



Log # 2023-0001159

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT¹

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On March 19, 2023, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) received an initiation report from Sergeant Robert Kellinger reporting alleged misconduct by a member of the Chicago Police Department (CPD). Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] alleged that on March 19, 2023, Detective Robert Gorzelanny Jr. (Detective Gorzelanny Jr.) committed misconduct by engaging her in a verbal and physical altercation, as well as endangering the safety of [REDACTED].² Following its investigation, COPA reached **Sustained** findings regarding the allegations that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. was intoxicated while off-duty, engaged in a verbal and/or physical altercation with Officer [REDACTED] punched Officer [REDACTED] in the face, and prevented her from moving freely about their residence.

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE³

On March 18, 2023, Officers Patrick Niedzielak and Marr Ventura responded separately to a domestic incident at [REDACTED].⁴ When the officers arrived, Detective Gorzelanny Jr. opened the front door and invited them into the residence.⁵ Officer Niedzielak informed Detective Gorzelanny Jr. that he and Officer Ventura had activated their body worn cameras (BWC) and then asked if all guns in the residence were secured.⁶ At that point, Officer [REDACTED] entered the room and informed the officers that she wanted to talk to a sergeant.⁷ Officer Niedzielak explained that a sergeant should arrive soon and asked if anyone required medical attention.⁸ Officer [REDACTED] left the room, Detective Gorzelanny Jr. followed her while Officers Niedzielak and Marr remained in the living room.⁹ A few seconds later, Officer [REDACTED] exclaimed, “don’t get in my face” before walking back into the living room.¹⁰ Officers Niedzielak and Marr

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 At the time of incident, [REDACTED] was ranked a Police Officer, however, [REDACTED]

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; involved party statements; CPD reports; and photographic evidence.

⁴ Att. 2, 36, and 37.

⁵ Att. 36 at 2:25.

⁶ Att. 37 at 2:40.

⁷ Att. 37 at 2:45.

⁸ Att. 36 at 2:50 to 3:00.

⁹ Att. 36 at 2:58.

¹⁰ Att. 36 at 3:30.

inform Officers [REDACTED] and Gorzelanny Jr. that they should separate.¹¹ Detective Gorzelanny Jr. proceeded to get dressed while additional officers, and waited in silence for the on duty sergeant to arrive.¹² While they waited, Detective Gorzelanny Jr. went into the restroom, closed the door, and remained in the restroom for a short time.¹³ A few minutes later Detective Gorzelanny Jr. asked Officer [REDACTED] if he could leave; however, Officer [REDACTED] denied his request and told him that he needs to help.¹⁴ Officers Niedzielak and Marr interrupted as Officers [REDACTED] and Gorzelanny Jr. began arguing.¹⁵ Officer [REDACTED] distraught and holding a pack of ice against the left side of her face, stood by the front door while they all waited.¹⁶

Shortly after Officers Niedzielak and Marr arrived, Sergeant Kellinger arrived on scene.¹⁷ However before Sergeant Kellinger arrived, Officer [REDACTED] yelled at Detective Gorzelanny Jr. saying, "Sergeant is here. Talk to the good ol' boys' club. I'm sure the good ol' boys' club will excuse whatever, whatever you did. It will get swept under the fucking rug, like last time."¹⁸ Officers [REDACTED] and Gorzelanny Jr. continued the engage for a few moments before Officer [REDACTED] walked outside and talked with Sergeant Kellinger.¹⁹ While standing on the front porch, Officer [REDACTED] explained to Sergeant Kellinger that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. needed help and that he punched her face two times.²⁰ In addition, Officer [REDACTED] told Sergeant Kellinger that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. was drinking alcohol that evening and that they often argue about money related issues.²¹ Officer [REDACTED] also explained that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. pushed her from behind and that he woke up [REDACTED] and attempted to put the child between them while they were engaged in a verbal and physical altercation.²² Sergeant Kellinger acknowledged that he observed injuries to the left side of Officer [REDACTED] face and asked her if she required medical attention, however, Officer [REDACTED] declined medical treatment.²³ Sergeant Kellinger explained to Officer [REDACTED] that, due to her visible injuries, Detective Gorzelanny Jr. would be taken into custody.²⁴ Despite her understanding of procedure, Officer [REDACTED] requested that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. not be taken into custody.²⁵ While Sergeant Kellinger and Officer [REDACTED] finished their conversation, Officer Nicholas Redelsperger arrived on scene.²⁶

Sergeants Kellinger and Redelsperger entered the residence and spoke to Detective Gorzelanny Jr. about the incident.²⁷ Due to Officer [REDACTED] visible injuries, Sergeant Kellinger

¹¹ Att. 36 at 3:38.

¹² Att. 37 at 4:20 to 5:05.

¹³ Att. 36.

¹⁴ Att. 36 at 16:05.

