



Log # 2024-0004203

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On May 11, 2024, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) received an Initiation Report from Sergeant Timothy Crawford reporting alleged misconduct by a member of the Chicago Police Department (CPD). Sgt. Crawford alleged that on May 11, 2024, Officer Jermaine Townsend was intoxicated while off-duty, choked ██████████ pushed/slammed her head against the toilet, and twisted her wrist.² Upon review of the evidence, COPA served additional allegations that Officer Townsend also pulled ██████████ hair, and engaged in a verbal and/or physical altercation with ██████████ in front of their minor child. After his initial interview, COPA served a subsequent allegation that Officer Townsend accessed a case report from a CPD database without authorization. Following its investigation, COPA reached **sustained** findings regarding all allegations mentioned above, other than being intoxicated while off-duty. Additionally, ██████████ reported to CPD officers that a previous physical incident with Officer Townsend took place on approximately January 28, 2024. Upon review of the evidence, COPA served allegations related to that incident. The allegations include Officer Townsend struck ██████████ about the face and applied pressure to her neck. Following its investigation, COPA reached **not sustained** findings regarding those allegations.

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE³

Officer Townsend and ██████████ have ██████████, ██████████ ██████████ Officer Townsend also has two older children, and ██████████ has an 11-year-old son. They had been in a relationship for approximately four years.⁴ On May 11, 2024, Officer Townsend and ██████████ were home, with Officer Townsend's ██████████ and ██████████ ██████████ who was ██████████ at the time. At 8:47 pm, ██████████ called 911 and reported that she had to leave her house because her ██████████ was being abusive.⁵ She related that she was in her car driving around until they could come to remove him from her house. ██████████

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ 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 (BWC) footage, police reports, 911 calls, Evidence Technician photographs, Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) records, medical records, civilian interview with the Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA), and officer interviews.

⁴ Att. 7, pg. 11, lns. 10 to 21.

⁵ Atts. 2 and 42. ██████████ informed the 911 call taker that her ██████████ is a CPD officer. A child can also be heard crying in the background of the call.

called 911 again at 9:07 pm, and police were rerouted to meet her at her grandmother's residence where she was located at that time.⁶

█████ reported the details of the incident several times to multiple responding officers, and to detectives from the Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) during an interview the following morning.⁷ She related that she returned home from dinner with her mom and grandmother, and Officer Townsend was already home. She was in the bed with █████ and after he showered, Officer Townsend also got in bed, only wearing a towel.⁸ She informed him that he should cover himself because his daughter █████ was home, and their bedroom door was open.⁹ █████ believed he was intoxicated because he did not understand what she said to him, and their conversation was unusual.¹⁰ Officer Townsend asked █████ several things, including questioning her about an ex-boyfriend.¹¹ Officer Townsend then reached over █████ who was in between them in bed, and started choking █████¹² █████ was worried about their son so she got out of bed. Officer Townsend also got up and closed the bedroom door, and they tussled.¹³ Officer Townsend pulled █████ hair, which damaged the glue that affixed her hair to her head.¹⁴ █████ told Officer Townsend she needed to use the restroom, and she was able to go to the bathroom and lock the door.¹⁵

█████ locked the bathroom door with the intention of calling the police while in the bathroom.¹⁶ She related that Officer Townsend tried to force his way in, banging on the door.¹⁷ █████ unlocked and opened the door, and claimed that Officer Townsend attacked her. She also related that Officer Townsend was holding █████ in his arm at one point.¹⁸ █████ stated while she tried to push Officer Townsend off her, she called for █████ to come get █████ and to get █████¹⁹ At some point, █████ removed █████ from the bathroom, and Officer Townsend closed the bathroom door.²⁰

⁶ Atts. 3 and 43; █████ appeared emotionally distraught during the call.

⁷ Atts. 6 and 7; On May 12, 2024, at 9:57 am, detectives from BIA interviewed █████ at her residence.

⁸ Att. 7, pgs. 2 to 3.

⁹ Att. 7, pg. 3, att. 8 at 4:36 to 4:45.

¹⁰ Att. 7, pgs. 3 to 4 and att. 8 at 3:30 to 3:40.

¹¹ Att. 8 at 3:40 to 3:53.

¹² Att. 7, pgs. 4 to 5; att. 6 at 3:08 to 3:35; and att. 8 at 3:53 to 4:10. When speaking to responding officers, she related that he got on top of her and started choking her. During her interview with BIA, █████ verbally stated that he grabbed her and motioned that it was near her upper chest area by the neckline of her shirt.

