SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION Last Updated: 2-5

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Incident:August 8, 2019Time of Incident:7:07 a.m.Location of Incident:731 West 91st Street, Chicago, IllinoisDate of COPA Notification:January 6, 2020Time of COPA Notification:10:45 a.m.

On August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91st Street, Chicago, Illinois, Complainant, was stopped by officers of the Chicago Police Department (CPD) while driving a truck bearing Indiana license plates. was initially stopped for not wearing a seatbelt. provided a valid Illinois Driver's License to the officers but could not provide either proof of insurance or proper registration of the vehicle. It was subsequently determined that the Indiana license plates displayed on the vehicle were not registered to the vehicle. was taken into custody and his vehicle was towed. This was a Body Worn Camera (BWC) incident.

alleges that he had been wearing a seatbelt at the time he had been stopped. He stated that the back windows in the van he was driving were tinted, and that it would have been difficult for the police to have observed him from the rear not wearing a seatbelt. He complained that the stop of his vehicle was illegal, and that his subsequent detention, and arrest, were unlawful.

II. INVOLVED PARTIES

Involved Officer #1:	Randy J. Aguilar, Star #6781, Employee ID#: Date of Appointment: September 18, 2017, Rank: PO; Unit of Assignment: 022, DOB: 1988, Male, Hispanic
Involved Officer #2:	Christian Duarte, Star #3725, Employee ID#:, Date of Appointment: January 16, 2018, Rank: PO, Unit of Assignment: 022, DOB:, 1990, Male, Hispanic
Involved Individual #1:	, DOB: , Male, Hispanic

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¹ Attachment #2

III. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Officer Randy J. Aguilar	1. It is alleged by that on or about August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91st Street, Chicago, Illinois, he was detained by Officer Randy J. Aguilar, Star # 6781, without justification.	Not Sustained
	2. It is alleged by that on or about August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91 st Street, Chicago, Illinois, he was searched by Officer Randy J. Aguilar, Star # 6781, without justification.	Exonerated
	3. It is alleged by that on or about August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91 st Street, Chicago, Illinois, he was arrested by Officer Randy J. Aguilar, Star #6781, without justification.	Exonerated
	4. It is alleged by that on or about August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91 st Street, Chicago, Illinois, his vehicle was searched by Officer Randy J. Aguilar, Star #6781, without justification.	Exonerated
Officer Christian Duarte	1. It is alleged by that on or about August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91st Street, Chicago, Illinois, he was detained by Officer Christian Duarte, Star #3725, without justification.	Not Sustained
	2. It is alleged by that on or about August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91st Street, Chicago, Illinois, he was searched by Officer Christian Duarte, without justification.	Exonerated

3. It is alleged by that on or about August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91st Street, Chicago, Illinois, he was arrested by Officer Christian Duarte, Star #3725, without justification.

Exonerated

4. It is alleged by that on or about August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91st Street, Chicago, Illinois, his vehicle was searched by Officer Christian Duarte, Star #3725, without justification.

Exonerated

IV. APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS

Rules

- 1. Rule 1: Violation of any law or ordinance.
- 2. Rule 2: Any action which impedes the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.
- 3. Rule 3: Any failure to promote the Department's efforts to implement its policy or accomplish its goals.

Special Orders

 $S 07-03-05^2$

Federal Laws

1. 4th Amendment to the United States Constitution

State Laws

- 1. Constitution of the State of Illinois, Article I, Section 6
- 2. 625 ILCS5/12-603.1 (Illinois Seatbelt Law)
- 3. 625 ILCS 5.0/3-707-A (Operating Uninsured Motor Vehicle)
- 4. 625 ILCS 5.0/3-701-1 (No Valid Registration)
- 5. 625 ILCS 5.0/4 –104-A-4 (Unlawful Title)

² Impoundment of Vehicles for Municipal Code Violations: See III, Section B, Subsection 7: Outlines inventory procedures for personal property in a vehicle.

