



## CORONA POLICE DEPARTMENT

730 PUBLIC SAFETY WAY, CORONA, CA 92878-2002

**To:** Matthew Woodward, Police Officer  
**From:** Bob Newman, Chief of Police *R 7/15/2021*  
**Date:** July 15, 2021  
**Subject:** Notice of Disciplinary Action – Termination

This memorandum is to notify you that, after careful consideration of the information presented in your *Skelly* hearing on Wednesday, July 14, 2021, I have made the decision to uphold the proposed action of termination from your sworn position as a police officer for the City of Corona. The termination is scheduled to be effective Friday, July 16, 2021.

This action is being taken for the reasons specified in the Division Commander's Review and Insight, which was provided to you on May 27, 2021.

During your *Skelly* hearing, no new information was presented that would cause me to change the recommendation of termination. To the contrary, what I heard in the *Skelly* hearing reinforced and confirmed Captain Roulston's observations. Your nearly two-hour *Skelly* presentation consisted largely of unwarranted criticisms of the investigation, attacks on the motives, character, and performance of several veteran officers, and repeatedly demonstrated an unwillingness on your part to acknowledge and take responsibility for your behavior.

Of greatest concern are your repeated and continuing denials that you pointed your firearm at the suspect and that you were untruthful about pointing your firearm at the suspect. Your attorney, Susan Jerich, argued that this was due to vague questioning. She specifically referred to questioning from Sergeant Healy on the night of the incident, as well as during your administrative interview with Sergeant Samano. However, your body-worn camera video plainly shows you pointing your firearm at the suspect and illuminating the suspect with your weapon-mounted light, not just for a fleeting moment, but for some two minutes. That was indisputably a reportable use of force under state law and department policy, on which you had received appropriate training.

When questioned by Sergeant Healy the night of the incident, your answers were objectively false. Even viewed in the light most favorable to you, your answers were less than forthcoming, not the whole truth, and inconsistent with the complete candor expected of police officers. Even after you viewed your body-worn and vehicle camera video, which without question depict your weapon-mounted light illuminating the subject, you continued to deny pointing your firearm at the suspect.

You have had several opportunities to explain the situation and your viewpoint to Sergeant Healy, Sergeant Samano, and me during your *Skelly* hearing. On each occasion, you chose to portray the facts in manner which simply cannot be reconciled with the video evidence or with the testimony of officers, like Sergeant Healy, who have no motive to be untruthful.

To be a police officer, one must have credibility, with no exception. When credibility is lost, so is trust. The Department is obligated to notify the Riverside District Attorney's Office of sustained allegations of dishonesty. As a result, your name will be flagged in their Writs and Appeals Unit and will become a "Brady" issue. Being on a "Brady" list will gravely affect your ability to have a case filed with the District Attorney's Office.

A significant portion of your *Skelly* presentation was devoted to arguments in mitigation, so I will address that topic briefly. In some instances, a long track record of strong performance is a mitigating factor in discipline decisions. However, that is not the case here. As detailed in Captain Roulston's review, insight, and recommendation, your performance during your brief time with this department reflects a pattern of poor performance.

Your annual performance evaluation ratings declined from 81.5% in 2017 to 75.8% in 2020. Your 2019 and 2020 evaluations, performed by two different sergeants, both noted low productivity and other concerns. Most significantly, you have several prior instances of progressive discipline. Your arguments at the *Skelly* hearing regarding your purported history of strong performance and lack of prior performance problems suggest an inability or unwillingness on your part to see and portray things as they really are and adjust to the standards of the Corona Police Department.

To be clear, your downward trending performance evaluations are not the reasons *per se* for your termination. However, this is a progressive discipline situation, and your overall performance with this organization over the past few years is certainly not a mitigating factor in your favor.

In summary, I find that Sergeant's Samano's investigation, and Captain Adam Roulston's review, insight, and recommendation, were thorough, fair, and appropriate. Your actions and statements have violated the trust of the public and of this department. Under these unfortunate circumstances, you have left me no choice but to terminate your employment from the City of Corona Police Department.

## MEMORANDUM

February 11, 2021

TO: Matthew Woodward  
Police Officer II

FROM: Captain Adam Roulston *AR 2/11/21*  
Field Services Division

SUBJECT: **PLACEMENT ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE**

On February 8, 2021, a personnel investigation was initiated by the Police Department naming you as the employee involved. Pursuant to Section 1020.8 of the Corona Police Policy Manual, I am placing you on paid administrative leave effectively immediately. This notice is to inform you that pursuant to Section 1020.8 (b), any employee placed on administrative leave shall be required to continue to comply with all policies and lawful orders of a supervisor.

You will remain on paid leave pending the findings and recommendations on this matter. During this time, you will not have authorization to access any police department files, databases, department social media sites, or criminal justice information systems. You also will not be authorized to be in any Police Department facility or office unless your presence has been scheduled in furtherance of this investigation and you are escorted by Sergeant Megan Samano.

YOU ARE ORDERED not to discuss your administrative status with anyone except your authorized representative or Department approved investigator. You have the right to be represented by a representative of your choice who may be present at all times during the investigative interview. This representative shall not be a person subject to the same investigation. Your representative shall not be required to disclose, nor be subject to any punitive action for refusing to disclose any information received from you while under investigation in non-criminal matters.

While on administrative leave you are to be available to the Corona Police Department, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. You will need to provide Sergeant Megan Samano with a telephone number where you can be reached during these hours. Sergeant Samano will be assigned as your police department contact person while this matter is being reviewed. She can be reached in her office at (951) 817-5786.

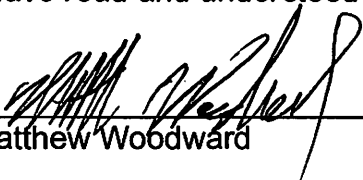
As you are aware, investigations are confidential. In order to protect your confidentiality, the rights of other employees and clients and the integrity of the investigation, you are requested not to communicate any information regarding this/these allegations(s) with

other employees or persons who may have information pertinent to the investigation. You are prohibited from retaliating against anyone for being the subject of this investigation, or for their participating in the investigation process.

Your failure to comply with any of the above orders and directives will constitute insubordination and may subject you to disciplinary action up to, and including termination. Any questions or correspondence regarding this investigation should be addressed to Captain Adam Roulston.

Please keep in mind that the services of the department's Peer Support Program and The Counseling Team are available to you for assistance. At this time, you are mandated to one session within a week to speak with someone with the Counseling Team. To schedule the appointment, you must call (800) 222-9691. At the conclusion of your appointment, you will be mandated to attend any further sessions at the direction of the Counseling Team.

*I have read and understood the above statement:*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew Woodward

3/11/2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **CORONA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### ***Personnel Complain Procedure***

#### **1020.8 ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE**

*When a complaint of misconduct is of a serious nature, or when circumstances indicate that allowing the accused to continue to work would adversely affect the mission of the Department, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee may temporarily assign an accused employee to administrative leave. Any employee placed on administrative leave:*

- (a) May be required to relinquish any department badge, identification, assigned weapons and any other department equipment.*
- (b) Shall be required to continue to comply with all policies and lawful orders of a supervisor.*
- (c) May be temporarily reassigned to a different shift, generally a normal business-hours shift, during the investigation. The employee may be required to remain available for contact at all times during such shift and will report as ordered.*



**CORONA POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**NOTICE OF PROPOSED DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

Date Issued: 5/27/2021

Issued to: Officer Matthew Woodward

Issued By: Captain Adam Roulston, FSD

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT I AM PROPOSING TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE THAT THE BELOW ALLEGATION(S) ARE SUSTAINED REGARDING PI# 21-002 AND THAT YOU RECEIVE A PENALTY OF:**

- **Termination**

**Allegation:**

Corona Police Department Policy Manual Sections:

- 345.2.2 – Report Preparation **SUSTAINED**
- 340.5.8 (c) – Performance **SUSTAINED**
- 340.5.1 (b) – Disobedience of Orders **SUSTAINED**
- 345.2.1 (a) – Required Reporting / Criminal Activity **SUSTAINED**
- 806.4 (a) – Arrest Without Filing **SUSTAINED**

**Acknowledgment (Employee shall initial each):**

Your signature/initials does not indicate concurrence with my recommendation; however, it does acknowledge:

MCW

That you have been informed of your right to representation prior to discussing this matter;

MCW

That you have been offered an opportunity to review documentation and investigative materials upon which the penalty decision is based; and

MCW

That you have been offered an opportunity to request a hearing before the Chief of Police. This request may be made, directly to the office of the Chief of Police, either orally or in writing within five (5) business days. The results of the hearing will be considered by the Chief of Police prior to the adjudication of this matter.

PROPOSED DISCIPLINARY ACTION  
Officer Matthew Woodward, PI# 21-002

2

EMPLOYEE SHALL INITIAL EACH APPROPRIATE BOX:

msw  
Yes

\_\_\_\_\_  
No

Did you receive a copy of the investigative material?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Yes

msw  
No

Do you waive your right to receive a copy of the investigative material?


\_\_\_\_\_  
Yes

msw  
No

Do you waive your right to request a hearing before the Chief of Police?

 5/27/2021  
Employee's Signature

PATROL  
Division

 5/27/2021  
Supervisor's Signature

CHIEF OF POLICE  
Division

## DISPOSITION OF REPORT

### Division Commander's Review and Insight:

#### Overview:

On February 11, 2021, this internal investigation was initiated in response to concerns brought about by two sergeants. The concerns resulted from an incident Officer Woodward handled on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Sergeant Eveland submitted a Supervisor Report on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The report stated that Officer Woodward was on routine patrol when he was flagged down by a Marshall's store employee regarding a shoplifting. During that incident, he located the possible suspect, followed him a short time, and ultimately detained him for further investigation. As a result of the investigation, no charges were filed against the suspect, he was transported home, and no report was written.