¹³ Att. 6 at 3:35 to 3:55 and att. 7, pg. 5.

¹⁴ Att. 6 at 3:55 to 4:05 and att. 7, pg. 6.

¹⁵ Att. 7, pg. 6.

¹⁶ Att. 8 at 4:10 to 4:20.

¹⁷ Att. 7, pg. 6. █████ related she was unsure if he was pushing the door with his shoulders or kicking the door.

¹⁸ Att. 8 at 4:34 to 4:37; and Att. 7, pg. 7. █████ reported that she believed █████ was in Officer Townsend's arms when he was leaning over her, and she was worried █████ could fall.

¹⁹ Att. 7, pg. 7.

²⁰ Att. 7, pg. 8.

While in the bathroom, █████ related that he pushed her, pulled her hair, and slammed her head on the toilet or wall.²¹ In addition, █████ related that she tried to push Officer Townsend away, and he then choked her up against the door.²² █████ gestured to indicate Officer Townsend used his hand(s) to choke her.²³ According to █████ she told Officer Townsend she could not breathe, and told him to take his hands off her.²⁴ █████ added that Officer Townsend purposely twisted her left wrist and arm, causing her pain.²⁵ Moreover, █████ alleged that Officer Townsend stated words to the effect of, “Oh, you’re going to see how my wrist feel”, referring to a wrist injury he sustained on duty.²⁶ At some point, █████ related she repeatedly asked him to leave the bathroom so she could use the bathroom in peace.²⁷ When Officer Townsend left to go towards the bedroom, she was able to leave the bathroom, grabbed her wallet and keys, and went to her car.²⁸ █████ asked █████ to bring █████ to the car, and then █████ drove away with █████²⁹

█████ also added that she felt pain in her teeth and thought she was bleeding; therefore, █████ suspected Officer Townsend possibly struck her mouth.³⁰ She also felt pain when she swallowed, and reported wrist pain due to Officer Townsend purposely bending and twisting it.³¹ An Evidence Technician arrived on scene and took photos of █████ neck, arms, wrists, and scalp.³² █████ neck did not have signs of discoloration or bruising, but it appears there was discoloration to an area of █████ arm.³³ Additionally, █████ hair piece was lifted from her scalp.³⁴ The Evidence Technician documented while photographing █████ in addition, █████ mentioned the pain she felt in her throat. Although █████ again denied medical attention, the Evidence Technician advised her to receive medical attention as soon as possible, noting that choking incidents may become serious if untreated.³⁵

Additionally, █████ shared that a previous incident took place with Officer Townsend on approximately January 28, 2024. She related that during that incident, Officer Townsend choked

²¹ Att. 8 at 4:20 to 4:34; att. 12 at 11:00 to 11:25; and att. 5; During COPA’s phone call with █████ she related that she was sitting on the toilet, and Officer Townsend hit her head on the wall. When speaking to responding officers, she related he knocked her head on the back wall of the toilet, possibly referring to the water tank.

²² Att. 12 at 11:00 to 11:25 and att. 7, pg. 8.

²³ Att. 6 at 5:36 to 5:40 and 6:59 to 7:09 and att. 12 at 11:04 to 11:08.

²⁴ Att. 7, pgs. 10, 24-25. █████ related she did not believe she ever loss consciousness.

²⁵ Att. 12 at 9:45 to 10:10 and 11:25 to 11:28; and att. 7, pg. 8.

²⁶ Att. 12 at 10:05 to 10:18 and att. 7, pg. 8.

²⁷ Att. 7, pgs. 10 to 11; █████ related that at some point during the incident, they were on the kitchen floor and he was on top of her.

²⁸ Att. 7, pg. 9; During her interview with BIA, █████ related she did not know how she was able to get out of the bathroom.

²⁹ Att. 12 at 11:34 to 11:54 and 14:13 to 14:30; and att. 7, pg. 9.

³⁰ Att. 12 at 13:10 to 13:24 and 15:33 to 15:50.

³¹ Att. 7, pgs. 24-25 and att. 12 at 9:44 to 10:10.

³² Atts. 4 and 24 to 41.

³³ Atts. 27 to 34.

³⁴ Atts. 40 to 41.

