgs. 56-58.

or attempt to flee from the situation. It is possible that, as ██████ reported, this was her trauma response during the encounter and that Officer Meeks' advances were not welcomed. Indeed, her immediate outcries and contacting the police demonstrate that his advances were not welcome; she has no other apparent motive to have taken these actions. However, there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that he was aware of or should have been aware of her lack of consent. Therefore, there is insufficient evidence to prove the allegations by a preponderance of the evidence and the allegations are not sustained.

COPA finds that **Allegation #9** against Officer Meeks, that he failed to notify CPD of his involvement as an alleged offender in an SLPPD, is **Sustained**. Officer Meeks admitted cooperated with the SLPPD criminal investigation pertaining to the incident, but failed to notify the department of his involvement as he was required to do. The requirement is outlined in Rule 20 and the mechanism for compliance is detailed in *Special Order 08-01-02 Special Situations Involving Allegations of Misconduct, Section 4, Item A*: "Department members will immediately submit a To-From- Subject report to their exempt unit commanding officer whenever they are under investigation by any outside law enforcement agency or governmental or lawful investigatory entity." In his statement, Officer Meeks stated he was under the impression that SLPPD Detective Jones notified CPD of his involvement in the SLPPD investigation, based on a statement by Detective Jones to Officer Meeks.²⁷ Officer Meeks testified that he provided Detective Jones with the contact information for CPD internal affairs for this purpose.²⁸ Officer Meeks was not familiar with the requirement that he was personally required to advise CPD.²⁹ Officer Meeks made no personal efforts to notify the Department, and therefore, this allegation is Sustained.

VIII. RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE FOR SUSTAINED ALLEGATIONS

a. Officer Meeks

i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History

Officer Meeks has received a total of 65 awards, to include one complimentary letter, two department commendations, and one problem solving award. He has no recent disciplinary history.

ii. Recommended Discipline

The Requirements of Rule 20 are important in that they allow allegations against CPD members to be promptly and fully investigated, thereby ensuring that members of the public in Chicago can have full confidence that CPD members continue to maintain a "professional and private [life that is]...beyond reproach," and ensuring that "on or off duty... a member must at all times conduct himself in a manner which does not bring discredit to himself, the Department or the city" is satisfied. A failure to comply with the requirements of Rule 20 and the

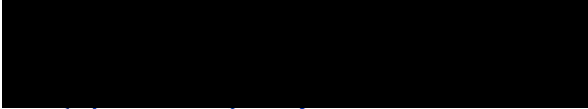
²⁷ Att. 16 at pgs. 151-152.

²⁸ Att. 16 at pg. 157.

²⁹ Att. 16 at pgs. 158-164.

corresponding Special Order has the potential to frustrate this necessary accountability mechanism. In this case, the allegations against Officer Meeks only came to light almost a year later, which delay had the potential to compromise the required administrative investigation. Indeed, upon learning of this incident, COPA was unable to successfully interview the complainant. Thus, COPA recommends a suspension of up to 30 days.

Approved:



Sharday Jackson
Deputy Chief

January 22, 2024

Date