Further inquiries by Sergeants Healy and Eveland arose pertaining to Officer Woodward's method of detention, if he pointed his handgun at the suspect, and his truthfulness when being asked about pointing his firearm. After viewing the incident on Watchguard video, both Sergeants saw it was clear that he did point his handgun at the suspect and therefore was required to complete a report per policy.

The Supervisor Report was provided to Lt. Auck and then myself, which resulted in Officer Woodward being ordered to complete a report to satisfy policy and the initiation of this Personnel Investigation.

### Findings and Recommendations:

#### Corona Police Department Policy Manual Sections:

- 345.2.2 – Report Preparation **SUSTAINED**
- 340.5.8 (c) – Performance **SUSTAINED**

#### Additional CPD Policies as a result of the investigation:

- 340.5.1 (b) – Disobedience of Orders **SUSTAINED**
- 345.2.1 (a) – Required Reporting / Criminal Activity **SUSTAINED**
- 806.4 (a) – Arrest Without Filing **SUSTAINED**

It is alleged that Officer Woodward violated procedures regarding pointing his firearm at someone to affect a detention/arrest and documenting it in a police report. Subsequently, when asked about the incident by Sergeant Healy, he advised Sergeant Healy he did not point his firearm and therefore did not complete a report per policy.

I have reviewed all documentation associated with this investigation and found there appears to be sufficient facts, including statements and video footage, supporting that the alleged behavior and comments did occur as reported by Sergeant Eveland, and that the allegations should be sustained.

This investigation brought forward several concerns which are summarized below.

1. Detention/Arrest:

Officer Woodward essentially on-sighted a shoplifting incident and followed the suspect in an attempt to detain and further investigate. Officer Woodward was in a marked police vehicle and was wearing a full uniform. He gave the suspect orders to stop and the suspect fled on foot for several hundred yards. When he approached a chainlink fence, the suspect was unable to climb over it. Officer Woodward exited his vehicle and again gave verbal orders. The suspect complied and laid face down with his arms extended.

Officer Woodward approached the suspect on foot, pointed his handgun in the direction of the suspect and illuminated him with his weapon mounted light. Officer Woodward held the suspect at gunpoint as he waited for backing officers to arrive. Cpl. Youngquist arrived and activated some of his emergency lights. He approached Officer Woodward on foot and provided a K9 announcement before approaching the suspect to handcuff him. Officer Woodward holstered his handgun as they approached the suspect. Officer Woodward held the suspect at gunpoint for approximately 1 minute and 50 seconds.

The handcuffed suspect was placed in the backseat of Officer Woodward's marked police vehicle while Officers D. Alvarez, Ramirez, and Sergeant Healy arrived and listened to Officer Woodward's brief. This lasted approx. six minutes. Officer Woodward coordinated an in-field show up with Officers D. Alvarez and Ramirez. Officer Woodward drove the suspect, without obtaining consent, to the rear of the nearby movie theater, to recover his jacket and look for other property while Officers D. Alvarez and Ramirez drove to Marshall's to speak to the witnesses.

Officer Woodward read the suspect his Miranda rights, while the suspect is still handcuffed and seated in the rear of the police vehicle. After a brief conversation, Officer Woodward then drove the suspect, again without consent, to the front of the Marshall's store and met Officer D. Alvarez outside to tell him he'd wait with



the suspect by Best Buy. Ofcr. D. Alvarez coincidentally stated "I was going to say, you can't bring him over here."

Officer Woodward had the suspect in his custody for approx. 23 minutes. At the conclusion of the investigation, it was learned prosecution was not desired by the victims.

Officer Woodward called Sergeant Healy to ask if he could release the suspect in the field per Penal Code 849b, which supports the ideology that Officer Woodward felt the suspect was under arrest. Without knowing all of the details of the case and method of detention, or the transportation of the suspect, Sergeant Healy asked Officer Woodward if the suspect was detained or arrested. Officer Woodward replied he was only detained and Sergeant Healy then advised 849b was irrelevant and he could be released from the scene. Officer Woodward then transported the suspect home and wrote a few notes in the CAD comments, without drafting a report. The CAD notes did not mention pointing his gun or making an arrest, or a justification of a release.

The facts of this apprehension would lead a reasonable person and/or officer to believe this detention matured into an arrest. The suspect was given several verbal orders to stop at the initial contact, along with K9 announcements from Officer Woodward, even though a K9 was not on scene yet. The suspect was followed by a marked patrol vehicle, held at gunpoint, given a K9 announcement by Cpl. Youngquist with a police dog audibly barking nearby, handcuffed, and held in a police vehicle while five uniformed officers and four marked police vehicles with emergency lighting were present. He was then transported to a different location without consent or legal cause, Mirandized, questioned, and then transported to a third location without consent or cause, before being advised he would be transported home without charges.

While Officer Woodward appeared to have Probable Cause to arrest the suspect, he informed Sergeant Healy, at the conclusion of the investigation, that he had only detained the suspect and failed to complete an arrest report.

Several case laws have discussed detentions, arrests, prolonged detentions, de facto arrests, and transportations for identifying during in-field show-ups. In addition, standard CPD procedures for show-ups are detailed in Policy Section 610.8 (c) which states: *If safe and practicable, the person who is the subject of the show-up should not be handcuffed or in a patrol vehicle. (d) When feasible, members should bring the witness to the location of the subject of the show-up, rather than bring the subject of the show-up to the witness.* Officer Woodward, nor the assisting officers, never made any reference to the witness' ability to be taken to the location of the apprehension.

With all of the facts in this situation, that would lead someone to believe an arrest had been made, it is the expectation and policy for officers to complete a report. Had Sergeant Healy, or any supervisor, been apprised of all the facts in the apprehension, they would have required a report to be completed and a 849b release performed. Officer Woodward should have known this detention matured to an arrest and should have conveyed pertinent information to Sergeant Healy to help him make an accurate recommendation. This responsibility does not fall on the Supervisor, who was not on scene at the time of this question.

With an apparent arrest being made, the suspect was not properly released per PC 849b or 849.5 and CPD Policy 806.4, which requires an officer to issue a certificate to an individual arrested without filing, describing the action as a detention.

## 2. Pointing of Firearm:

The nature of the suspect running from Officer Woodward and him advising over the radio that the suspect was "proned out" led Sergeant Healy to believe Officer Woodward held the suspect at gunpoint. A few moments after their previous phone call, Sergeant Healy called Officer Woodward back to clarify if he pointed his gun at the suspect or not.

During his administrative interview, Sergeant Healy said, during the phone call, he advised Officer Woodward a report would be necessary if he pointed his gun. Sergeant Healy stated Officer Woodward told him he did not point his gun at the suspect.

During his administrative interview, Officer Woodward said that when Sergeant Healy called him, he specifically asked if he pointed his gun to get the suspect down off of the fence, to which Officer Woodward said he did not. Sergeant Healy said his question was never that specific.

Sometime after the conclusion of the incident, Sergeants Eveland and Healy viewed the dash and bodyworn video recorded by Officer Woodward. The video clearly shows Officer Woodward pointing his handgun at the suspect for approx. two minutes.

Due to this action being a mandatory reporting factor per policy, Lieutenant Fountain ordered Officer Woodward to come to the station to complete a report. In the process of completing his report, he had full access to his recorded video and stated during his administrative interview that he viewed the video to assist him in recollecting the events. In the report, he only mentions he "unholstered" his firearm.

During his administrative interview, Officer Woodward held his standpoint that he did not point his handgun at the suspect during the incident. His statement was that he held his handgun in the "low ready" position. He defined "low ready" as "...it's as we do on our qualifications, our training, our firearms training here is a low ready position is you're you're not looking across your sights, you're not looking through your sights..." He also motioned his hands in a downward direction to the interviewers.

He was asked by interviewers if he reviewed his camera footage and he said he did. He was asked, after reviewing the video, if he ever pointed his handgun at the suspect to which he replied, "no ma'am, I had it at the low ready the whole time that I was covering the area waiting for Officer Youngquist the parts where Officer Youngquist is talking to him, I have it at the low ready, you can see it in my shadow, you can see it in my angle that I have it at the low ready and in like front of the like where the suspect is."

While Officer Woodward is correct that he did not point his gun to get the suspect off of the fence, he is incorrect in his standpoint that he never pointed his gun at the suspect. While video footage can be deceiving at times, the angle of his weapon from his bodyworn camera footage is not a "low ready" position. The vehicle's panoramic camera footage shows his silhouette which also confirms his handgun position was not at low ready several times. Officer Woodward can be seen unholstering his handgun, pointing it directly in the suspect's direction and illuminate him with his weapon mounted light. His weapon mounted flashlight can be seen illuminating the suspect several times. Officer Woodward's silhouette shows him holding his handgun in front of his body with both arms slightly bent, in an isosceles fashion, with his muzzle pointing in the direction of the suspect.

Officer Woodward also utilized his weapon mounted flashlight to illuminate the suspect several times while he held him at gunpoint. The light is temporarily mounted under the barrel of his handgun and therefore the direction and vicinity it is shining would be almost identical to the direction and vicinity of the barrel. The light is clearly seen illuminating the suspect during most of the two minutes he was held at gunpoint, with the concentration of the light being on the suspect and not the area around him.

I have been a certified Rangemaster for nine years and spent 15 years on our Department's Special Response Team (SWAT) as an operator and Team Leader. As a Team Leader and Rangemaster, I have conducted several hundred range qualifications on various weapons systems. I have also qualified with multiple weapons systems several hundred times over my 26-year career. I have never instructed or been instructed to hold my firearms in the position that Officer Woodward held his to satisfy a low ready position. Anyone holding their firearm on a range in the position Officer Woodward did, would be told to lower their firearm before continuing.