³⁵ Att. 4.

her and punched her face and eye several times.³⁶ ██████ showed the officers photos depicting her injuries immediately after the incident as well as photos of the injuries from the days that followed.³⁷ ██████ then emailed the photos to Sgt. Crawford.³⁸ Those photos depicted slight discoloration under one of ██████ eyes.³⁹

At the conclusion of her interview with BIA, ██████ declined to sign criminal complaints, expressing that she only wanted Officer Townsend to stay away from her.⁴⁰ Shortly after she spoke with BIA detectives, COPA called ██████. She confirmed the information that she reported to the responding officers and BIA detectives.⁴¹ ██████ further related that she planned to obtain an order of protection (OP) the following day.⁴² Ultimately, ██████ did not obtain an OP or provide a statement to COPA.⁴³

COPA obtained ██████ medical records from The ██████ Medical Center (██████) that document she was admitted to the emergency department on May 12, 2024 at 12:41 am.⁴⁴ In addition, the records indicate ██████ related consistent information regarding the incident to hospital staff. ██████ also reported to hospital staff that ██████ and ██████ were present and witnessed the incident.⁴⁵ According to the records, ██████ presented with left wrist pain, bilateral neck pain, sore throat, dysphagia, and headache.⁴⁶ Imaging was conducted, including a CT of her head and neck, and X-ray of her wrist. Ultimately, ██████ injuries were attributed to domestic violence and strangulation or suffocation.⁴⁷ In addition, ██████ also told hospital staff that an unreported incident occurred in January 2024, where Officer Townsend accused her of being involved with someone else and then hit her in the right eye.⁴⁸ ██████ was provided resources and support by a social worker in the emergency department, and the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) was notified.⁴⁹

³⁶ Att. 12 at 32:21 to 32:55 and att. 7, pg. 12; ██████ related that incident took place before Officer Townsend moved in with her, which was in April 2024. She did not report the incident when it occurred, and she did not seek medical attention. ██████ also did not specify how Officer Townsend choked her during that incident.

³⁷ Att. 12 at 16:00 to 17:54.

³⁸ Atts. 16 to 17. Att. 12 at 18:28 to 19:49.

³⁹ Atts. 18 to 23. It is unclear which eye the discoloration is under, as some photos ██████ provided appear to flip the image.

⁴⁰ Att. 7, pg. 23 and att. 54, pg. 39. Although criminal complaints were not signed in this case, Officer Townsend was relieved of his police powers on June 17, 2024, see atts. 45 and 47.

⁴¹ Att. 5.

⁴² Att. 5.

⁴³ Initially, ██████ was cooperative and scheduled an interview with COPA. However, she ultimately stopped responding to attempts to contact her regarding rescheduling her statement. See CMS notes: CO-1391601; CO-1391839; CO-1392090; CO-1392757; CO-1393035; CO-1393042; CO-1393373; CO-1393424; CO-1393465; CO-1394106; and CO-1395290.

⁴⁴ Att. 57.

⁴⁵ Att. 57, pg. 13.

⁴⁶ Att. 57, pg. 8.

⁴⁷ Att. 57, pg. 81.

⁴⁸ Att. 57, pgs. 13 and 29.

⁴⁹ Att. 57, pg. 30.

COPA obtained the DCFS records.⁵⁰ The information ██████ reported to DCFS was generally consistent with what she previously reported to responding officers, BIA detectives, and ██████ hospital staff.⁵¹ It is also documented that Desitny Townsend reported she was present in the home during the incident and heard Officer Townsend and ██████ arguing about infidelity.⁵² In conclusion of the DCFS investigation, an allegation of substantial risk of physical injury/environment injurious to health and welfare by neglect was indicated. Due to ██████ ██████ claim that she heard yelling as well as Officer Townsend's admittance that an incident indeed occurred, DCFS determined that there was evidence that showed he placed the child at risk of serious harm or injuries.⁵³

Officer Townsend provided a different account during his statement to COPA. He related that at the time of the incident on May 11, 2024, he was on leave for an injury involving ligament damage to his left wrist, his dominant hand.⁵⁴ He related he had cooked for his mother that day, did not consume alcohol, and denied being intoxicated.⁵⁵ Officer Townsend further related that ██████ was out for dinner with family while he was asleep at home. According to Officer Townsend, ██████ woke him by throwing a phone at his face.⁵⁶ Officer Townsend explained that ██████ tried to view the contents of his phone and questioned him about a woman he dated prior to and while dating ██████.⁵⁷ Officer Townsend stated that ██████ was angry, upset, and aggressive, whereas he was calm and trying to diffuse the situation.⁵⁸ Officer Townsend admitted to ██████ that he was still seeing his ex-girlfriend when he started dating ██████.⁵⁹ He related ██████ then took his phone and locked herself in the bathroom.⁶⁰

Officer Townsend then tried to enter the bathroom by twisting the door handle, however ██████ eventually opened the door.⁶¹ He claimed ██████ verbally abused him, and he told her to calm down.⁶² Officer Townsend explained that ██████ was sitting on the toilet while he stood over

⁵⁰ Att. 52.