V. INVESTIGATION³

a. Interviews

In his interview with COPA on January 6, 2020, 4 Complainant, stated that on August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:00 a.m., he was driving to work, eastbound on 91st Street, Chicago, Illinois, and was on his way to pick up a co-worker. In the vicinity of 731 West 91st Street, he observed a police vehicle, and then he was driving south on Halsted Street and then turned left on 91st Street. He was pulled over by the police about two blocks later for not wearing a seatbelt. He told the officer who was driving the police vehicle, whom he later identified as Duarte,⁵ that he had been wearing a seatbelt. He identified the passenger officer as "Randy".⁶ The officers were in plainclothes. Officer Duarte asked him for his driver's license and registration. responded that he had purchased the vehicle, a 2006 Chrysler Town & Country van, and that he had a receipt that showed that he could drive the vehicle with the license plates that were on the vehicle. He had a bill of sale for the van, but at that time, he had not changed the registration for the vehicle. He had purchased the van in July 2019. The officer told him that the license plates were not registered to the vehicle he was driving, and that he was going to issue him a ticket. showed the officer an insurance card for the vehicle, but he was subsequently arrested. The officers then searched the vehicle. Subsequently, he was then taken to the police station, located on 111th Street, where he was told that his van would be impounded.

stated that the window in the back of the van was tinted. When he was initially pulled over for not wearing a seatbelt, he was not informed as to how the officers had seen him not wearing a seatbelt. Officer Aguilar told him to exit the vehicle, at which point he was handcuffed and searched.

In his interview with COPA on August 27, 2020,⁷ **Officer Randy J. Aguilar, Star #6781**, stated that on August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:00 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91st Street, Chicago, Illinois, he was on patrol in an area where there had been a crime pattern involving a high volume of thefts of auto parts. His partner that day was Officer Christian Duarte. He could not recall if he, or his partner, was driving the police vehicle.

The officers observed a van traveling southbound at 89th Street and Halsted Street. The officers were travelling northbound, in the opposite direction. Officer Aguilar was able to see directly into the vehicle. Although the vehicle may have had some tinting to it, he was able to observe understand, unhindered, through the windshield. It the driver, was not wearing a seatbelt. Yehicle was then curbed by the officers. Upon approaching the vehicle, Officer Aguilar observed auto parts and cutting tools in the rear of the vehicle. The vehicle displayed an

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³ COPA conducted a thorough and complete investigation. The following is a summary of the material evidence gathered and relied upon in our analysis.

⁴ Attachment #3

⁵ Officer Christian Duarte (Star #3725)

⁶ Officer Randy Aguilar (Star #6781)

⁷ Attachment #24

Indiana Transport license plate. Both officers spoke to at that time. was able to provide a valid Illinois driver's license, but was not able to provide insurance for the vehicle. told the officers that he owned the vehicle for over a month. He could not recall if provided a bill of sale for the vehicle to the officers, but he did not believe that he did. was asked to exit the vehicle, while the officers queried the status of the license plate on his vehicle. the officers that he was on his way to pick up a friend, but could not provide an address for the friend. The license plates on the vehicle was driving were registered to A&M Towing in was asked if he had registration for the van, and he told the officers that the plates were for A&M Towing, but not for the vehicle he was driving. At that time, had a Chicago address. Officer Aguilar contacted A&M Towing and it was confirmed by the owner of A&M Towing that did not have permission to have its license plates on the vehicle. ticketed for failure to have valid insurance for the vehicle; for not having valid registration for the vehicle; and for illegally displaying a license plate on the vehicle without the permission of its told the officers that he had placed the Indiana Transport plates on the vehicle. Because was going to be arrested, and his van was going to be towed, Officer Aguilar, for officer safety reasons, conducted a brief inventory search of the vehicle. The van was subsequently transported to the police station, but Officer Aguilar did not recall who transported the van to the police station. He believed that the van was ultimately impounded. arrested without incident and had approximately \$2,000 in cash on his person. In his interview with COPA on August 27, 2020, 8 Officer Christian Duarte, Star #3725, stated that relative to the arrest of on August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:00 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91st Street, Chicago, Illinois, he and his partner, Office Randy Aguilar, were on patrol in the area. At that time, Officer Duarte was driving the vehicle. The officers were travelling northbound on Halsted, when Officer Duarte observed travelling southbound on Halsted, in a van, and not wearing a seatbelt. Officer Duarte stated that the windows on the van were somewhat tinted; however, the driver's side window on the van was open. The officers then conducted a u-turn and curbed vehicle. Officer Aguilar approached the van on the passenger side. Officer Duarte approached the van on the driver's side, and told why he was pulled over. produced a valid Illinois driver's license, but did not produce insurance for the vehicle. Let told Officer Duarte that he had recently purchased the van, but that he had not obtained registration for it. He did not recall if had shown him a bill of sale for the van. The license plate on the vehicle was not registered to **but was**, but was registered to A&M Towing, a company in Indiana. He could not recall if he had called A&M Towing, or

was removed from the vehicle and Officer Duarte handcuffed at the rear of the van and explained to him, in Spanish, why he was being detained. was subsequently

their plate was not supposed to be displayed on the van driven by Farias.