One of our standard shooting range rules, that is clearly posted in the range and verbally admonished to all shooters, states: *Never let the muzzle cover anything which you are not willing to destroy.*

After reviewing the video, it is clear his muzzle direction constituted pointing his firearm at the suspect and therefore, was a reportable use of force per policy.

Officer Woodward has been an officer for 4.5 years, he has attended several basic and advanced firearms courses, holds a CPD Silver Medal marksmanship award, and qualifies at our range on a regular basis. In addition to his officer training and experience, Officer Woodward is a retired, high ranking NCO, US Marine with approx. 20 years of service, including combat deployments. He has previously applied for a Rangemaster position with CPD, citing his extensive firearms knowledge and the he has trained thousands of people in multiple weapons platforms ranging from handguns to shoulder fired missiles.

### 3. Failing to Complete a Report:

CPD Policy 345.2.1 states: *When a member responds to a call for service, or as a result of self-initiated activity becomes aware of any activity where a crime has occurred, the member shall document the incident regardless of whether a victim desires prosecution.*

Subsection (a) of CPD Policy 345.2.1 states: *Activity to be documented in a written report includes: (a) All Arrests.*

This incident involved the crime of theft (shoplifting) even though the victim did not desire prosecution. It would be safe to say the suspect's actions also constituted a violation of PC 148. Officer Woodward initially closed the call out by adding notes to the CAD call. His notes stated, "HMA subj ignored commands and ran away from PD" and "Flag down from Marshalls empty ref PC 490.2." Officer Woodward recognizes a crime had occurred, but did not document in a report, only in his CAD notes. After his report was completed, he stated "stolen merchandise was returned to the store employee."

As mentioned, a reasonable person and officer would believe Officer Woodward affected an arrest rather than a detention. By initially failing to complete a report, he was in violation of Subsection (a) of this policy.

CPD Policy 345.2.2 states: *The following incidents shall be documented using the appropriate approved report: (a) Anytime an officer points a firearm at any person*

This reporting mandate was added to our policy after the passing of SB 230 which went into effect January 1, 2021. Government Code Title 1, Division 7, Sec. 2, Chapter 1.4, 7286 (b) (4) required police departments to maintain a policy that has guidelines when officers may draw or point a firearm at someone. This SB subsequently added section 13519.10 to the CA Penal Code. Our policy (345.2.2) was coupled with mandatory training for all officers. Officer Woodward attended this training on September 2, 2020. Sgt. Stofila instructed this portion and explained how pointing a firearm at someone constitutes a use of force and is maintained in a database by the Defensive Tactics Team. Officers were instructed to check the "use of force" box on their reports and detail which officers pointed firearms.

Even though Officer Woodward denied this to Sergeant Healy and the investigative interviewers, it is clear through video footage that Officer Woodward pointed his firearm at the suspect. This action requires a report to be written, which he initially failed to do so until ordered.

#### 4. Truthfulness:

During this investigation, it was alleged that Officer Woodward had provided false or misleading statements to Sergeant Healy. During his administrative interviews, Sergeant Healy stated he asked Officer Woodward if he pointed his gun at the suspect to which Officer Woodward said he did not.

During his administrative interview, Officer Woodward stated Sergeant Healy only asked him if he pointed his gun at the suspect when he was on the fence.

Sergeant Healy was asked in his interview, if he asked the question in that matter which he replied, "No it was more did you point your gun or your firearm at the subject?" Sergeant Healy clarified in a follow-up interview that he had no knowledge of a fence being involved.

While the conversation between Sergeant Healy and Officer Woodward was not recorded, I am left with only the statements provided during the administrative interviews. Based on my training and experience, I find it hard to believe that a sergeant would ask that question in such a specific manner, as it doesn't matter if the suspect was on the fence or not.

I also hold Sergeant Healy as a veracious person. He has had a successful 20-year career with multiple commendations and no discipline in his personnel file. Sergeant Healy has worked crucial assignments where he has been entrusted with sensitive and confidential information above that of a regular officer.

Sergeant Healy is also the Police Officer Association president and has devoted several hours providing guidance to and representing officers in personnel investigations and discipline issues.



Sergeant Healy has never directly supervised Officer Woodward and has no motive to falsify his statement regarding this incident.

Putting their entire conversation together aside, I still believe Officer Woodward was untruthful or misleading in his recollection of this event. Not only did he tell Sergeant Healy that he did not point his weapon at the suspect (regardless of when it occurred during the contact) he also maintained this standpoint during his administrative interview. This was also after he viewed his video footage of the incident.

As a manager with 15-years tenure in the rank of sergeant and extensive firearms experience, I have never seen his weapon position in the video classified or approved as "low ready" and if I witnessed any officer hold their weapon toward someone in the same manner, I would quantify it as pointing it a person. This constitutes a use of force and requires appropriate reporting to follow.

His tactics simply equate to pointing a firearm at a person, regardless of his opinion or recollection. After viewing the video, if he realized his recollection was incorrect, he had the opportunity to correct it and take appropriate measures. When he was interviewed in this investigation, he again had the opportunity to correct his recollection.

Another concern of untruthful or misleading statements arose during his administrative interview. Sergeant Samano informs Officer Woodward that in order to transport a suspect for an infield lineup, "has to have, you know, three conditions, that they give consent, they're under arrest, or the victim is incapacitated and cannot get over there." She then asks him, "were any of three of those in effect when you transported the suspect you had detained, over?"

Officer Woodward then, matter of factly, answers "he had given consent." Sergeant Samano then said, "he did give consent?" Officer Woodward answers, "correct." About nine seconds of silence passes and Detective Gottfried asks, "at what point did he give consent?" Officer Woodward says, "the...believe it was, uh, when we had, when we put him in the unit to go and I explained to him, hey I'm gonna, we're gonna go look for your, uh, the windbreaker and the hat, and then after that, that's when I, uh, read him his Mirandas and then he consented that he'd talk to me, uh, and then I, that's when I drove him to the Best Buy parking lot to wait for Officer Alvarez and uh Officer Ramirez."

Sergeant Samano then said, "so did he consent to being transported for the in-field lineup?" Officer Woodward answers, "not specifically for an in-field lineup, no."

Sergeant Samano's initial question about transportation for the lineup was very direct and clear and did not leave room for clarification. Officer Woodward's initial answer was also very clear and direct. It wasn't until Detective Gottfried asked for a specific time that the suspect gave consent, that Officer Woodward offered a different answer and explanation.

His actions and statements lead me to believe he is purposely providing untruthful or misleading information.

5. Insubordination:

When Officer Woodward was placed on administrative leave for this investigation, he was provided, and signed, a notice that ordered him to make and satisfy an appointment, within a week, with The Counseling Team. When Officer Woodward was interviewed 13 calendar days later, he advised he did not make or satisfy the appointment. When Sergeant Samano asked him why he did not adhere to this order he asked why he was ordered to do that and then said he had other ways of dealing with stress other than talking to members of The Counseling Team. His willful disobedience to this order is in violation of CPD Policy Section 340.5.1 (b).

6. Pattern of Poor Performance and Discipline:

Officer Woodward has had a difficult, 4-year, career with the Corona Police Department that cannot be classified as successful.

During his field training, Officer Woodward demonstrated difficulties that some trainees experience. In his final phase report, the Field Training Officer noted he appeared to be hesitant with decision making due to being unsure or overthinking which resulted in a slower disposition or plan of action. The Field Training Supervisor, Sergeant Jeff Glenn, recommended him to graduate the program with the hope that the concerns would be remedied with experience.

Unfortunately, Officer Woodward has experienced a multitude of difficulties and conflicts as a solo officer. Some of these incidents were not formally documented however, after a review of his Personnel File, a few examples of his poor performance are listed below:

- May 2017, Officer Woodward was involved in a traffic collision where it was determined to be preventable. As a result, he received a Notice to Correct for a safety violation.
- June 2019, Officer Woodward failed to properly handle a theft call in November of 2017 that came to light after the victim inquired about the status several months later. The incident resulted in a Personnel Investigation (19-001) in early 2019. The investigation found Officer

Woodward to be in violation of policies for: Safety, Report Preparation, Investigation, and Property/Evidence handling. The administrative findings and recommendations showed he violated CPD Policy (600.4.1) for Officers Responsibilities- Initial Investigation. This section pertains to determining if a crime has been committed, identifying and obtaining statements from people involved and collecting evidence. The investigation revealed that Officer Woodward had kept items of evidence in his possession and failed to properly log it in. When asked about that action during his administrative interview, he stated it was an oversight. He received a Notice to Correct and was directed to turn in every report to a designated sergeant for a six-month period. He was also counseled about "independent recollection" and its importance for court testimony or official inquiries.

- August 2019, Officer Woodward was found to be requesting and using an excessive amount of Annual Leave and Unscheduled Leave. Managers and supervisors had several interactions with him regarding his leave. On August 24, 2019 he was notified by Lieutenant Jeff Edwards that his use of sick leave would require him to provide doctor's notes for a 12-month period.
- November 2019, Sergeant Eveland and Lieutenant Auck were notified by the department's Management Analyst that Officer Woodward's Annual Leave bank had been exhausted and he had scheduled leave that would not be covered during that payroll. That deficiency resulted in some of his time off being "Leave Without Pay." Lieutenant Auck sent an email to scheduling Sergeants and Lieutenants to not approve any further leave requests from him.
- December 2019, Officer Woodward's annual evaluation from Sergeant Eveland mentioned areas of poor performance, including not following his chain of command, low productivity for arrests, no in-depth investigations, and poor leave and attendance. Sergeant Eveland documented that Officer Woodward used 65 days (531 hours) of annual leave during that rating period (December 2018, December 2019). He also had 8 days (89.5 hours) of unscheduled leave. His time off equated to working approx. 48 days less than his peers. His use of leave during that rating period caused him to fall below his time bank on two separate occasions. All of these areas of poor performance were addressed to him by Sergeant Eveland several months prior to his evaluation and he did not show improvement or correction.
- December 2019, In reviewing Personnel Investigation 20-001, the addendums contained a Performance Comment issued to Officer Woodward, by Sergeant Eveland, documenting performance issues. Officer Woodward was found to have a substantially low productivity. He

was also found to have used 65 days (531 hours) of annual leave during that rating period (December 2018, December 2019). He also had 8 days (89.5 hours) of unscheduled leave. He fell below his time bank two times during that rating period. His time off equated to working approx. 48 days less than his peers. The Performance Comment mentioned that failure to make improvements within 180 days could result in progressive discipline and/or a Performance Improvement Plan.

