



Log #2024-0003311

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 9, 2024, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) received an Initiation Report from Sergeant Lourdes Neris reporting alleged misconduct by a member of the Chicago Police Department (CPD).² ██████████ alleged that Officer Corey Butler engaged in an unjustified verbal and/or physical altercation with her, placed his hands around her neck, struck her about the body, and pointed his firearm in her direction.³ Following its investigation, COPA reached **Not Sustained** findings for all allegations made against Officer Butler.

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE⁴

On October 7, 2024, ██████████ contacted COPA via email and stated that she did not want to participate in its investigation.⁵ However, ██████████ did provide an initial telephonic statement to COPA on April 15, 2024.⁶ In her statement, ██████████ details the events that took place on April 4, 2024.⁷ ██████████ related that she was out drinking with Officer Butler. Upon returning to Officer Butler's residence, ██████████ claimed that Officer Butler went through her phone and they argued. She also stated that Officer Butler became angry with her. While lying on the bed, ██████████ claimed that Officer Butler was on top of her and started to choke her with both of his hands around her neck. Officer Butler released his hands from her neck and went through her phone again and questioned her about her activity. According to ██████████ account, Officer Butler's firearm was on the nightstand in a holster while they argued and he grabbed the firearm and pointed his firearm at her for nearly five seconds. ██████████ explained that she did not move, began crying, and pleaded for him to stop. She also alleged that Officer Butler lowered his firearm and placed it back in the holster. ██████████ claimed that he kept her phone the entire evening.⁸

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 Att. 1.

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

⁴ The following is a summary of what COPA finds most likely occurred during this incident. This summary utilized information from several different sources, including police reports, and officer interviews.

⁵ See CMS Note CO-1411249.

⁶ See CMS Note CO-1387595 and att. 24.

⁷ Att. 24.

⁸ Att. 24.

Additionally, ██████ alleged that Officer Butler continued to question her about contacts in her phone the following day; he was specifically interested in a co-worker ██████ communicates with.⁹ She told COPA that Officer Butler slapped the right side of her face with her phone or possibly his hand, which caused her bottom lip to bleed.¹⁰ ██████ stated she walked away after Officer Butler hit her; however, she admitted that she threw a spatula at him and that it hit the wall. Officer Butler made her clean the wall but was upset that she did not do it correctly. While she was cleaning, ██████ alleged that Officer Butler from behind her and put her in a headlock hold and choked her from behind for approximately twenty to thirty seconds.¹¹ Officer Butler then told ██████ to leave his home.¹² ██████ related that she experienced domestic violence in their ██████ for a long time, but never reported the abuse or received medical attention due to her fear of Officer Butler.¹³ ██████ explained that she and Officer Butler last spoke on April 4, 2024.¹⁴ On April 6, 2024, a Cook County Sheriff arrived at ██████ home to serve her an order of protection, but she was not home.¹⁵ On April 8, 2024, ██████ was served the order of protection.¹⁶

On October 16, 2024, Officer Butler provided a statement to COPA.¹⁷ Officer Butler recalls on April 4, 2024, ██████ arrived at his home intoxicated, requesting to enter the home around two or three in the morning.¹⁸ Officer Butler related that he told ██████ she could not enter.¹⁹ He explained that ██████ insisted he let her in because she was too intoxicated to drive. However, Officer Butler claimed that ██████ left, but continued to walk between Officer Butler's front and back doors.²⁰ When COPA asked Officer Butler if he was with ██████ the night before, he could not recall,²¹ but he stated that he was at home sleeping and awoke to ██████ ringing the doorbell.²² Officer Butler saw his garage light on and found her car in the garage, asleep on the floor.²³ Officer Butler explained that ██████ was able to enter his garage using a spare garage opener.²⁴ According to Officer Butler, he allowed ██████ to enter his home and sleep off the

⁹ Att. 24

¹⁰ Att. 12.

¹¹ Att. 24.

¹² Att. 24.

¹³ Att. 24.

¹⁴ Att. 24.

¹⁵ Att. 24.

¹⁶ Att. 18.

¹⁷ Atts. 30 and 31.