⁵¹ Att. 52, pgs. 58 to 59.

⁵² Att. 52, pg. 51.

⁵³ Att. 52, pg. 69.

⁵⁴ Att. 60, pgs. 10 and 54 to 55. Officer Townsend stated that his wrist injury took place on June 9, 2023. He further related that he was physically unable to do the things ██████ accused him of, due to his injury.

⁵⁵ Att. 60, pgs. 38 to 39.

⁵⁶ Att. 60, pgs. 10, 12, and 47. Officer Townsend related the phone hit him on the left side of his face, and he sustained a small bump from it. He did not take any photos of the injury.

⁵⁷ Att. 60, pgs. 10 to 16 and 42. Officer Townsend related that his ex-girlfriend and ██████ had mutual friends, and his ex-girlfriend was made aware of ██████ social media post regarding their engagement. He explained that prior to the incident that night, ██████ spoke to his ex-girlfriend over the phone, and ██████ learned that there was overlap between the relationships.

⁵⁸ Att. 60, pg. 16. Officer Townsend related ██████ was aggressive because she got in his face and questioned him about how he could do this to her.

⁵⁹ Att. 60, pgs. 16 to 18.

⁶⁰ Att. 60, pgs. 18 and 24. Officer Townsend related ██████ did not have the password to his phone. He related she attempted several passcodes but did not successfully gain access inside his phone.

⁶¹ Att. 60, pgs. 10 and 19.

⁶² Att. 60, pg. 24.

her and reached for his phone.⁶³ As he did that, she pushed him about the chest area and his face.⁶⁴ Officer Townsend denied that he pushed [REDACTED] and stated he only made contact with her hand or wrist when trying to get his phone from her.⁶⁵ Officer Townsend also related he protected himself by putting his hands in front of his face to block [REDACTED] actions.⁶⁶ Furthermore, Officer Townsend denied that he pushed or slammed [REDACTED] head. However, when asked if [REDACTED] head ever hit the wall or the toilet, he related he did not see that.⁶⁷ Officer Townsend also denied that he ever made contact with [REDACTED] neck or that he pulled her hair.⁶⁸ During the incident, Officer Townsend told [REDACTED] that he was going to call the police, and she responded by saying that she would call the police.⁶⁹

Eventually, Officer Townsend said he was able to snatch his phone out of [REDACTED] hand; he then exited the bathroom and sat on the couch.⁷⁰ [REDACTED] then got [REDACTED] and left. Officer Townsend stated that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were in the living room for the entire incident, and they were never present in the bedroom or the bathroom at the time of incident.⁷¹ Officer Townsend related that [REDACTED] may have heard [REDACTED] curse and yell during the incident.⁷² After [REDACTED] left, Officer Townsend attempted to contact [REDACTED] from his phone and learned she blocked his number. Officer Townsend then called her from [REDACTED] phone, and [REDACTED] hung up on him when she heard his voice.⁷³

On May 12, 2024, the day after the incident, Officer Townsend used his mother's phone to call [REDACTED] and he learned that [REDACTED] had called police.⁷⁴ On May 13, 2024, he gathered belongings from the residence.⁷⁵ [REDACTED] told him that she went to the hospital, and she stated her wrist was sore.⁷⁶ Officer Townsend stayed with his mother for a week after the incident.⁷⁷

⁶³ Att. 60, pg. 20.

⁶⁴ Att. 60, pgs. 20 to 21 and 44. Officer Townsend stated that [REDACTED] used an open hand to push his face.

⁶⁵ Att. 60, pgs. 20 to 23 and 51. Officer Townsend denied that he twisted [REDACTED] wrist, stating that he unable to do much with his wrist due to his injury. He also denied stating words to her regarding his injury, and that he would make her wrist feel how his felt.