- February 2020, Officer Woodward was involved in a patrol call that resulted in a Personnel Investigation (PI 20-001). As a result of the investigation, Chief Newman (then Captain) found he violated CPD Policy Section 340.5.10 – Safety, which included cancelling backing officers, searching without a back-up officer, and an unintentional discharge of a firearm. This Personnel Investigation resulted in discipline of a pay reduction equivalent to a two (2) day leave without pay. It is pending a discipline appeal.
- December 2020, Officer Woodward's annual evaluation from Sergeant Stofila was scored at 75.8% which was progressively the lowest for his three evaluations (2017 – 81.5%, 2018 – OJI not evaluated, 2019 – 78.1%). In the 2020 evaluation, there was mention that Officer Woodward was not performing to the capacity of his peers for arrests, traffic stops, and citations. There was also mention that he has little experience handling detailed or thorough investigations, which was also mentioned in his 2019 evaluation. Both evaluations encouraged him to expand his investigative experience. His 2020 evaluation also reflected a Requires Improvement rating for Officer Safety and Situational Awareness. The comment referred to his P-file, regarding findings from his Personnel Investigation (PI 20-001).

Corrective Action:

Due to the following:

- Failing to properly document a use of force in a police report
- Providing untruthful or misleading statements to supervisors and Professional Standards investigators after a Lybarger admonishment
- Disobeying an order
- Failing to complete a criminal report
- Failing to provide a certificate of detention after an arrest without filing

And based on my review of all the circumstances and evidence, I recommend the following:

1. Officer Matthew Woodward is recommended for termination

I make these recommendations based on Matthew Woodward's continued inability to improve his performance and lack of corrective behavior. He has demonstrated over his short career, an inability to learn from mistakes and often presents a defensive and challenging response to constructive criticism, or discipline. He often blames supervisors for his mistakes, as is prevalent in this incident and can fail to accept responsibility.

Officer Woodward has been absent from work for about 36% of his career. In reviewing his payroll report in Kronos (Telestaff) from 12/16/16 – 02/11/21, it shows he has only worked about 64%. This time includes 472.5 hours (8.4% of total field hours) of light duty – desk work.

Officer Woodward has had several opportunities to show improvement and has been given recommendations to meet those challenges. His history of poor performance does not reflect our department's Mission and Vision of "Excellence in Policing."

By: Adam Roulston   
Captain, Field Services Division



**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMO**

Office of the Chief of Police  
Corona Police Department

**TO:** Robert Newman  
Chief of Police

**FROM:** Sergeant Megan Samano  
Professional Standards Unit

**DATE:** April 6, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Administrative Investigation PI #21-002

**DATE OF COMPLAINT:** February 10, 2021

**DATE OF INCIDENT:** February 8, 2021

**TIME OF INCIDENT:** 1957 hours

**LOCATION OF INCIDENT:** 2459 Tuscany Street, Corona

**REPORTING PARTY:** Internal

**WITNESS OFFICER:** John Healy, Sergeant  
Corona Police Department  
ID # 001249

Clark Eveland, Sergeant  
Corona Police Department  
ID #001073

Richard Youngquist, Corporal  
Corona Police Department  
ID #003022

Kevin Stofila, Sergeant  
Corona Police Department  
ID #10840

Jody Perkins, Sergeant  
Corona Police Department  
ID #002703

Jason Perez, Sergeant  
Corona Police Department  
ID #10959

**SUBJECT OFFICER:** Matthew "Matt" Woodward, Police Officer  
Corona Police Department  
ID # 003545

**POLICE FILE NUMBER:** 21-06553

**SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT:**

On February 8, 2021, Officer Woodward was in the area of 2495 Tuscany Street when an employee of Marshalls flagged him down reference a possible shoplifting crime. The suspect was pointed out and Officer Woodward attempted to detain the subject, who fled on foot. Officer Woodward caught up to the suspect, via his patrol unit, on the southside of Cajalco Road, near a construction storage facility.

Officer Woodward advised he had one proned out. After waiting for a backing officer, the suspect was handcuffed, placed in the backseat of a police unit, Mirandized, and transported for an in-field line-up. Employees at Marshalls were unable to identify the suspect and no longer desired prosecution. Officer Woodward telephoned Sergeant Healy and asked him if it was alright to 849PC the suspect. Sergeant Healy clarified with Officer Woodward whether the suspect had been arrested or not. Officer Woodward advised the suspect had not been arrested, merely detained. Officer Woodward then closed out the call NR and provided comments within the CAD call.

Shortly after their conversation, Sergeant Healy called Officer Woodward to clarify if he pointed his handgun at the suspect or not. During the conversation, Officer Woodward advised Sergeant Healy that he did not point his handgun at the suspect. Sergeant Healy went on to say that if he had, he would have to document it in a report because it was considered a use of force. Officer Woodward continued to say that he did not point his gun at the suspect.

Sergeant Healy discussed the call with Sergeant Eveland, who was Officer Woodward's supervisor. Sergeant Eveland and Sergeant Healy reviewed Officer Woodward's body camera footage which showed that he pulled his gun out and pointed it at the suspect. Officer Woodward told dispatch that he had the suspect proned out and waited for backing officers before putting his gun away. Further review of the video, showed the suspect had been handcuffed, placed in the backseat of a police unit, Mirandized, and transported for an in-field line-up, indicating the suspect had been arrested.

**ALLEGATIONS:**

If the allegations alleged in this investigation were found to be true, Officer Matt Woodward would be in violation of the following Corona Police Department Policy Sections:

**345.2 Required Reporting: Written reports are required in all of the following situations on the appropriate department approved form unless otherwise approved by a supervisor.**

**345.2.1 (a) all arrest**

**345.2.2(a) anytime an officer points a firearm at a person**

**340.5. Causes for discipline:**

**Performance:**

**340.5.8(c) Failure to participate in, or giving false or misleading statements, or misrepresenting or omitting material information to a supervisor or other person in a position of authority, in connection with any investigation or in the reporting of any department related business.**

**Conduct:**

**340.5.9(m) Any other on- or off-duty conduct which any member knows or reasonably should know is unbecoming a member of this department, is contrary to good order, efficiency or morale, or tends to reflect unfavorably upon this department or its members.**

Based on the allegations of giving false or misleading statements, on February 11, 2021, Officer Woodward was placed on administrative leave pursuant to the following Corona Police Department Policy Section:

**1020.8 Administrative leave: When a complaint of misconduct is of a serious nature, or when circumstances indicate that allowing the accused to continue to work would adversely affect the mission of the Department, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee may temporarily assign an accused employee to administrative leave. Any employee placed on administrative leave:**

**1020.8(b) Shall be required to continue to comply with all policies and lawful orders of a supervisor.**

#### **INTERVIEW OF WITNESS OFFICERS:**

##### **Sergeant John Healy (ID #001249):**

On February 16, 2021, at 6:05 a.m., I conducted an audio-recorded interview with Sergeant John Healy in the Professional Standards Unit's office. The following is a summary of that interview.

Sergeant Healy indicated that he has been a police officer with the Corona Police Department for 20 years. He was recently promoted to Sergeant (2 months) and is assigned to patrol. He is not Officer Woodward's direct supervisor, however, works with him one day out of his workweek, indicating Monday nights. February 8, 2021, was his second time working with Officer Woodward. He said that evening, Officer Woodward was in the Crossing Shopping Center when he was flagged down reference a shoplifter. He located the suspect and the suspect fled from Officer Woodward. Officer Woodward eventually ended up locating the subject near Cajalco Road and put out on the radio that he had one pruned out. I asked Sergeant Healy what that meant to him and he stated the suspect is laying on the ground, faced down. Sergeant Healy continued that normally

there is more to radio traffic, such as one at gunpoint, but Officer Woodward did not further advise on it.

Sergeant Healy advised he responded to the location and by the time he got there, the suspect was already handcuffed and put in the back of the car. Officer Alvarez arrived with his trainee and offered to take the incident for training. Seeing that everything seemed to be taken care of, Sergeant Healy left the call.

Later that evening, Officer Woodward called Sergeant Healy around 8:30 p.m. During their conversation, Officer Woodward asked Sergeant Healy if he could 849PC the suspect. They proceeded to have a conversation about the call and Sergeant Healy asked him if he arrested the suspect or detained him. Officer Woodward's reply was to the effect that he only detained the suspect. With that information, Sergeant Healy advised him that the suspect was never arrested and there was no need for an 849PC. They then completed their conversation.

Sergeant Healy stated that he ended up talking with Sergeant Hackett right after his conversation with Officer Woodward. During their conversation, they were discussing another officer's use of force during an incident, where that officer had pointed a gun at someone. This discussion caused Sergeant Healy to look back through Officer Woodward's call. He verified that Officer Woodward had indicated he had one proned out. He then called Officer Woodward at 8:45 p.m. and said I know you said you had one proned out but did you pull out your gun and point it at the suspect? Officer Woodward replied, no. Sergeant Healy said OK and reemphasized our policy that if we point our gun at someone, we must write a report because it is a reportable use of force (See addendum B for Sergeant Healy's call history).