whether his partner had called A&M Towing, but A&M Towing was called at some point, either from the scene, or afterwards at the police station. An individual at A&M Towing confirmed that

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⁸ Attachment #25

arrested for failure to provide valid insurance and registration for the vehicle. was patted down. No contraband was found, but he did have some cash on his person. The van contained various types of auto parts, and Officer Aguilar conducted a brief search of the vehicle because it was going to be transported to the police station. This occurred while Officer Duarte detained. With respect to van, it was transported by one of the officers to the police station, while the other officer drove the police vehicle in which was secured.

b. Digital Evidence

BWC of Officer Christian Duarte at District 22 Lock-Up.⁹ is in custody, informed of the charges, and mirandized. declines to make a formal statement.

BWC at of Officer Randy Aguilar at District 22 Lock-Up.¹⁰ is in custody,

informed of the charges, and mirandized. declines to make a formal statement.

BWC of Officer Randy Aguilar, Star #6781, at arrest location. van is already

curbed, and Officer Duarte is standing next to _____, who is handcuffed. The interior of van is shown, and the rear compartment contains tools, auto parts, plastic bags and other items. Officer Aguilar is seen looking inside of the van. Officer Aguilar opens the driver's side door and looks inside. Nothing is observed in the front compartment area. Officer Aguilar closes the front door, and nothing is removed from the vehicle. Officer Aguilar walks to the rear of the vehicle where is standing, handcuffed behind his back. Officer Duarte is standing in front of him. The rear license plate on the van, Indiana, is clearly visible. Both officers tell his vehicle has to be registered to be driven in Illinois. Officer Aguilar tells him that he is driving with a company license plate, and that it is registered in Indiana, but that told him he had the vehicle for about a month, and that he lives in Chicago. Officer Aguilar tells that he is supposed to have an Illinois license plate. Officer Aguilar tells that he is under arrest for a false registration. Officer Aguilar points to the license plate, Indiana, Transport, and states that the vehicle, having a Transport license plate, is only for the purpose of transporting vehicles. The rear window of the van appears to be somewhat tinted. Aguilar, as Officer Duarte acts as security. No contraband is found. A marked CPD unit arrives, is placed in the rear of the vehicle by Officer Aguilar. Officer Aguilar tells the officer from the marked unit that did not have his seatbelt on, and that they curbed him. He also tells the officer that has a false registration on the vehicle, and that it comes back to A&M Towing in Indiana, and its purpose is to transport vehicles. He is searched and then he is placed into the rear of a police vehicle. He is not mirandized, but the officers continue to question him about the van. The rear window of the van appears to be tinted.

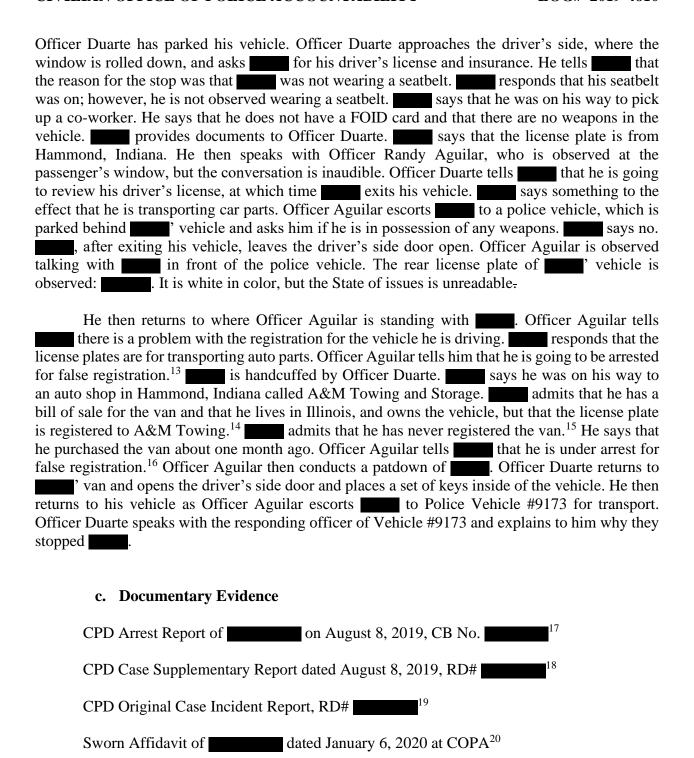
BWC of Officer Christian Duarte, Star #3725, at arrest location.¹² Officer Duarte is observed arriving at the scene in his vehicle. He exits the vehicle and approaches which, a SUV type vehicle, dark in color, which is parked on the side of the street opposite to where

