

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Date/Time/Location of Incident:	November 3, 2019; Between approximately 5:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.,
Date/Time of COPA Notification:	November 4, 2019; 3:18 p.m.
Involved Officer #1:	Emile Domer; Star # 17284; Employee # [REDACTED]; DOA: April 01, 2013; Police Officer; Unit 007; DOB: [REDACTED], 1986; Male; Black.
Involved Officer #2:	James D. Cascone; Star #560; Employee # [REDACTED]; DOA: May 31, 1994; Lieutenant; Unit 004/716; DOB: [REDACTED], 1967; Male; White.
Involved Officer #3:	Michael Cavanaugh, Star #1063; Employee # [REDACTED]; DOA: May 10, 1999; Sergeant; Unit 007/193; DOB: [REDACTED], 1972; Male; White.
Involved Individual #1:	[REDACTED] DOB: Unknown; Female; White.
Case Type:	Domestic Violence

On November 3, 2019, Lieutenant James Cascone obtained Case Report for Simple Assault, RD#[REDACTED], after a receiving notification from Officer [REDACTED] the [REDACTED] of Officer Emile Domer, from whom she is living separately. [REDACTED] related that Emile Domer had threatened her with physical harm via telephone. Emile Domer’s immediate supervisor, Sgt. Cavanaugh, responded to his residence. Emile Domer subsequently sought [REDACTED] treatment at Little Company of Mary Hospital. [REDACTED] denied reporting to Lt. Cascone that she had been threatened on November 3, 2019 and did not cooperate with this investigation. Emile Domer denied making this allegation. COPA was unable to determine if this allegation occurred as alleged.

I. ALLEGATIONS

Officer	Allegation	Finding
Officer Emile Domer	1.It is alleged that on or about November 3, 2019, between approximately 5:30p.m. and 9:00 p.m., via telephone, the accused threatened [REDACTED] with physical harm.	Not Sustained

II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE¹

On November 3, 2019, Lt. Cascone obtained Case Report for Simple Assault and Log # [REDACTED] on behalf of the victim, [REDACTED]. In the Initiation Report, Lt. Cascone documented that he had a telephone conversation with [REDACTED] who told him that Officer Domer had made verbal threats involving physical violence to her via telephone. Lt. Cascone initiated the completion of a case report documenting these threats after [REDACTED] refused. It was also noted that Officer Domer and [REDACTED] had previously been advised on January 29, 2019, to seek counseling for their [REDACTED] problems.² The Case Report was subsequently classified as “Unfounded” because [REDACTED] was in Campton Hills, Illinois at the time of the alleged telephone threats and the incident would have been under the Jurisdiction of the Campton Hills Police Department. It was also noted that [REDACTED] had made a report with the Campton Hills Police.^{3 4}

In a telephone call to COPA Investigator Goodwin on November 8, 2019, [REDACTED] a University of Chicago Police Officer, refused to cooperate with this investigation and refused to provide COPA with an interview. However, she stated that she was not in fear of Officer Domer and that he had not threatened her, adding that she had not made such allegation to Lt. Cascone.⁵

In an interview with COPA on January 24, 2020, Lt. Cascone stated that he was Officer Domer’s supervisor, but that Officer Dome had been injured on duty during June of 2019.⁶ Lt. Cascone told investigators that [REDACTED] contacted him twice over the last year. The first time was in January 2019 when she reported that Officer Domer was on the way to her mother’s home and had threatened her.⁷ The second time was on November 3, 2019, and she told him that Officer Domer had made numerous threats to her over the telephone, inferring that weapons would be involved. Finally, [REDACTED] also told Lt. Cascone that she was concerned that Officer Domer might hurt himself and commit suicide. In response, Lt. Cascone went to Officer Domer’s personal residence and also summoned Sergeant Michael Cavanaugh, Officer Domer’s immediate supervisor, to assist him in checking on him.

Lt. Cascone stated that Officer Domer appeared to be in crisis. And after approximately two hours of conversation, Officer Domer agreed to go to Little Company of Mary Hospital. Lt. Cascone described Officer Domer as very agitated, hyper, and very combative.⁸ Officer Domer

¹COPA conducted a full and complete investigation of this matter, including the interview of all pertinent civilian and officer witnesses, and the collection and review of digital, documentary, and forensic evidence. As part of COPA’s ongoing efforts to increase case closure capacity, certain cases are summarized more succinctly in a Modified Summary Report of Investigation, pursuant to COPA Guideline Modified Summary Report of Investigation Template and Approvals, effective February 13, 2019.