*Note: I clarified with Sergeant Healy what he thought proned out meant. He stated he wasn't sure if that meant Officer Woodward pointed his gun at the suspect. When he was on-scene he overheard Officer Woodward telling Corporal Youngquist, that the suspect just laid down. Sergeant Healy said the way it was said was not the normal way and indicated when someone is proned out it is usually at gun point.*

Sergeant Healy took Officer Woodward's word that he did not pull his gun out and point it at the suspect. Later that evening, Sergeant Healy was having a discussion with Sergeant Hackett and Sergeant Eveland about the call. Sergeant Eveland advised Sergeant Healy that since he is Officer Woodward's supervisor, he would look into the incident some more. Sergeant Eveland later showed Sergeant Healy Officer Woodward's body camera footage which showed him pointing his gun at the suspect.

Sergeant Healy realized that Officer Woodward did not tell him what exactly happened and then wondered why. He said the reason why he called Officer Woodward back was so that if he did point his gun at the suspect, that he covered himself by documenting it in a report. I asked Sergeant Healy if there was a reason for Officer Woodward to lie to him, and he stated no. Sergeant Healy stated he documented the incident in a Supervisory Report and that Lieutenant Bloomfield was notified.

Sergeant Healy had no further information and the interview was concluded at 6:15 a.m. Refer to Recording #2 for further details.

On March 2, 2021, at 9:08 a.m., I conducted an audio-recorded interview of Sergeant John Healy in the Professional Standards Unit Office. The purpose of this interview was to clarify some questions that came up as a result of the interview with Officer Matthew Woodward. The following is a summary of that interview.

When he first arrived on scene, the only personnel on scene were Officer Woodward and Corporal Youngquist. He said they were having a discussion and he did not know what they were talking about but assumed it was regarding the incident. Shortly after, Officer Alvarez and Sergeant Healy had a very brief conversation about who was going to handle the call. Sergeant Healy advised the only person he spoke to on scene was Officer Alvarez.

When he arrived, Corporal Youngquist looked at him, but neither of them said anything to him. Based on their response to his arrival, he felt that they did not need any assistance from him and felt it was just a shoplifting. He originally responded to the location because he heard on the radio that the subject fled, Officer Woodward, advised he had visual on the guy, and that he then had one prone out. Sergeant Healy stated when someone says they have one prone out, there usually is more to the call, so he decided to head that way.

When he arrived, the subject was already in custody and in the backseat of the unit. Sergeant Healy advised that he never saw or talked with the subject. Sergeant Healy indicated that his conversation with Officer Alvarez was quick and he advised that he was going to take the call for his trainee to handle. Sergeant Healy asked him if he needed anything and he advised no. Sergeant Healy advised that he never had a conversation with Officer Woodward while he was on scene. He estimated his entire time on scene was only a couple of minutes.

I asked Sergeant Healy to tell me about the first telephone conversation he had with Officer Woodward. He stated that Officer Woodward asked him if he could 849 the subject. He went over with Officer Woodward if he had arrested the subject or just detained him. He said if he had arrested him, he can 849 the subject and release him in the field, or if he just detained him, he could release the subject because he was not under arrest. Officer Woodward advised Sergeant Healy that he did not arrest the subject and only detained him. I asked Sergeant Healy if Officer Woodward advised him that he had handcuffed the subject, Mirandized him, and transported him for an infield line-up and he stated no. Sergeant Healy indicated that he was unaware of any of that had occurred and took Officer Woodward's word that he had just detained him.

Sergeant Healy stated the reason that he called Officer Woodward back was to specifically find out if he had drawn his weapon and pointed it at the subject. He said this was important for him to clarify because he had a conversation with Sergeant Hackett earlier in the shift regarding a different officer who had pointed his handgun at someone and the importance of documenting it. Prior to calling Officer Woodward, Sergeant Healy went back through the call to see if he indicated that he had one at gunpoint and saw that Officer Woodward had put out that he had one prone out. Sergeant Healy stated usually when you have one prone out, it's while that person is at gunpoint. That was not mentioned in the call, so he called him back to clarify that with Officer Woodward. He was further going to tell him if he did point his weapon at the subject, that was fine but he needed to document it.



When he spoke with him on the phone, he inquired with him if he pointed his gun at the subject. Sergeant Healy stated his response was something along the lines that he was on the fence and I commanded him to get down and then he laid on the ground. Sergeant Healy then said, "you didn't point your gun at him?" and Officer Woodward replied, "No". Sergeant Healy further told Officer Woodward that it was not a problem if he did point his gun at him, he just needed to document it.

I asked Sergeant Healy if he was ever made aware of a fence being involved in the incident and he replied no except for the quick phone call with Officer Woodward where it was briefly mentioned. He stated there was never any mention of it on the radio and no one said anything about a fence when he was on scene. Sergeant Healy indicated that when he called Officer Woodward back and asked about pointing his gun at the subject, was to ensure that during the entire course of the call he never pointed his handgun at the subject. Sergeant Healy clarified that he was unaware that the subject ever tried to climb a fence and there was no mention of it. I asked Sergeant Healy, "Did you ever ask Woodward specifically if he pointed his gun at the guy while he was on the fence?" Sergeant Healy responded, "No, it was more did you point your gun or your firearm at the subject?". Sergeant Healy further stated he did not know about the fence and all he knew was that Officer Woodward had one pruned out and it was related to shoplifting. Sergeant Healy stated he tried looking at the call when Officer Woodward first put it out and there wasn't much in it. Sergeant Healy then stated he really did not put anything out on the radio about the call.

Sergeant Healy had not worked much with Officer Woodward. He is not aware of any issues between Officer Woodward and Sergeant Eveland. I asked him why he thought Officer Woodward called him instead of Sergeant Eveland (his direct supervisor) and Sergeant Healy stated it may have been because he was the one to respond to the call but still thought it was weird that he called him. Officer Woodward has never called Sergeant Healy before for direction on a call.

Sergeant Healy had no further information and the interview was concluded at 9:19 a.m. Refer to Recording #4 for further details.

**Corporal Richard Youngquist (ID #003022):**

On February 16, 2021, at 3:31 p.m., I conducted an audio-recorded interview of Corporal Richard Youngquist in the Professional Standards Unit Office. The following is a summary of that interview.

Corporal Youngquist has worked for the Corona Police Department for eight years. He is currently assigned to Cover Watch and works Sunday-Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday. He was working on Monday, February 8, 2021. He responded to the area of the Crossings Shopping Center to assist Officer Woodward on a call. He said it was originally a Ped Check and shortly after he stated he had a subject running from him and it was related to a shoplifting call. Corporal Youngquist responded to the area at which time Officer Woodward stated the subject was running towards Cajalco Road. Once he got in the area, Corporal Youngquist asked for an update at which time Officer Woodward advised he was out with the subject and he would see his lights. Corporal Youngquist responded to his location and saw the subject was pruned out and Officer Woodward has his gun out.

Corporal Youngquist did not recall if Officer Woodward put out over the radio that he had one at gunpoint. I asked Corporal Youngquist what it meant to him when he heard the subject was proned out and he advised the subject was laying in a prone position. I then asked him what that meant that the officer was doing, and he stated that the officer was no longer running, and the subject stopped for whatever reason. I asked him if he understood proned out to mean the officer had the subject at gunpoint and he advised he could see how some may understand that to be however, he has had people prone themselves out without him ever pulling his gun.

Corporal Youngquist utilized his unit's overhead lights to clear the intersection at Cajalco Road and Temescal Canyon. He continued with his lights on to clear the intersection at Cajalco Road and the 15 freeway, where he made a U-turn and parked behind Officer Woodward's unit. Corporal Youngquist verified that when he arrived, Officer Woodward and the subject were approximately 10-15 feet south of Cajalco Road along a fence. The subject was proned out and Officer Woodward had his gun out. Corporal Youngquist believed that Officer Woodward had put out on the radio that he had one at gun point and that he was proned out, but could not recall exactly if he said that. As he approached Officer Woodward, he advised the subject was being cooperative.

Corporal Youngquist stated he did not notice any safety issues with Officer Woodward. After they took the subject into custody, Corporal Youngquist talked with Officer Woodward about the incident because the radio traffic evolving from it was a mess. Officer Woodward debriefed the call with him and explained further as to what happened. He told Corporal Youngquist the suspect exited Marshalls and dropped property and ran. He chased him across the street and saw him run across Cajalco where he tried to jump a fence but could not. That is when he contacted him, however, Officer Woodward did not say how he contacted him. The subject was then taken into custody and Officer Woodward advised him that he was going to take the suspect for an infield line-up. Officer Alvarez arrived to assist at which time Corporal Youngquist asked Officer Woodward if he needed any further assistance at which time, he told him no. Officer Woodward then transported the suspect to Marshalls and Corporal Youngquist cleared the call.

Corporal Youngquist had no further information, and the interview was concluded at 3:38 p.m. Refer to Recording #3 for further details.

**Sergeant Clark Eveland (ID #001073):**

On February 17, 2021, at 5:48 a.m., I conducted an audio-recorded interview of Sergeant Clark Eveland in the Professional Standards Office. The following is a summary of that interview.

Sergeant Eveland has worked for the Corona Police Department for 21 years. He has been a Sergeant for 31/2 years and is currently assigned to Morning Watch, working Sunday-Monday-Tuesday. He is currently Officer Woodward's supervisor.