⁶⁶ Att. 60, pgs. 21 to 22.

⁶⁷ Att. 60, pg. 22.

⁶⁸ Att. 60, pgs. 22 and 36.

⁶⁹ Att. 60, pgs. 24 and 44 to 45. Officer Townsend related he was bluffing, and he only stated that to try to diffuse the situation.

⁷⁰ Att. 60, pgs. 24 to 25.

⁷¹ Att. 60, pgs. 25 to 26.

⁷² Att. 60, pgs. 26 to 27. Officer Townsend stated that [REDACTED] voice was raised, but his was not as he was calm and tried to diffuse the situation. He described [REDACTED] as the aggressor.

⁷³ Att. 60, pgs. 28 to 29.

⁷⁴ Att. 60, pgs. 31 to 32.

⁷⁵ Att. 60, pgs. 33 to 34.

⁷⁶ Att. 60, pg. 35. When asked if [REDACTED] told him why her wrist was sore, Officer Townsend related he guessed it was from him trying to grab the phone.

⁷⁷ Att. 60, pg. 33.

Officer Townsend denied that there was ever a previous physical altercation between himself and ██████ denying the alleged incident on approximately January 28, 2024. He denied striking her in the face and denied ever seeing ██████ with a black or bruised eye area.⁷⁸

Lastly, during his interview to COPA, Officer Townsend admitted that he accessed the case report regarding the incident in the CPD database. He stated he did so sometime between when he was served the allegations for the interview on May 17, 2025, and the date of his interview on June 10, 2025.⁷⁹ Therefore, COPA served Officer Townsend an allegation regarding the use of CPD equipment for personal reasons.⁸⁰ Officer Townsend was interviewed again, and he explained that he searched for the case report because he wanted to learn what was said against him.⁸¹ Additionally, he accessed the case report multiple times, including sometime before May 17, 2025.⁸² COPA asked Officer Townsend if he was aware of policy and/or rules prohibiting the use of CPD resources for personal reasons and he responded that he was not at the time he accessed the case report, but he had since been made aware.⁸³ Officer Townsend accepted the allegation.⁸⁴

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer Jermaine Townsend:

On or about May 11, 2024, at approximately 8:00 pm, at or near ██████ Officer Jermaine Townsend:

1. Was intoxicated while off-duty.
 - Not sustained.
2. Placed his hand(s) on and/or around ██████ neck and/or throat.
 - Sustained, in violation of Rules 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9.
3. Pushed and/or slammed ██████ head against the toilet and/or wall.
 - Sustained, in violation of Rules 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9.
4. Grabbed and/or pulled ██████ hair.
 - Sustained, in violation of Rules 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9.
5. Grabbed and/or twisted Parris ██████ arm(s) and/or wrist(s).
 - Sustained, in violation of Rules 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9.
6. Engaged in a verbal and/or physical altercation with ██████ in front of and/or without regard for the safety of ██████ (a minor).
 - Sustained, in violation of Rules 2, 3, 8 and 9.

On or about January 28, 2024, at an unknown time and location, Officer Jermaine Townsend:

7. Punched and/or struck ██████ face with a closed fist.

⁷⁸ Att. 60, pgs. 39 to 40.

⁷⁹ Att. 60, pgs. 56 to 57.

⁸⁰ Att. 64.

⁸¹ Att. 65, pgs. 8 to 10. Officer Townsend related it was for his own curiosity, and he was on duty when he searched for it.

⁸² Att. 65, pgs. 9 to 10. Officer Townsend stated he looked up the case report prior to being served the allegations, but he did not know exactly when.

⁸³ Att. 65, pg. 10.

⁸⁴ Att. 65, pgs. 11 to 12.

- Not sustained.
- 8. Applied pressure to ██████████ neck.
 - Not sustained.

On an unknown date and time between May 17, 2025, and June 10, 2025, at or near 2111 W. Lexington St. (CPD Unit 376), Officer Jermaine Townsend:

- 9. Utilized Chicago Police Department computerized information systems to access information for personal or other strictly prohibited reasons and/or not for the purpose of official police business.
 - Sustained, in violation of Rules 2, 3, and 6.

IV. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

While there are some consistencies between ██████████ and Officer Townsend (e.g., the incident started in the bedroom and moved to the bathroom, ██████████ pushed him while she was sitting on the toilet) accounts, there are aspects of their accounts that significantly diverge. Given the inconsistencies between ██████████ and Officer Townsend's accounts, it is important to assess the credibility of each of the parties involved. 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, Officer Townsend's credibility is significantly diminished by a few critical factors.