⁹ Attachment #12

¹⁰ Attachment #14

¹¹ Attachment #13

¹² Attachment #24



¹³ Attachment #24 at 10:06

¹⁴ Attachment #24 at 11:41

¹⁵ Attachment #24 at 12:23

¹⁶ Attachment #24 at 15:40

¹⁷ Attachment #2

¹⁸ Attachment #5

¹⁹ Attachment #6

²⁰ Attachment #7

OEMC²¹ Event Query #

VI. ANALYSIS

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. <u>Not Sustained</u> where it is determined there is insufficient evidence to prove the allegations by a preponderance of the evidence;
- 3. <u>Unfounded</u> where it is determined by clear and convincing evidence that an allegation is false or not factual; or
- 4. <u>Exonerated</u> 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 the conduct occurred and violated Department policy. See Avery v. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co., 216 III. 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 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 of a criminal offense. See *e.g.*, *People v. Coan*, 2016 IL App (2d) 151036 (2016). 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." *Id.* at ¶ 28.

was arrested on August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91st Street, Chicago, Illinois, by officers of the Chicago Police Department (CPD), while driving a van bearing Indiana license plates. According to the relevant police report, had been stopped for not wearing a seatbelt. Illinois law requires all drivers and passengers, front and back seat, age 8 and older, to wear safety belts, even if the vehicle is equipped with air bags.²³ Further, an officer may initiate a brief investigative traffic stop when he has "a particularized and objective basis" to suspect legal wrongdoing. See *United States* v. *Cortez*, 449 U.S. 411, 417. Thus, not wearing a seatbelt is grounds to make a lawful traffic stop; which, in this case, the officers effectuated.

²³ 625 ILCS5/12-603.1

²¹ Office of Emergency Management and Communications

²² Attachment #8

For to prevail, relative to his allegation that he was wearing a seatbelt at the time he was detained, there must be a preponderance of the evidence that he was, in fact, wearing a seatbelt at that time. was alone in his vehicle when he was initially stopped by the officers. No eye witnesses to the event have been identified, nor has identified any eye-witnesses. It is simply word, which must be weighed against the account of the officers that is documented in their police report. In their interviews with COPA both officers, respectively, related that was not wearing a seatbelt at the time he was stopped. As such, because the preponderance of the evidence standard has not been met, Allegation #1 alleged against Officer Randy J. Aguilar, Star #6781, and Officer Christian Duarte, Star #3725, respectively, should be deemed NOT SUSTAINED.

Relevant to the subsequent search and arrest of ______, it is well-documented that, with respect to the 4th Amendment to the United States Constitution, when a person is lawfully arrested, a search incident to that arrest is justified to ensure the safety of the officers. See *United States v. Robinson*, 414 U.S. 218, 38 L.Ed.2d 427, 94 S.Ct. 467 (1973) and *Gustafson v. Florida*, 414 U.S. 260, L.Ed.2d 456, 94 S.Ct. 48 (1973).²⁵ Also, it should be noted that the Illinois Constitution is in lock-step with the United States Constitution, and expresses the same language.²⁶

Further, once it was determined that could not produce valid proof of insurance at the time of the stop, he was subject to lawful arrest.²⁷ find, in his statement to COPA,²⁸ had claimed that he had purchased the vehicle in question, but he also had admitted that he had not legally registered the vehicle. Because the vehicle was not legally registered, would not have been able to purchase insurance for the vehicle. Hence, the arrest for false registration of the vehicle coupled with operating a motor vehicle without insurance was lawful,²⁹ and the subsequent search of incident to his arrest was equally lawful, as well.