Sergeant Eveland was working Monday, February 8, 2021, as was Officer Woodward. Sergeant Eveland was out in the field and heard the call Officer Woodward was on at the Crossing Shopping Center go out. Sergeant Eveland said the call was a foot pursuit but not a foot pursuit because Officer Woodward was not putting much information out on the radio. He started to head toward that location but noticed that Sergeant Healy was also heading in that direction and was closer. Sergeant Eveland continued to monitor the call over the radio in case anything further was needed.

Sergeant Eveland recalled hearing Officer Woodward put out over the radio that he had the subject proned out. I asked him what it meant to him when he heard Officer Woodward put out on the radio that he had one proned out and he stated that Officer Woodward had the subject at gunpoint with the subject laying on his stomach on the ground.

Sergeant Eveland stated the call further caught his attention because a short time later it was off the screen. With the radio traffic the way it was, he wanted to know what happened with the call. Sergeant Eveland pulled up the call and saw that Officer Woodward had closed it out as "NR". About an hour after the closure call, Sergeant Eveland went to the station and spoke with Sergeant Healy and Sergeant Hackett.

Since Sergeant Eveland is Officer Woodward's supervisor, he asked Sergeant Healy what happened at the call. Sergeant Healy went over the call with Sergeant Eveland and advised him that he had received a telephone call from Officer Woodward and asked about 849PC the suspect. Sergeant Healy and Eveland discussed policy regarding documentation as a use of force when you point a handgun at someone. Sergeant Healy continued to tell Sergeant Eveland that he had called Officer Woodward back and clarified with him details about the call. Officer Woodward was very clear that the person was only detained, and the subject had proned himself out and that Officer Woodward did not utilize his handgun during the call.

Sergeant Healy mentioned to Sergeant Eveland that he was going to review Officer Woodward's body camera and Sergeant Eveland told Sergeant Healy that he would because he is Officer Woodward's direct supervisor.

On February 10, 2021, at around 3:00 a.m., Sergeant Eveland reviewed Officer Woodward's body camera and saw that he had utilized his handgun. Sergeant Eveland continued to indicate that based on what he saw while reviewing the body worn camera footage, the suspect was clearly arrested. Sergeant Eveland continued by saying it was not a detainment and that Officer Woodward chased the subject in his car, got out, gave the subject orders, and proned the subject out while he utilized his handgun. The subject was handcuffed, placed in the back of the car, Mirandized, and transported for an in-field and one of the exceptions to transporting a suspect is that they are arrested. After watching the video Sergeant Eveland contacted Sergeant Healy and told him what he observed on the video and showed it to Sergeant Healy.

Sergeant Eveland also clarified that he was not present when Sergeant Healy had the telephone conversations with Officer Woodward. Sergeant Eveland had not talked to Officer Woodward about the incident. Sergeant Eveland also recalled going through Quarterly Training in September 2020 where policy was reviewed regarding pointing a handgun at someone and that it was considered a use of force which required a report be written. He also indicated that he has reviewed and signed off numerous reports that Officers have written because they pointed their handgun at a subject during a call. I inquired if Sergeant Eveland has had any issues with Officer Woodward during this shift rotation and he advised no.

Sergeant Eveland had no further information, and the interview was concluded at 5:56 a.m. Refer to Recording #1 for further details.

**Sergeant Kevin Stofila (ID #10840):**

On March 18, 2021, at 6:37 a.m., I conducted an audio-recorded interview with Sergeant Stofila in the Professional Standards Unit Office. The following is a summary of that interview.

Sergeant Stofila has been an officer with the Corona Police Department for approximately 27 years and eight of those as a Sergeant. He has been a member of the Defensive Tactics (DT) Team for 15 years (as a Corporal and as a Sergeant). In September of 2020, Sergeant Stofila was an instructor for part of the Quarterly Training, which covered changes in the Use of Force reporting requirements. Sergeant Stofila went over the policy which requires documentation of incident if an officer points their handgun at someone.

During the interview, Sergeant Stofila clarified what pointing a handgun at someone meant. He stated it is anytime you have your gun pointed downrange at an individual or the vehicle an individual is in. He stated if you have your handgun at the low ready (pointed at the ground in front of you or up close to your chest but pointed downward) that is not considered a documentable use of force. I asked him if you have your handgun pointed down range but are looking over the sights is that a reportable use of force and he replied, yes.

As a member of the Defensive Tactics team, they have monthly trainings. During one of those trainings, the topic of pointing a handgun and documentation came up. He stated the team discussed the topic and came to an agreement on what a reportable use of force would be (pointing a handgun at a person downrange). He verified that the entire team teaches the same standard.

In subsequent briefing trainings, Sergeant Stofila and Sergeant Perkins have gone over the standard requirement for documenting incidents of when officers are pointing their handguns at an individual. During these trainings, they went back over policy and made sure everyone understood that if your handgun is pointed downrange at a subject or at a vehicle a subject is in, or anywhere near the subject, it is documented in a report. Officer Woodward was present during these briefing trainings (refer to addendum G for further).

Sergeant Stofila clarified what low ready was and stated it is close to your chest with the muzzle pointed down to the ground or if you have your arms extended out, the muzzle of the gun is pointed to the ground, relatively closely in front of you so that if you had to bring it up quickly you could. But as soon as you point it downrange, in the direction of a person, it is a reportable use of force and needs to be documented. Sergeant Stofila indicated that anyone who pointed a handgun at a subject is required to document it in a report. Each individual officer can document it as a supplemental report to the initial or the handling officer can document all those who pointed their handguns at a subject. I asked Sergeant Stofila if he had noticed any reluctance with officers pointing their handgun at a subject since it was now considered a use of force that requires documentation and he stated no.

Sergeant Stofila advised me that he had the opportunity to review the body camera footage related to Officer Woodward's incident at the Crossing Shopping Center. He stated he reviewed it at the

same time Sergeant Eveland was reviewing it and advised out loud that it falls under pointing a handgun at someone and needs to be documented in a report.

Sergeant Stofila had no further information, and the interview was concluded at 6:48 a.m. Refer to Recording #7 for further details.

**Sergeant Jody Perkins (ID #002703):**

On March 22, 2021, at 2:56 p.m., I conducted an audio-recorded interview with Sergeant Perkins in the Professional Standards Unit Office. The following is a summary of that statement.

Sergeant Perkins has been with the Corona Police Department since 2008. Prior to that she worked at Cypress Police Department for six years, Hollywood Florida Police Department for six months, and Los Angeles Police Department for six years. She has been a Sergeant since September of 2020. When she was promoted to Sergeant, she worked Graveyard and Officer Woodward was assigned to her. She did not notice any negative issues and was never made aware of any negative issues involving Officer Woodward during that time.

Sergeant Perkins has been a member of the Defensive Tactics team (on and off) for a total of five years and has been a consistent member for the last two years. As being part of that team, they meet one day a month for training. During their trainings, they will discuss any incidents that have been highlighted in the news, incidents occurring in patrol, case law changes, policy changes, or anything new that they need to pass on to patrol.

Sergeant Perkins acknowledged attending Quarterly Training in September of 2020 that went over the changes in Use of Force (pointing a gun at someone) and reporting requirements. Her understanding from the training was that if you pointed your gun at someone, it had to be documented in a report because it was considered a Use of Force. If there was an incident where officers drew their guns and pointed them at a subject, it was left up to the on-scene supervisor to how it was going to be documented. The supervisor had the option of having the handling officer document each officer that drew their firearm or had each officer write a supplemental report indicating they had drawn their firearm and pointed it at a subject. She stated there was a lot of debate about this because she is one of the ones responsible for inputting statistical information into the Department of Justice (Use of Force) and wanted to ensure that everyone was accounted for.

I asked Sergeant Perkins what her understanding of low ready was and she stated it was down and not on target. I asked her if the muzzle would be pointed towards the ground and she said yes but not necessarily and clarified that if you had it an indoor low ready you would have your gun up against your chest with the muzzle down and it is not on target. She further stated with having your handgun at low ready, it is out and ready to be brought up on target. The muzzle should never cross the target.

Sergeant Perkins advised that she is aware of officers who have flashlights attached to their firearms. From her experience, if an officer utilizes the flashlight attached to their handgun to light up an area and it lights up the target, then they are pointing their handgun at the target. She further stated that an officer should not use their flashlight on their handgun to light up an area



around a suspect and that the flashlight on the handgun should only be used during a search for a suspect or a threat.

Sergeant Perkins stated that the Defensive Tactics team had discussions on the mandatory reporting of pointing a handgun at someone as a use of force and aside from discussing who would document it, everyone had a clear understanding of it. She stated the team did have a concern that because of this mandatory reporting officers would not want to point their handguns at a subject and instead would pull their guns out and keep it pointed downwards at their legs (which is not taught). Sergeant Perkins has not noticed any reluctance by officers in pointing their firearms at a subject, especially for officer safety reasons. She stated this was further taught during quarterly trainings.

Sergeant Perkins did not get any feedback from officers regarding the policy on report documentation and never had anyone approach her stating they did not understand it. The Defensive Tactic Team stressed the importance of continuing to do business as usual with the only exception of writing a report if they point a firearm at a subject. This was to show their justification for pointing a firearm at someone.

In subsequent briefing (from the September 2020 Quarterly Training) Sergeant Perkins had gone over pointing a firearm at someone and how it is a use of force. I asked Sergeant Perkins if she recalled giving briefing training on a Use of Force Reporting Symposium and she advised yes. The Defensive Tactics team had attended a class in Orange County in which prosecuting attorneys went over what is requested in their reports in terms of use of force incidents. She brought this information back to her patrol briefing and went over it along with our policy (See addendum G for further). During a briefing, Sergeant Perkins also went over a Police One article in which discussed muzzle positioning (October 4, 2020). The article covered a study that was conducted to determine if lowering your muzzle just slightly allowed for a more accurate threat assessment and shooting accuracy (a copy of the article is attached in addendum G). She clarified during our discussion that the article covered an officer pointing their handgun at a threat and by lowering it just slightly (while still on target), you can get a clearer picture of what is happening. Officer Woodward was present during these briefings (See addendum G for further).

