



OFFICE OF POLICE OVERSIGHT

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COMPLAINT HOTLINE: 512-972-20PO

TO: Robin Henderson, Interim Chief, Austin Police Department

FROM: Gail McCant, Director, Office of Police Oversight

DATE: May 10, 2024

SUBJECT: OPO Objection Case # 2024-0090

Dear Chief Henderson,

The Office of Police Oversight has concluded its review of Case #2024-0090 involving Detective Laura Correa #5903. The events described below resulted in the filing of an external complaint with the Office of Police Oversight on February 13, 2024, by Christopher Noak.

Summary of Facts:

Detective Corea and Mr. Noak met for the first time on Saturday, November 11, 2023. The encounter occurred at a Westlake High School softball field in the 1300 block of Westbank Drive. Mr. Noak is the [REDACTED] Detective Corea's [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] Detective Corea share [REDACTED] a doubleheader softball game on the day of the encounter. Detective Corea would describe their encounter as unpleasant, and by all accounts, this unpleasant encounter was precipitated by Detective Corea.

Detective Corea contends that Mr. Noak was staring at her while they were both sitting in the bleachers in an attempt to provoke a reaction from her or annoy her. On the other hand, Mr. Noak maintains that he received an angry look from Detective Corea. However, no information suggests that Mr. Noak commented to Detective Corea or reacted in any way to her staring. However, Detective Corea, by her own admission, states to Mr. Noak, *"Hey, you need to turn your head and stop looking at me."* This was the first indication that Detective Corea was the aggressor and initiator of the confrontation that would ensue soon after this initial interaction with Mr. Noak. **Correa interview transcript line 293-294.**

The Internal Affairs witness interviews revealed that Mr. Noak and [REDACTED] were seated five rows up from the bottom bleachers, whereas Detective Corea was in the front row. Therefore, it's reasonable to believe that Detective Corea would have had to look up into the stands at Mr. Noak and [REDACTED] and make eye contact with them to know that Mr. Noak was staring at her.

Later, after the first game, a confrontation ensued in front or near the restroom; again, from all accounts, Detective Corea initiated this confrontation. Detective Corea, by her own admission, stated she looked at Mr. Noak and said, *"Hey, you don't know who I am. You didn't know who I was before. Now you know who I am. Stay the fuck away [REDACTED] don't like you. [REDACTED] feel comfortable around you."*



“If you keep fucking my-with, um, keep [REDACTED], and you’ll really get to fucking know me.” **Correa interview transcript line 306-310.** This confrontation ensued for several minutes, during which Detective Correa insinuated that Ms. Noak was there to watch [REDACTED]; she also made the point that Mr. Noak’s [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and then threatened to knock his dentures out.

Mr. Noak acknowledges that her comments related to [REDACTED] infuriated him, and he stated to Detective Correa that he would fuck her up if she fucked [REDACTED]. **Noak interview transcript line 819-829**

Detective Correa claims that [REDACTED] expressed discomfort around Mr. Noak after the first game, which set her in motion to confront Mr. Noak and [REDACTED] when she encountered them by the restroom. However, the Detective's initial demand for Mr. Noak to stop looking at her suggests that she was already inclined to engage in this confrontation, even before [REDACTED] commented.

If this was not enough, Detective Correa returned to the stands and continued her false narrative that Mr. Noak was creeping and looking at not only [REDACTED] but all the little girls, which caused concern to at least one parent sitting in the stands. **Correa interview transcript lines 667-668.**

However, Detective Correa provided no evidence to confirm her allegation/insinuation. What is confirmed is that Mr. Noak has been employed with the City of Austin for 25 years as an accountant, is subject to several background checks per year due to his position, is the [REDACTED]

Det. Correa contends that she behaved in this manner because she felt threatened by Mr. Noak because of his stature; he is 6’2, and she is 5’2. However, she continued to engage him even after the confrontation by the restroom to the point he and [REDACTED] decided to move from the area and watch the game on the visitor’s side of the stadium, which appeared to de-escalate the situation in that no additional engagement occurred after they moved.

Detective Correa's actions were neither justified nor proper according to Dept. General Orders and Detective Correa should have been held accountable for her actions.

Office of Police Oversight Objection:

On April 30, 2024, The Office of Police Oversight was notified that Detective Correa was exonerated. OPO objects to the disciplinary determination. Based on OPO’s review, Detective Correa violated APD’s General Orders and should have been disciplined accordingly. Specifically, *GO 900. General Conduct and Responsibility, GO 900.1.1 (a) Responsibility to Know and Comply* and *300 Responsibility to Community 301.2 (c) (d) (e) Impartial Attitude and Courtesy.*

The chain of command at APD has set a dangerous precedent by exonerating Detective Correa. This determination by the chain sends a message that it is acceptable for an APD law enforcement staff to



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accuse a member of the community of inappropriate behavior with a minor with no supporting evidence, humiliate and shame them, use profane language against an individual, and then threaten to assault them, all without any consequences for her actions. **Correa interview transcript line 592-593 & 612-614**

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,
Gail McCant
Director
Office of Police Oversight