As a result, Allegation #2 and Allegation #3, alleged against Officer Randy J. Aguilar, Star #6781, and Officer Christian Duarte, Star #3725, respectively, should be deemed EXONERATED.

With respect to Allegation #4, the search of vehicle, both Officer Randy J. Aguilar, Star #6781, and Officer Christian Duarte, Star #3725, respectively, should be deemed EXONERATED. had been lawfully stopped, and then lawfully arrested. as the lone occupant of the vehicle, rendered the vehicle subject to being towed, as to leave it parked on the side of the road and unattended would be unsafe. When vehicles are towed a valid inventory search of the vehicle is authorized. Warrantless inventory searches of automobiles are permissible, if they are conducted pursuant to policies adopted by law enforcement, which govern the decision to

²⁴ Attachment #2

²⁵ It is the fact of the lawful arrest which establishes the authority to search, and we hold that in the case of a lawful custodial arrest a full search of the person is not only an exception to the warrant requirement of the Fourth Amendment, but is also a reasonable search under that Amendment.

²⁶ Ill. Const. 1970, art. I, § 6

²⁷ See Attachment #2

²⁸ See Attachment #3

²⁹ See 625 ILCS 5.0/3-707-A

impound the vehicle, and the nature and scope of any subsequent search.³⁰ Since was going to be towed, and later impounded, and a valid inventory search / impoundment protocol was in place by the CPD,³¹ the cursory search of was lawful. Further, Officer Duarte, in his interview with COPA, stated that he had driven we vehicle to the police station. As such, for officer safety, a brief inventory search of the vehicle is reasonable prior to transport.

VII. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis set forth above, COPA makes the following findings:

Officer	Allegation	Finding / Recommendation
Officer Randy J. Aguilar	1. It is alleged by that on or about August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91 st Street, Chicago, Illinois, he was detained by Officer Randy J. Aguilar, Star #6781, without justification.	Not Sustained
	2. It is alleged by that on or about August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91 st Street, Chicago, Illinois, he was searched by Officer Randy J. Aguilar, Star #6781, without justification.	Exonerated
	3. It is alleged by that on or about August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91 st Street, Chicago, Illinois, he was arrested by Officer Randy J. Aguilar, Star #6781, without justification.	Exonerated
	4. It is alleged by that on or about August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91 st Street, Chicago, Illinois, his vehicle was searched by Officer Randy J. Aguilar, Star #6781, without justification.	Exonerated
Officer Christian Duarte	1. It is alleged by that on or about August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91st Street,	Not Sustained

 ³⁰ See *Florida v. Wells*, 495 U.S. 1, 4-5, 110 S.Ct. 1632, 1635 (1990); *United States v. Kennedy*, 427 F.3d 1136, 1144 (8th Cir. 2005); *Colorado v. Bertine*, 479 U.S. 367, 375, 107 S.Ct. 738, 743 (1987); *People v. Mason*, 403 III.App.3d 1048, 935 N.E.2d 130 (3d Dist. 2010); *People v. Davis*, 2019 IL App (1st) 181492.
 ³¹ See S 07-03-05³¹

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Chicago, Illinois, he was detained by Officer Christian Duarte, Star #3725, without justification.

2. It is alleged by that on or about August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91st Street, Chicago, Illinois, he was searched by Officer Christian Duarte, Star #3725, without justification.

3. It is alleged by that on or about **Exonerated**

August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91st Street, Chicago, Illinois, he was arrested by Officer Christian Duarte, Star #3725, without justification.

4. It is alleged by that on or about August 8, 2019, at approximately 7:07 a.m., in the vicinity of 731 West 91st Street, Chicago, Illinois, his vehicle was searched by Officer Christian Duarte, Star #3725, without justification.

Exonerated

Exonerated

Approved:



Angela Hearts-Glass Deputy Chief Investigator 2-16-21

Date

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad#:12Investigator:James L. WhitmerSupervising Investigator:Andrew DalkinDeputy Chief Administrator:Angela Hearts-Glass