² This re refers to an incident that was documented under Campton Hills Police Department Incident Report # and is being investigated by COPA under Log #1092533.

³ The Campton Hills Police Department has no report made by [REDACTED] on November 3, 2019. There is only record of the incident from January 2019 that is being investigated by COPA under Log #1092533.

⁴ Atts. 1,16, 17, 18.

⁵ Att. 2.

⁶ This is incorrect. Emile Domer was IOD in August 2019.

⁷ This is being investigated by COPA under Log #1092533

⁸ Att. 7. Pg. 10.

told Lt. Cascone that he had not slept in two or three days and was stressed out. Sgt. Cavanaugh accompanied Officer Domer to the hospital while Lt. Cascone secured Officer Domer's weapons. Finally, Lt. Cascone stated that he has had no contact with Officer Domer or [REDACTED] since November 3, 2019.⁹

In a statement to COPA on October 5, 2020, Sgt. Cavanaugh identified himself as the direct supervisor of Officer Domer. On November 3, 2019, Lt. Cascone called Sgt. Cavanaugh and ordered him to respond to Officer Domer's residence and take him to Little Company of Mary Hospital for treatment. Sgt. Cavanaugh stated that Officer Domer was not receptive, and that Officer Domer's sister let him into the residence. The sister was crying and related to Sgt. Cavanaugh that Officer Domer had not slept in days. Sgt. Cavanaugh, accompanied by two officers from the unit that were friends of Officer Domer, spent approximately twenty-five minutes convincing Officer Domer to go the hospital. Sgt. Cavanaugh described Officer Domer as agitated and pacing. Sgt. Cavanaugh told Officer Domer that he was there to help and had a direct order to take him to the hospital.

Officer Domer eventually went into his bedroom and shut the door. Sgt. Cavanaugh stated that he heard a gun being racked and grew nervous until Officer Domer opened the door approximately thirty seconds later and handed his gun and the magazine to an officer. Officer Domer then agreed to go to the hospital, where he voluntarily admitted himself. Sgt. Cavanaugh recalled that a friend of Officer Domer's, [REDACTED], was at the hospital and spoke with Officer Domer prior to his decision to voluntarily admit himself for treatment. Sgt. Cavanaugh stated that [REDACTED] was not present at the residence or hospital and that he did not witness Officer Domer make any threats via telephone to [REDACTED]

In an interview with COPA on July 20, 2020, Officer Domer acknowledged that he was on leave from work from August 2019 through May 2021. He confirmed that on November 3, 2019, himself and [REDACTED] were living at separate residences, inching towards a [REDACTED]. At the time, he was also dating another woman, which [REDACTED] was aware of but not happy about. He further confirmed that on November 3, 2019, Officer Domer and [REDACTED] argued via telephone – [REDACTED] wanted Officer Domer back, he refused and wanted to continue his extramarital relationship. Officer Domer described [REDACTED] as pissed and believed that she made false allegations against him out of spite.¹⁰ Officer Domer stated that [REDACTED] called Lt. Cascone and told Lt. Cascone that he (Officer Domer) was threatening to shoot himself in the head. Officer Domer denied such an act. He also denied threatening [REDACTED] with physical harm.

Officer Domer told COPA investigators that on the November 3 date Sgt. Cavanaugh somehow made entrance into his (Officer Domer's) residence. Sgt. Cavanaugh told him that Lt. Cascone had given him a direct order to go to the hospital. Officer Domer had no idea why Sgt. Cavanaugh was at his home or why he had a direct order to go to the hospital.

⁹ Atts. 3, 7.

¹⁰ Att. 15, Pg. 10.

III. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

COPA finds that **Allegation #1** against Officer Emile Domer is **Not Sustained**. [REDACTED] did not cooperate with this investigation; however, she denied reporting to Lt. Cascone that Officer Domer made threats of physical harm against her. Officer Domer also denied this allegation. In addition, Sgt. Cavanaugh nor Lt. Cascone directly witnessed Officer Domer make threats towards [REDACTED] via the telephone. Conversely, Officer Domer did seek treatment at the Hospital and arguably Lt. Cascone insolvent/concern was triggered by something. In sum, COPA finds there is insufficient evidence to determine whether this allegation occurred as alleged.

Approved:

[REDACTED]

11/20/2021

Matthew Haynam
Deputy Chief Administrator – Chief Investigator

Date

Appendix A

Assigned Investigative Staff

Squad#:	6
Investigator:	Jeanne Alyse Goodwin
Supervising Investigator:	Sharday Jackson/Dortricia Penn
Deputy Chief Administrator:	Matthew Haynam