Officer Townsend acknowledged that he read the case report describing ██████████ account to the responding officers. Given this, it is not possible for COPA to determine whether Officer Townsend tailored his account to what he read in the report or whether he intentionally misled COPA during his interview. Regardless of whether his interview was deliberately prepared or misleading, what matters in this case is that Officer Townsend's access to the case report negatively impacted the reliability of his statement. Moreover, in his second interview, he added that he had also searched for the case report sometime after the incident and before being served with allegations. Officer Townsend withheld this information in his initial interview, by stating he looked up the case report sometime after being served the allegations on May 17, 2025. However, Officer Townsend later explained that he indeed accessed the case report several times, including before May 17, 2025, thereby contradicting his previous statement. Officer Townsend's conflicting accounts about accessing the case report indicate either a lapse of memory or a conscious deception. Regardless of which is true, it is clear the accounts provided by Officer Townsend are unreliable and possibly deceptive.

Furthermore, Officer Townsend consistently attempted to minimize his culpability by portraying himself as the victim. For example, Officer Townsend stated that the argument started when ██████████ threw a phone at his face. Moreover, Officer Townsend continuously portrayed ██████████ as the aggressor, stating she was yelling and verbally abusing him, as well as pushing him about the body and face. Yet despite portraying himself as the victim, Officer Townsend did not call the

police, try to leave the residence, or display any evidence of any injuries. Lastly, his actions immediately following the incident suggested behavior aimed at regaining control of the situation and/or the narrative. For example, Officer Townsend attempted to call ██████ from his phone but discovered she blocked his number, and then he used his daughter's phone and his mother's phone when his phone proved useless. In other words, Officer Townsend's behavior indicates an urgency to talk with ██████ in the time that immediately followed their altercation. Moreover, he persistently attempted to reach ██████ even after learning she blocked his number to cut off communication between them at that time. Officer Townsend's behavior illustrated that his needs at that time blinded him to the boundary set by ██████ in the immediate aftermath of their altercation. Furthermore, Officer Townsend gathered his belongings and stayed with his mother for at least a week. Officer Townsend's decision to stay away for a week is seemingly incongruent with portraying ██████ as the aggressor.

In contrast to Officer Townsend, ██████ provided a consistent account of the incident several times; for example, to responding officers, BIA detectives, medical staff, and DCFS investigators. However, one possible discrepancy is that ██████ was unclear at times where Officer Townsend hit her head while in the bathroom. During COPA's phone call with ██████ she related that she was sitting on the toilet, and Officer Townsend hit her head on the wall. When speaking to responding officers, she related he knocked her head on the back wall of the toilet, possibly referring to the water tank. It is documented in the DCFS records that she reported to them that Officer Townsend banged her head on the back of the toilet, and the medical records document that he banged her head against the wall.⁸⁵ She did not mention this allegation during her interview with BIA. However, throughout most of her reporting, she alleged that he banged her head on a surface in the bathroom, suggesting the conclusion that this discrepancy lacks overall significance and was simply a momentary lapse of memory, which is consistent with the way memory codes in the brain following a traumatic event. One other discrepancy is that ██████ briefly mentioned during her interview with BIA that at some point during the incident, she was on the kitchen floor and Officer Townsend was on top of her.⁸⁶ This is also documented in the DCFS records, but she did not mention it to responding officers.⁸⁷ However, she related to BIA that she did not recall getting physically attacked at that moment, so the discrepancy also lacks overall significance and, again, suggests fractured memories that result from trauma.

Additionally, physical evidence corroborates ██████ account of what happened. The evidence technician photos depict discoloration to an area of ██████ arm, and her hair piece lifted from her scalp. Moreover, the fact that she transported herself to the hospital later that night corroborates her story that a physical incident took place. At hospital, she received treatment, scans, and care consistent with the injuries she immediately outcried about. Likewise, ██████ demeanor and emotional response following the incident were consistent with a trauma response and with someone who recently experienced harm. For these reasons, COPA finds that a ██████ account of the evidence is more reliable and forthcoming than Officer Townsend's account. Therefore, COPA believes ██████ is a credible witness to the incident under investigation.

⁸⁵ Att. 52, pg. 58 and att. 57, pg. 8.