¹⁵ Att. 36 at 16:45.

¹⁶ Att. 36.

¹⁷ Att. 34.

¹⁸ Att. 36 at 17:30 to 17:45. Since COPA did not have an opportunity to speak with Officer [REDACTED] COPA was unable to gather further information about what Officer [REDACTED] was referring to when she said, "...like last time."

¹⁹ Att. 36 at 17:45 to 18:25.

²⁰ Att. 34 at 11:00 to 18:50.

²¹ Att. 34 at 11:40 to

²² Att. 34 at 13:40 to 13:50 and 14:30 to 15:00.

²³ Att. 34

²⁴ Att. 34 at 17:20 to 17:50.

²⁵ Att. 34 at 17:20 to 18:25.

²⁶ Att. 35 at 2:28.

²⁷ Att. 34 at 23:40 and att. 35 at 7:30.

explained to Detective Gorzelanny Jr. that they were taking him into custody.²⁸ Detective Gorzelanny Jr. asked if that was necessary since Officer [REDACTED] instigated the physical altercation.²⁹ Sergeants Kellinger and Redelsperger discussed this further with Detective Gorzelanny Jr., but eventually took him into custody.³⁰ Prior to leaving the residence, Officer [REDACTED] opened his door to bedroom and interacted with Sergeant Redelsperger and Detective Gorzelanny Jr.³¹ While Detective Gorzelanny Jr. gathered his personal items, Sergeant Kellinger asked him about the work he does in Area 3; Detective Gorzelanny Jr. stated that he investigated domestic battery.³²

III. ALLEGATIONS

Detective Robert E. Gorzelanny Jr.:

1. Was intoxicated while off duty.
 - **Sustained**, in violation of CPD Rules 2, 3, and 15.
2. Engaged in verbal and/or physical altercation with [REDACTED]
 - **Sustained**, in violation of CPD Rules 2, 3, 8, and 9.
3. Threatened [REDACTED] from leaving the residence and/or moving freely about the residence.
 - **Sustained**, in violation of CPD Rules 2, 3, 8, and 9.
4. Pushed [REDACTED] from behind.
 - **Sustained**, in violation of CPD Rules 1, 2, 3, 8, and 9.
5. Punched the left side of [REDACTED] face with a closed fist.
 - **Sustained**, in violation of CPD Rules 1, 2, 3, 8, and 9.
6. Endangered the safety of their three-year-old child (a minor) by placing the child between [REDACTED] and the accused during a verbal and/or physical altercation.
 - **Not Sustained**

IV. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The credibility of an individual relies primarily on two factors: 1) the individual's truthfulness and 2) the reliability of the individual's account. The first factor addresses the honesty of the individual making the statement, while the second factor speaks to the individual's ability to accurately perceive the event at the time of the incident and then accurately recall the event from memory. In addition to the factors mentioned above, the credibility of a witness is also impacted by, but not limited to: consistency; plausibility; bias; witness demeanor; and corroboration. The consideration of each of these factors assists in determining the credibility of individuals critical to COPA's investigations.

²⁸ Att. 35 at 8:50 to 9:05.

²⁹ Att. 35 at 9:05 to 9:20.

³⁰ Att. 34 at 37:10 to 37:20 and att. 35 at 21:05 to 21:16.

³¹ Att. 35 at 17:00 to 17:20.

³² Att. 34 at 37:10 to 37:25 and att. 35 at 21:00 to 21:15.

In this case, COPA believes Officer ██████ provided a credible account of the incident to the 911 dispatcher and responding sergeants.³³ At the time of incident, Officer ██████ injuries and demeanor were consistent with allegations she made against ██████. For example, Officer ██████ told Sergeant Kellinger that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. punched her more than one time, using his fist.³⁴ Sergeant Kellinger corroborated Officer ██████ allegation by stating that Officer ██████ had visible bruising to her face.³⁵ Moreover, photographic evidence taken that evening supports Officer ██████ allegations, as well as Sergeant Kellinger's observations.³⁶ In addition, Officer ██████ stated that ██████ punched her when she called 911.³⁷ Furthermore, Officer ██████ and Detective ██████ were engaged in verbal altercation and the dispatcher pleaded with Officer ██████ to stop arguing with ██████.³⁸ Therefore, COPA believes Officer ██████ provided a truthful and reliable account to all parties involved, the night of the incident.³⁹