I asked Sergeant Perkins if she was ever present on a call where Officer Woodward had drawn his firearm and pointed it at a subject. She advised she had been, and it involved a felony car stop. Upon the completion of the call, Officer Tarrant documented each officer who had drawn their firearm.

Sergeant Perkins had no further information, and the interview was concluded at 3:11 p.m. Refer to Recording #8 for further details.

**Sergeant Jason Perez (ID #10959):**

On March 22, 2021, at 1:57 p.m., I conducted an audio-recorded interview with Sergeant Perez in the Professional Standards Unit Office. The following is a summary of that statement.

Sergeant Perez has been with the Corona Police Department for 27 years. He was promoted to Sergeant six years ago. He has been part of the range staff and a Rangemaster for approximately

12-15 years. In order to be a Rangemaster, he had to complete a POST certified instructor course. Sergeant Perez could not recall when he took the instructor course but stated he continues to take available classes so that he can be good at his job.

Sergeant Perez is currently assigned as the Range Firearm Training Unit Supervisor. He currently has one full-time non-sworn Rangemaster and approximately 20 collateral POST certified officers and sergeants. They meet quarterly throughout the year to go over staffing and equipment needs. They also discuss different techniques applied at the range. This is so everyone is consistent with the way they train officers.

Sergeant Perez stated that low ready is a universal term. He described low ready as an officer being in a shooting stance, knees slightly bent, support side slightly back, 51-52% of their weight forward, arms extended (locked out), master grip, not looking at your sights because you are looking at your target with the muzzle pointed down towards the ground. This allows the officer to maintain situational awareness and quickly bring their firearm onto target when needed. Sergeant Perez advised there is a second type of low ready. He referred to this as a compressed low ready. He stated it is commonly used when carrying a rifle or shotgun and are clearing a residence but can also be used with a handgun. The firearm is kept close to the officer's chest and the muzzle is pointed towards the ground. Sergeant Perez confirmed that this is also referred to as an indoor carry. This is what the Corona Police Departments Range Staff teaches in terms of low ready as well as the police academies throughout California (See addendum N for further clarification on the low ready).

I asked Sergeant Perez if I had my handgun pointed towards the target but was looking over the sights, would that be low ready. He advised no and that would mean that you are ready to fire your handgun. I asked Sergeant Perez if I was looking through my sights at the target, would that be considered low ready, and he advised no.

Sergeant Perez advised me of the four rules at the range. They are as follows (See addendum N):  
Treat every firearm as if it was loaded.  
Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.  
Be aware of what is in front of your target and beyond it.  
Don't point your muzzle at anything that you are not willing to destroy.

I asked Sergeant Perez if, at the low ready, your muzzle would not be pointed at something that you are willing to destroy. He advised no and that it is commonly referred to as the laser rule. If you can imagine a laser coming out of the muzzle of your handgun and everything that muzzle goes across would be chopped off by the laser. At the low ready, your handgun is pointed at the asphalt, cement, carpet, or anything but the suspect until you are ready to shoot.

Sergeant Perez advised that he has directed all Rangemaster to present these rules every time a person comes in to shoot at the range. He stated every time he has been present, the rules had been given. He assumes that the other Rangemasters present the rules every time as well. I asked Sergeant Perez if he has been present at the range when Officer Woodward has come in to shoot. He advised he had and never identified an issue with Officer Woodward's low ready.

Sergeant Perez advised he is aware of the policy requiring documentation in a report if you point a

handgun at a person. He stated he was approached by an officer, he could not recall who but stated it was in a patrol briefing and he questioned what exactly pointing a handgun at someone was. Sergeant Perez explained to him that pointing a gun at someone is more than just unholstering your gun. He explained that it is moving the muzzle up from a low ready at a person. Sergeant Perez further clarified that his understanding of policy is that even a compressed low ready could be considered a use of force/pointing a gun at someone. Sergeant Perez advised that he has never had to remediate an individual misinterpretation of "low ready" while at the range. The training that Sergeant Perez has gone through in regards to low ready is what he continues to teach and look for while at the range, to include Officer Woodward.

Sergeant Perez had no further information, and the interview was concluded at 2:11 p.m. Refer to Recording #9 for further details.

### **INTERVIEW OF SUBJECT OFFICER:**

#### **Officer Matthew Woodward (ID #003545):**

On February 24, 2021, at 1:12 p.m., Detective Gail Gottfried and I conducted an audio-recorded interview with Officer Matthew Woodward in the Detective Conference Room. Prior to the interview, Officer Woodward and his attorney, Susan R. Jerich, reviewed Officer Woodward's Body Worn Camera of the incident occurring at 2459 Tuscany St, Corona (Marshall's) as well as his written report.

Officer Woodward exercised his right to have a representative of his choice with him and Attorney Susan R. Jerich of Rains, Lucia, Stern, St. Phalle, and Silver, was present throughout the interview. Prior to the interview, I read Officer Woodward his Miranda Rights which he invoked. I then read him the Lybarger Admonishment. Officer Woodward said he understood and agreed to answer my questions truthfully. The following is a summary of our interview.

Officer Woodward has been with the Corona Police Department for four and a half years. He has no other law enforcement experience. He is assigned to patrol and confirmed he was working on February 8, 2021. He was assigned Zone 3 and his call sign was 332. He was responding to the area of the Crossings Shopping Center reference a "man down" call by Party City. Prior to his arrival, Corporal Youngquist had arrived and cleared the scene.

Once Officer Woodward arrived at the Crossings Shopping Center, he decided to conduct a routine vehicle patrol throughout the shopping center due to burglaries and window smashes. As he neared the area of Marshall's, he observed a female waving at him. He drove towards her and looked off to his right and noticed a Hispanic male subject carrying a burlap bag filled with bedding. The male dropped the bag next to a shopping cart and continued to walk away. Officer Woodward responded to the area the male dropped the bag and was contacted by the original female (Marshall's employee) and an additional female (Marshall's employee). They advised Officer Woodward that the subject stole the dropped merchandise from the store. Officer Woodward recovered it and released it back to them. The female continued to point at the subject, indicating that he was the one who stole the property (This portion of the incident was not recorded on Officer Woodward's body camera.

Officer Woodward advised her that he would attempt to contact the subject. While interacting with the females, Officer Woodward kept an eye on the male subject and saw him enter the center shopping area where BJ's restaurant is located. He got back into his police unit and drove to the area of Pizza Rev where he exited his police unit and began to walk the center area to see if he could locate the subject. Officer Woodward did not see the subject in that area and walked back to his vehicle. He drove to the area in front of Edwards Cinema (near the fountain) where he saw the subject near the fountain. Officer Woodward exited his vehicle and attempted to contact the subject.

Officer Woodward gave the subject loud verbal commands to come talk to him at which time the subject turned towards Officer Woodward and said he did not do it. Officer Woodward kept telling him that he wanted to talk to him, and the subject continued to walk away from him. Officer Woodward forewarned the subject that there was another officer on the other side of the road and if he runs, he is going to get caught. The subject then took off running away from Officer Woodward.

Officer Woodward went back to his vehicle and proceeded towards the rear of Edwards Cinema (last direction the subject was seen). When he arrived at that location, a couple eating in a truck advised him that they saw the subject run behind Edwards Cinema. Officer Woodward continued around Edwards Cinema and advised dispatch that he was on a flag down reference a petty theft and a description of the suspect. He then saw the subject and noticed he had taken off his windbreaker jacket and was walking up the access road to Cajalco Road. The subject saw Officer Woodward and ran across Cajalco Road. Officer Woodward activated his overhead and spotlights due to the subject running across the street and the amount of traffic on the roadway.

As the subject reached the center median, Officer Woodward thought he was going to stop, however, he did not and continued across Cajalco Road towards a construction area. The construction area was dark and had no lighting. Officer Woodward proceeded westbound on Cajalco Road and made a U-turn at the 15 southbound off-ramp. He then proceeded eastbound Cajalco Road in the bike lane until he saw the subject attempting to climb a fence at the construction site. Officer Woodward estimated the subject to be approximately 40' south of Cajalco Road. The subject was struggling to climb the fence and could not. The subject tried to climb a different portion of the fence but was unable to. The subject continued along the fence line and tried to climb it one more time and was unable to.

Officer Woodward started to exit his vehicle as the subject turned towards him. He told him, "hey man, just get down". The subject extended his arms and hands above his head and Officer Woodward repeated to him to get down. The subject complied and laid down on the ground. As the subject laid down, Officer Woodward lost sight of him and fully exits his vehicle. Officer Woodward proceeded to the front of his vehicle and noticed that there was a drop-off towards the area where the subject was at that was covered with sage brush. Officer Woodward unholstered his weapon and at the "low ready", sidestepped down the drop-off area. As he maintained visual of the subject, he radioed his exact location to dispatch and as he was putting out the information, he noticed that Corporal Youngquist was almost there.

Officer Woodward diverted his attention back to the subject and advised him that there was a K-9 on his way and if he made any sudden movements, he could get bit. The subject was telling Officer Woodward that he did not want to get shot and that he had a friend who had been shot. Officer Woodward indicated that the subject was breathing heavily and profusely sweating. Once Corporal Youngquist arrived and gave a K-9 announcement (K-9 was in the police unit the entire time) they both approached the subject. As they approached, Officer Woodward holstered his handgun and Corporal Youngquist handcuffed and searched the subject.