⁸⁶ Att. 7, pgs. 10 to 11.

⁸⁷ Att. 52, pg. 58.

V. ANALYSIS⁸⁸

A. Allegations, May 11, 2024

COPA finds Allegation #1, that Officer Townsend was intoxicated while off-duty, is **Not Sustained**. ██████ related she believed Officer Townsend was intoxicated because he was not processing what she said to him, and their conversation was unusual. However, both ██████ and Officer Townsend related that they were not together immediately prior to the incident, as ██████ was out for dinner with her family. Therefore, ██████ did not witness Officer Townsend consuming any alcohol. Officer Townsend denied being intoxicated or having any alcoholic beverages that day. Since ██████ left the scene and called the police from her grandmother's residence, responding officers did not have contact with Officer Townsend and were unable to assess his condition. In addition, Officer Townsend behavior was not captured on BWC. Therefore, there is insufficient evidence to support ██████ claim that Officer Townsend was intoxicated at the time of incident. For these reasons, COPA finds the allegation is not sustained.

COPA finds Allegations #2, #3, #4, and #5, that Officer Townsend placed his hand(s) on and/or around ██████ neck and/or throat, pushed and/or slammed her head against the toilet and/or wall, grabbed and/or pulled her hair, and grabbed and/or twisted her arm(s) and/or wrist(s), are **Sustained**. ██████ provided relatively consistent when describing the physical incident to several parties on multiple occasions after the incident. For example, ██████ consistently reported that Officer Townsend choked her and pulled her hair in both the bedroom and the bathroom. Although ██████ denied losing consciousness when Officer Townsend applied pressure to her neck, she did assert to Officer Townsend that she could not breathe while he had his hand(s) on her neck. ██████ related to both responding officers and the evidence technician separately that she felt pain when she swallowed and her throat hurt. Although the evidence technician photos do not appear to show marks on ██████ neck, the photos do show her hair piece was forcibly pulled from her scalp. ██████ also reported that Officer Townsend slammed her head against the wall while she sat on the toilet in the bathroom. However, Officer Townsend denied ██████ allegation, rather he claimed that ██████ pushed him while he stood next to her and reached for his phone when she was on the toilet. ██████ related in her account that she tried to push him off her. For these reasons, COPA finds it more likely than not that ██████ pushed Officer Townsend in defense, rather than offense.

Additionally, ██████ stated that Officer Townsend forcibly twisted her left wrist and arm so she could experience the pain he felt when he injured his wrist on duty. Officer Townsend admitted that he was on leave for a wrist injury but denied grabbing or twisting her wrist or arm and related he only made contact with her when attempted to take his phone from ██████. Officer Townsend also claimed he could not have twisted ██████ wrist/ arm due to his wrist injury. However, ██████ immediately reported the pain in her wrist, and the evidence technician photos depict discoloration to an area of ██████ left arm suggesting she the physical contact she alleged. Additionally, Officer Townsend admitted that ██████ told him, two days after the incident, she

⁸⁸ For a definition of COPA's findings and standards of proof, see Appendix B.

went to the hospital due to wrist pain. When asked if ██████ told him why her wrist was sore, Officer Townsend related he guessed it was from him trying to grab the phone. For these reasons, COPA finds it more likely than not that Officer Townsend grabbed or twisted ██████ wrist and arm.

Moreover, ██████ response and actions following the incident are consistent with someone who experienced harm. ██████ called 911, immediately left the residence with her son, reported the incident, and went to the hospital. Additionally, Officer Townsend admitted that ██████ blocked his phone number after the incident. Furthermore, ██████ reported injuries consistent with the pain she felt. Medical records from ██████ indicate ██████ presented with pain that corroborated account she reported to responding officers. Imaging was conducted, including a CT of her head and neck, and X-ray of her wrist. Ultimately, her diagnoses were domestic violence and strangulation or suffocation. Although there are discrepancies between their accounts and Officer Townsend denied these allegations, COPA finds that ██████ account of the physical incident is more credible. Therefore, for the reasons stated above, COPA finds these allegations are sustained based on a preponderance of the evidence.