Detective Gorzelanny Jr. made two statements, one to CPD on the night of the incident and the other to COPA, that revealed inconsistencies.⁴⁰ When recounting details of the incident to Sergeants Kellinger and Niedzielak, Detective Gorzelanny Jr. claimed that Officer ██████ was the aggressor that evening and that his actions were defensive.⁴¹ However, when Detective Gorzelanny Jr. spoke to COPA, he was more forthcoming about the incident under investigation, as well as the circumstances leading up to incident that influenced his behavior that evening.⁴² Detective Gorzelanny Jr. told COPA that he consumed a large amount of alcohol that night.⁴³ Moreover, Detective Gorzelanny Jr. explained that his alcohol use was problematic at that time.⁴⁴ However, since the incident, Detective Gorzelanny Jr. stated that he recognized his problem drinking. Detective Gorzelanny Jr. provided COPA with documentation of steps he has taken towards improving those circumstances.⁴⁵ COPA appreciates that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. is doing the work necessary to account for his actions. That said, COPA believes Officer ██████ is a credible witness and provided a plausible account of the incident under investigation. Despite her lack of participation in COPA's investigation, Officer ██████ provided an impassioned and consistent account of the incident on March 19, 2025.

³³ Att. 9, 34, and 35.

³⁴ Att. 1, pg. 2 and att. 34 at 11:20 to 11:30.

³⁵ Att. 34 at 19:40 to 20:10.

³⁶ Atts. 18 to 24.

³⁷ Att. 9.

³⁸ Att. 9.

³⁹ COPA made several attempts to contact and schedule a statement with Officer ██████ without results (see CMS Notes: CO-0517110; CO-0579098; and CO-0629087); however, Officer ██████ emailed COPA on January 17, 2025 to inquire about the status of the case. On January 23, 2025, COPA returned Officer ██████ call and she said she would rather not provide a statement (See CMS Note CO-1425001). See att. 79.

⁴⁰ Atts. 54 and 55.

⁴¹ Att. 34 at 25:00 to 25:25.

⁴² Att. 55.

⁴³ Att. 55, pg. 14, lns. 2 to 17.

⁴⁴ Att. 55, pg. 11, ln. 16 to pg. 14, ln. 1.

⁴⁵ Att. 52.

V. ANALYSIS⁴⁶

a. Intoxicated while Off-Duty

COPA finds that Allegation #1 that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. was intoxicated while off-duty is **sustained**. Officer ██████ told Sergeant Kellinger that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. had been drinking that night and emphatically stated that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. needed help.⁴⁷ Moreover, Detective Gorzelanny Jr. admitted to COPA that his alcohol consumption was uncontrolled at the time of this incident.⁴⁸ Detective Gorzelanny Jr. cited several complicating factors that led to excessive drinking at that time. That said, in his statement to COPA, that he has since engaged in productive work and self-care to improve his coping skills and curb his excessive drinking.⁴⁹ Although COPA commends the work Detective Gorzelanny Jr. has done to improve his situation, COPA finds allegation #1 is sustained and in violation of CPD Rules # 2, 3, 8, 9, and 15.

b. Engaged in Verbal and/or Physical Altercation

COPA finds that Allegation #2 that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. Engaged in verbal and/or physical altercation with ██████ is **Sustained**. The credibility assessment above cites specific evidence that suggests that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. engaged in a verbal and/or physical altercation with Officer ██████ the night of the incident. The recording of Officer ██████ 911 call captures a few moments of their interaction.⁵⁰ Moreover, evidence technician photographs show visible injuries on the left side of Officer ██████ face consistent with the account she provided to responding CPD members. Therefore, based on the evidence available, COPA finds that Allegation #2 is sustained and in violation of CPD Rules # 2, 3, 8, and 9.

c. Threatened ██████ from Moving Freely and/or Leaving Residence and Pushed ██████

COPA finds that Allegation #3 that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. threatened Officer ██████ from leaving the residence and/or moving freely about the residence and Allegation #4 that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. pushed Officer ██████ from behind are **Sustained**. For reasons discussed above in the credibility statement, COPA believes Officer ██████ provided a reliable account of the incident to responding sergeants the night of the incident. Officer ██████ documented injury to the side of her face indicates a physical altercation occurred that night and that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. punched ██████ (see below for analysis of allegation related to the punching allegation).⁵¹ Based on the credibility of Officer ██████ account, as well as the photographic evidence documenting Officer ██████ injury, COPA believes it is more likely than not that

⁴⁶ For a definition of COPA's findings and standards of proof, see Appendix B.

⁴⁷ Att. 9 and Att. 34 at 11:10 to 11:25.

⁴⁸ Att. 55 pg. 11, ln. 16 to pg. 14, ln. 1 and pg. 14, lns. 2 to 17.

⁴⁹ Att. 52 and Att 55, pgs. 17 to 21.

⁵⁰ Att. 9.

⁵¹ Atts. 18 to 24.