¹⁸ Att. 31, pg. 11, lns 2 to 7.

¹⁹ Att. 31, pg. 8, lns 20 to 21.

²⁰ Att. 31, pg. 8, lns 22 to 23.

²¹ Att. 31, pg. 27, lns 13 to 16.

²² Att. 31, pg. 8, ln. 19 to pg. 9, ln. 1.

²³ Att. 31, pg. 9, lns. 2 to 4.

²⁴ Att. 31, pg. 28, lns. 13 to 20.

alcohol.²⁵ When he woke up, he saw that [REDACTED] was making breakfast. Officer Butler claimed that he told her he did not want her to make breakfast, but he wanted her to leave.²⁶ He related that [REDACTED] argued with him because she did not want to leave.²⁷ Officer Butler asked [REDACTED] to leave again, but she threw a spatula and charged at him.²⁸ Officer Butler was hit with the spatula and [REDACTED] scratched him in the face.²⁹ After [REDACTED] left his home, Officer Butler went to the CPD 22nd District Station to make a police report; he explained that the incident was too much and that he was finished with their relationship so he decided to report the incident.³⁰ Officer Butler obtained an Order of Protection the next day.³¹

Officer Butler explained that he and [REDACTED] were in an [REDACTED] [REDACTED] beginning in 2022 and eventually ended at the beginning of 2025.³² At the time of the incident, their relationship was rocky due to [REDACTED] alcohol use and the arguments that resulted from her use of alcohol.³³ Officer Butler could not recall the last time he had contact with [REDACTED] prior to the incident, but stated the communication was recent.³⁴

III. ALLEGATIONS

Police Officer Corey Butler:

1. On or about April 4, 2024, at approximately 12:00 pm, at or near [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Officer Corey Butler engaged in an unjustified verbal and/or physical altercation with [REDACTED].
 - **Not Sustained.**
2. On or about April 4, 2024, at approximately 12:00 pm, at or near [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Officer Corey Butler applied pressure by placing his hands around [REDACTED] neck and/or throat.
 - **Not Sustained.**
3. On or about April 4, 2024, at approximately 12:00 pm, at or near [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Officer Corey Butler struck [REDACTED] about the body.
 - **Not Sustained.**

²⁵ Att. 31, pg. 9, lns. 6 to 10.

²⁶ Att. 31, pg. 9, lns. 11 to 13.

²⁷ Att. 31, pg. 9, lns. 17 to 19.

²⁸ Att. 31, pg. 9, lns. 19 to 20.

²⁹ Att. 31, pg. 9, ln. 23.

³⁰ Att. 31, pg. 30, lns. 2 to 14.

³¹ Att. 31, pg. 31, lns. 16 to 18.

³² Att. 31, pg. 10, lns. 22 to 24.

³³ Att. 31, pg. 11, ln. 17 to 19.

³⁴ Att. 31, pg. 17, lns. 23 to 24.

4. On or about April 4, 2024, at approximately 12:00 pm, at or near ██████████ ██████████, Officer Corey Butler pointed his firearm in the direction of ██████████ without justification.
 - **Not Sustained.**

IV. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Credibility relies on (1) an individual's truthfulness and (2) reliability of perception. The first factor addresses the honesty of the individual's statement, and the second factor addresses the individual's ability to accurately perceive the event at the time of the incident and accurately recall the event from memory. This investigation revealed evidence that caused COPA to question the truthfulness and reliability of the individuals involved in this investigation. COPA found both ██████████ and Officer Butler provided accounts that lacked credibility. ██████████ initial statement to COPA was consistent with the account she reported to CPD; however, ██████████ later retracted her initial statement to COPA and asserted that she did not want to participate in the investigation, which caused COPA to question the reliability of her initial statement. Moreover, given that ██████████ refused to participate in a more in-depth interview, COPA was unable to obtain a more robust account of the incident from her perspective. Therefore, COPA had to rely on her earlier, cursory report to CPD and the statement Officer Butler provided COPA. That said, COPA also found that Officer Butler provided an account that caused COPA to question his credibility:

1. ██████████ *did not provide a statement to COPA.*

██████████ account, although she never provided an official statement to COPA, to CPD and her initial intake statement with COPA were consistent. It is possible that ██████████ chose not to continue her participation in COPA's investigation due to the trauma from the incident itself and/or fear of Officer Butler. Nevertheless, ██████████ outcry was delayed, since she reported the incident and her injuries five days later. ██████████ explained that she did not file a report initially because she was scared.³⁵ However, given the delay in reporting, any injuries sustained during the incident could not be definitively determined to be caused on the date in question without further explanation from ██████████ COPA continued its investigation without ██████████ statement knowing that something had occurred on April 4, 2024; yet, the investigation did not yield corroborating evidence to prove that ██████████ injuries were indeed sustained on the date in question.

2. *Officer Butler can't recall what happened the night before the incident.*

COPA finds Officer Butler's account of the incident was unreliable at best. Officer Butler provided a statement to COPA on October 16, 2025, that was consistent with CPD report; however, Officer Butler's recall of specific events was fragmented. In his statement to COPA, when asked about his account on the events that led to the incident, specifically whether Officer Butler was

³⁵ Att. 1.

with ██████ the night before the incident, Officer Butler could not recall if they were together.³⁶ Yet, Officer Butler could recall and refute significant details of the incident that contradicted ██████ account. Moreover, Officer Butler could not account for the overall duration of their ██████, which is odd given that their ██████ continued in some form or another well beyond the incident in question despite his claims that the incident was too much for him to handle, requiring him to report the incident to CPD and to end the ██████.

3. *Officer Butler's submitted evidence is inconclusive.*

COPA finds the evidence Officer Butler provided to COPA to be more circumstantial than factual, leaving more uncorroborated claims within this investigation. Specifically, Officer Butler's text threads were incomplete and out of context, without date and time to create an accurate timeline of events and his account.³⁷ Pictures submitted were inconsistent with the sequence of events. For example, a picture depicting ██████ inebriated on the garage floor dressed in long sleeves and the following picture shows ██████ wearing a tank top in her car inside the garage.³⁸ When asked if the two pictures were related to the same incident given that ██████ was not dressed the same in either picture, Officer Butler stated ██████ took off her jacket to drive.³⁹ When asked if he could provide the text messages in their entirety, Officer Butler claimed that the text messages were no longer in his phone.⁴⁰ Therefore, COPA was unable to corroborate critical details of his account and caused COPA to question the reliability of the evidence he provided.

Based on the evidence gathered in this investigation, COPA finds the credibility of both ██████ and Officer Butler's statements is compromised. Therefore, COPA is unable to determine if either of the involved parties' account is more plausible than the other.

V. ANALYSIS⁴¹

COPA finds all allegations in this case are **Not Sustained**. For reasons discussed in the Credibility Assessment above, COPA could not determine if either ██████ or Officer Butler provided the more credible account. Moreover, both of their accounts were not considered when arriving at the findings in this case. The remaining objective verifiable evidence in this case was also insufficient to meet COPA's burden of proof. Therefore, COPA finds that all of the allegations in this case are Not Sustained.

³⁶ Att. 31, pg. 24, lns. 14 to 16.

³⁷ Atts. 5 to 9.

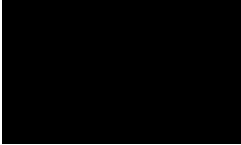
³⁸ Atts. 3 and 4.

³⁹ Att. 31, pg. 41, lns. 15 to 19.

⁴⁰ Att. 31, pg. 47, lns. 8 to 10.

⁴¹ For a definition of COPA's findings and standards of proof, see Appendix B.

Approved:



4.17.26

Kimberly Edstrom Schiller
Director of Investigations – Chief Investigator

Date

Appendix A

Case Details

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	April 4, 2024 / 12:00 am to 6:00 am / [REDACTED]
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	April 9, 2024 / 12:00 am
Involved Member #1:	Corey Butler, Star #16206, Employee ID# [REDACTED] Date of Appointment Feb. 16, 2021, Unit of Assignment 007, Male, African American
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] Female, White/Hispanic

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

- N/A

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.⁴² 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.”⁴³

⁴² 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).

⁴³ *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