COPA finds Allegation #6, that Officer Townsend engaged in a verbal and/or physical altercation with ██████ in front of and/or without regard for the safety of their two-year-old son (a minor), is **Sustained**. ██████ reported that in the bedroom, Officer Townsend reached over ██████ who was between them in bed, and started choking her. She also reported that Officer Townsend was holding ██████ in his arm at one point during the physical incident in the bathroom. Based on ██████ account, ██████ was placed in danger in the middle of the physical incident in both the bedroom and the bathroom. Officer Townsend denied that ██████ was ever in the bedroom or the bathroom during the incident. However, in conclusion of the DCFS investigation, an allegation of substantial risk of physical injury/environment injurious to health and welfare by neglect was indicated. Due to the information that was reported to DCFS, including that ██████ heard yelling and Officer Townsend admitted that an incident occurred, DCFS determined that there was evidence that showed he placed the child at risk of serious harm or injuries. For these reasons, COPA finds this allegation sustained based on a preponderance of the evidence.

B. Allegations, January 28, 2024

COPA finds Allegations #7 and #8, that Officer Townsend punched and/or struck ██████ face with a closed fist and applied pressure to her neck, are **Not Sustained**. When asked about previous incidents of physical altercations with Officer Townsend, ██████ described the incident on January 28, 2024. Although ██████ did not report it at the time of the incident, she did take photographs of the alleged injury. The photos depict slight discoloration under one of ██████ eyes. However, there is insufficient evidence to prove or disprove if the origin of the discoloration was bruising from a physical altercation. Additionally, Officer Townsend denied there was a previous physical incident between ██████ and him. Officer Townsend denied striking her in the face as well as ever seeing ██████ with a bruised eye. For these reasons, there is insufficient objective verifiable

evidence to prove the incident occurred as alleged. Therefore, COPA finds the allegations are not sustained.

C. Subsequent Allegation

COPA finds Allegation #9, that Officer Townsend used CPD computerized information systems to access information for personal or other strictly prohibited reasons and/or not for the purpose of official police business, is **Sustained**. Under CPD General Order G09-01-01, “Access of information for personal or other reasons is prohibited.”⁸⁹ Officer Townsend accepted this allegation, explaining that he searched for the case report regarding the incident because he wanted to learn what was said against him, out of curiosity. He also admitted to looking it up multiple times. He acknowledged that he was now aware of CPD policy prohibiting the use of department resources for personal use. Therefore, this allegation is sustained as a violation of Rule 6 and G09-01-01.

VI. DISCIPLINARY RECOMMENDATION

a. Officer Jermaine Townsend

i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History⁹⁰

Officer Townsend received few complimentary awards. His rewards include one crime reduction reward, one department commendation award, and two honorable mention certificates. Officer Townsend has one sustained civil rights violation due to an improper search/seizure in a civil suit. Officer Townsend’s date of appointment to CPD was February 18, 2020. COPA notes Officer Townsend’s low number of compliments received in relation to the number of years he served.

ii. Recommended Discipline

COPA has considered Officer Townsend’s complimentary and disciplinary histories. In the sections above, COPA outlined the ways in which Officer Townsend failed to provide a credible account of the incident. In addition, Officer Townsend’s justification of the incident requires that we believe ██████ was the aggressor in the May 11, 2024, incident despite ██████ demeanor and actions immediately after the incident as well as the consistency of her account suggest otherwise. Moreover, photographic evidence showed ██████ hair was forcibly pulled and detached from her head, which supports her account of the physical altercation and the allegations she alleged. Given the nature of the allegations and Officer Townsend’s inability to, even in part, take responsibility for his actions, COPA recommends a suspension of 90 to 179 days.

⁸⁹ Att. 62, G09-01-01(VI)(A)(2)

⁹⁰ Att. 66.

Approved:



November 6, 2025

Kimberly Edstrom Schiller
Director of Investigations – Chief Investigator

Date

Appendix A**Case Details**

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	May 11, 2024 / 8:00 pm / ██████████ Chicago, IL and January 28, 2024 / unknown time and location
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	May 11, 2024 / 10:58 pm
Involved Member #1:	Jermaine Townsend, star #19758, employee ID# ██████████ Date of Appointment: February 18, 2020, Unit of Assignment: 004/376, male, black
Involved Individual #1:	██████████ female, black

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

- G09-01-01: Access to Computerized Data, Dissemination and Retention of Computer Data (effective February 3, 2012)

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.⁹¹ 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.”⁹²

⁹¹ 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).

⁹² *People v. Coan*, 2016 IL App (2d) 151036, ¶ 28 (quoting Illinois Pattern Jury Instructions, Criminal, No. 4.19 (4th 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