Officer [REDACTED] account of the incident is accurate. Therefore, based on the evidence available, COPA finds that Allegation #3 is sustained and in violation of CPD Rules #2, 3, 8, and 9.

d. Punched [REDACTED]

COPA finds that Allegation #5 that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. punched the left side of Officer [REDACTED] face with a closed fist is **Sustained**. Officer [REDACTED] told Sergeant Kellinger that [REDACTED] Detective Gorzelanny Jr, punched her twice in the face.⁵² In addition, Evidence Technician photos taken the night of the incident show injuries consistent with Officer [REDACTED] allegation.⁵³ Moreover, Sergeant Kellinger stated on BWC that Officer [REDACTED] had visible swelling on the left side of her face.⁵⁴ Therefore, based on the evidence available, COPA finds that Allegation #4 is sustained and in violation of CPD Rules # 1, 2, 3, 8, and 9.

e. Endangered the Safety of [REDACTED]

COPA finds that Allegation #6 that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. endangered the safety of [REDACTED] (a minor) by placing the child between Officer [REDACTED] and the accused during a verbal and/or physical altercation is **Not Sustained**. Officer [REDACTED] told Sergeant Kellinger that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. placed [REDACTED] between them while they engaged in a verbal and physical altercation.⁵⁵ Detective Gorzelanny Jr, on the other hand, vehemently denied that he would endanger [REDACTED] and insisted that he did not put [REDACTED] in danger the night of the incident.⁵⁶ Furthermore, BWC footage shows Detective Gorzelanny Jr. interact with [REDACTED] post-incident.⁵⁷ In this footage, Detective Gorzelanny Jr. does not display behavior consistent with Officer [REDACTED] allegation.⁵⁸ That said, COPA has determined that Officer [REDACTED] did provide a reliable account of the incident, see the credibility assessment above for details. However, the behavior and demeanor of [REDACTED] that night seemed inconsistent with Officer [REDACTED] allegation. Therefore, based on the evidence available, COPA believes it is not possible to determine by preponderance of the evidence if Detective Gorzelanny Jr. placed [REDACTED] in danger that night. COPA finds that Allegation #5 is not sustained.

VI. DISCIPLINARY RECOMMENDATION

a. Detective Robert Gorzelanny Jr.

i. Complimentary and Disciplinary History⁵⁹

⁵² Att. 34 at 11:20 to 11:30.

⁵³ Atts. 18 to 24.

⁵⁴ Att. 34 at 19:40 to 20:10.

⁵⁵ Att. 34 at 13:10 to 13:30.

⁵⁶ Att. 55, pg. 15, Ins. 9 to 12.

⁵⁷ Att. 35 at 17:50 to 18:05.

⁵⁸ Att. 35 at 17:00 to 17:20.

⁵⁹ Att. 82

Detective Gorzelanny Jr's date of appointment to CPD is October 5, 2012. Since that time, he has received a total of 46 various awards and certificates, including 35 Honorable Mentions, and one Department Commendation Award. Detective Gorzelanny Jr. has no discipline or SPAR history in the past 5 years.

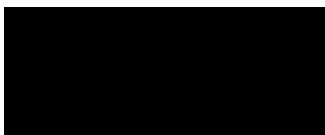
ii. Recommended Discipline

Domestic violence incidents involving sworn law enforcement officers are serious matters that undermine public trust, compromise integrity, and bring discredit upon the Chicago Police Department. Detective Gorzelanny Jr. engaged in an off duty domestic related incident while intoxicated that escalated into physical violence. The evidence established that Detective Gorzelanny Jr. punched Officer [REDACTED] in the face, pushed her during an altercation, and prevented her from moving freely within the residence, violating CPD Rules 1, 2, 3, 8 & 9.

The sustained misconduct is particularly concerning given Detective Gorzelanny Jr's assignment investigating domestic battery cases. Officers are expected to model lawful and professional behavior both on and off duty. Instead, Detective Gorzelanny Jr. engaged in conduct inconsistent with the standards and responsibilities of a CPD member.

In mitigation, Detective Gorzelanny Jr. accepted responsibility for aspects of his conduct during his interview with COPA and reported taking steps to address his alcohol use following the incident. However, the seriousness of the sustained misconduct, including physical violence against Officer [REDACTED] while intoxicated warrants discipline. COPA recommends a suspension of 11 to 29 days.

Approved:



6.10.26

Kimberly Edstrom Schiller
Director of Investigations – Chief Investigator

Date

Appendix A**Case Details**

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	March 18, 2023 / 11:50 pm / [REDACTED]
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	March 19, 2023 / 7:51 am
Involved Member #1:	Robert Gorzelanny Jr., star# 20556, employee ID# [REDACTED] Date of Appointment: October 5, 2012, Unit of Assignment: 630, Male, white
Involved Member #2:	[REDACTED] star# [REDACTED], employee ID# [REDACTED] Date of Appointment: [REDACTED], 2013, Unit of Assignment: [REDACTED] Female, white

Applicable Rules

- ☒ **Rule 1:** Violation of any law or ordinance
- ☒ **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.⁶⁰ 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.”⁶¹

⁶⁰ 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).

⁶¹ *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