Officer Woodward asked the subject why he ran and what was going on. He places the subject in the backseat of his unit and explained to him what he was trying to do. The subject advised Officer Woodward that he was scared, and he had a friend that was shot and killed by a cop. Officer Woodward asked him if he had any medical problems and proceeded to detain him in the back of his police unit.

Officer Woodward stated, "From there Sergeant Healy arrives, um, doesn't make contact with me". At that same time, Officer Woodward was explaining the incident to Corporal Youngquist and noticed Officer Alvarez and his trainee, Officer Ramirez, arrive. Officer Alvarez and he discuss the handling of the incident and they decide that Officer Woodward would handle the arrest and Officer Alvarez and Ramirez would handle the petty theft. Officer Woodward goes over the incident with Officer Ramirez for training purposes. Corporal Youngquist asked him if he needs anything from him, at the same time Sergeant Healy leaves. Officer Woodward tells Corporal Youngquist that he doesn't need anything and that Officer Alvarez is going to go over to locate the employee to do an in-field lineup and determine if the desire prosecution or not.

Officer Woodward got in his unit and drove back to the rear of Edwards Cinema to recover the subject's windbreaker and hat that was discarded when he was running. Officer Woodward recovered the property and placed it into an evidence bag. Because he could be asking the subject questions about the crime he committed, Officer Woodward Mirandized him. The subject advised Officer Woodward that he understood his rights and that he wanted talk to him about the incident. Officer Woodward briefly talked to him about the incident and why he did it. Officer Woodward got back into his unit to wait for direction from Officer Alvarez and Ramirez about the in-field lineup.

Approximately 8-10 minutes later, Officer Alvarez drives over to Officer Woodward's location and advises him that the employee does not want to be identified, does not want to do an in-field lineup, and does not desire prosecution. Officer Woodward asked Officer Alvarez if he should 849 the subject. Officer Alvarez told Officer Woodward that he should call Sergeant Healy for direction because the subject is being detained.

Officer Woodward called Sergeant Healy at approximately 8:20-8:25 p.m. During that conversation Officer Woodward let him know what happened because Sergeant Healy did not talk to him at the scene. He advised Sergeant Healy that he was thinking of releasing the subject per 849(c)PC. He clarified this thought by stating the subject was in the backseat of his unit, handcuffed, Mirandized, however, employees did not want prosecution. Officer Woodward asked Sergeant Healy if he could admonish him and release him in the field. He then requested permission from Sergeant Healy to transport the subject to his residence. Sergeant Healy told him that he could admonish the subject and release him and that he did not need to write a report because the subject was only detained, and the employees did not desire prosecution.

Officer Woodward explained what was going to happen to the subject and he agreed to it. Officer Woodward drove him towards his residence and pulled into a nearby shopping center to release him. As he was getting ready to release the subject, he got a telephone call from Sergeant Healy. Sergeant Healy stated, "Hey Matt, I just want to ask you a question about the incident. When your guy was on the fence, did you point your weapon at him to get him off the fence or did he get down on his own?" Officer Woodward replied, "Sarge no, I didn't point my gun at him, he got off the fence on his own before I got out of my vehicle." Officer Woodward then advised Sergeant Healy that he was getting ready to release the subject and Sergeant Healy stated, "ok I just wanted to check with you prior". Officer Woodward advised that was it regarding their conversation and indicated that it was about 25 seconds long. Officer Woodward then released the subject while giving him some of his own food because the subject advised he had not eaten in days. Officer Woodward then closed the call with comments, relating to how it all occurred.

I asked Officer Woodward to clarify to me what he meant by proned out. Officer Woodward stated that the subject was in a proned position. While stating this, Officer Woodward motioned with his body, the position the person would be in. He put his arms and hands over his head in a Superman position. He then clarified that the subject's hands and arms would be extended above their head. Officer Woodward further clarified that prone is when you are on your stomach with your head facing out and your arms extended above your head or out to your sides.

I asked Officer Woodward what he was doing when he indicated on the radio that the subject was proned out. He stated, "I had my firearm at the low ready and I was on the radio giving them where I was and Youngquist was asking where I was on Cajalco Road just to let them know that I was Code-4 and the suspect wasn't, that he was complying". I asked Officer Woodward what low ready means to him and he stated, "Low ready is just your firearm is pointed in a direction that if a suspect or a threat brings itself towards you (motioning with his hands in a downward direction), you are able to bring your weapon on sight, on target, of that threat and engage that threat if need be. So it's as we do on our qualifications, our training, our firearms training here is a low ready position is you're you're not looking across your sights, you're not looking through your sights, it just your firearm is ready to engage a threat or a suspect tries to engage with you".

I asked Officer Woodward if the suspect posed a threat while running from him at any time, and Officer Woodward replied, no not when he was running from me. I asked Officer Woodward at what point he took his gun out and he replied, "Um, I unholstered my firearm once I told the suspect hey just get down just lay down and he complied, he was down on the ground. I came around the front of my vehicle, I was on my passengers side of my vehicle and then I stepped onto the sidewalk to try to see where he was, I couldn't view him through the sage grass and brush so I unholstered my firearm and came to a low ready to as I was like I said sidestepping down that embankment because I didn't know where he was, I couldn't see his hands I couldn't see him so I just kept it at a low ready in case he decided to get back up and come at me." I asked Officer Woodward if he kept his firearm out until they approached the subject to take him into custody and he stated that was correct. —see Addendum L.

I asked Officer Woodward to clarify for me if the subject was under arrest because he had been handcuffed, placed in the backseat of the unit, mirandized, and transported. Officer Woodward responded, "No ma'am. That's why I contacted Sergeant Healy because before I transported him, I

was waiting for Officer Alvarez to get done with the employee to ask if they wanted prosecution or they are doing an infield lineup and they denied all that so when Officer Alvarez said that I asked him, he, hey you know do I need to 849 him, do I you know release him. What he said you should probably uh you need to call Sergeant Healy. So, I called Sergeant Healy and Sergeant Healy stated you know he is detained you can admonish him and release him in the field." I asked Officer Woodward if he fully explained to Sergeant Healy that he had handcuffed, Mirandized, and transported the subject for an infield lineup. Officer Woodward replied, "Correct" and that Sergeant Healy still told him to release the subject without 849. Officer Woodward continued with, "When I was explaining the incident to Corporal Youngquist prior to that while Sergeant Healy was at the at the scene, he heard that conversation as well and that's on my body worn camera footage."

I explained to Officer Woodward that in order to move a suspect for an infield lineup, one of three circumstances has to exist: consent, arrest, or the victim is incapacitated and cannot respond to the suspects location. I asked Officer Woodward if anyone of those three exceptions existed when he transported the subject over for the infield. Officer Woodward responded, "He had given consent". I asked, "He did give consent?" and Officer Woodward replied, "Correct". Detective Gottfried asked, "At what point did he give consent?" and Officer Woodward replied, "The, we, there, was, when when we put him in the unit to go and I explained to him hey I'm going, were going go look for your the windbreaker and the hat and then after that that's when I read him his Miranda and he consented that he would talk to me and then I that's when I drove him to the Best Buy parking lot to wait for Officer Alvarez and Officer Ramirez". I asked again if he consented to being transported for the infield lineup and Officer Woodward stated, "Not specifically for an infield lineup, no".

I verified with Officer Woodward that the comments in the original call were based on the discussion he had with Sergeant Healy and he advised yes. I asked Officer Woodward if during his conversation with Sergeant Healy, did he tell him to release the subject or did he agree with Officer Woodward based on what he told him and Officer Woodward responded, "Both". I asked Officer Woodward if they went over whether the subject was under arrest or detained, or just the fact that he said he detained him, put him in handcuffs, put him in the car, Mirandized him, and transported him. Officer Woodward stated, "Correct, I explained to him what I had done, where...the detained, where he was at the time, and you know considering you know I think that falls under 849(c) and he said no you know he's he's detained you can advise him or give him the admonishment and release him and that's when I asked him, you know is it okay if I transport him to near his home record to release him there that way he's not in the same area where this incident occurred". I asked Officer Woodward if his original thought was to write it up and 849 based on the employees not desiring prosecution. He then spoke with Sergeant Healy who said he did not need to do that because he was only detained and Officer Woodward responded back, "Correct".

I asked Officer Woodward about his second conversation with Sergeant Healy and verified that he only called back to determine if Officer Woodward only pointed his gun at the subject while he was on the fence. Officer Woodward responded, "Correct to get him down off the fence". I asked him if Sergeant Healy said anything further and he stated, "no ma'am that's my recollection". I asked him if Sergeant Healy went over the fact that if he did point his firearm at someone, it was considered a Use of Force and we would have to document it and his response was no. I asked Officer Woodward, "So you don't recall that conversation ever occurring?" and Officer Woodward responded, "The conversation occurred its what he said was did hey Matt when that guy was on

the fence did you point your gun at him to get him off the fence and I said no and he said or prior to that he said did he get off the fence on his own and I said no I did not point my gun at him he got down on his own and that was it from there". Officer Woodward said their conversation was done and that it was only a 25-second conversation. I asked him if he knew why Sergeant Healy would call him to only ask him if he pointed his gun at the subject while he was on the fence and he said no and that he has never had something like that happen before. Officer Woodward continued to say that Sergeant Healy was only on scene for about a minute.

I asked Officer Woodward if there was anyone near him during his conversation with Sergeant Healy and he advised during the first call Officer Alvarez and his trainee were in their unit but he was fifteen to twenty feet away from them. He said during the second phone call it was just him and the detainee.

I mentioned to Officer Woodward that he indicated he had pulled his weapon out of its holster and had it at the low ready. I asked him if at any time during this incident, did he point his weapon at the subject. Officer Woodward replied, "Not intentionally pointing the weapon at the subject, no".

I asked Officer Woodward if he recalled the September 2020 quarterly training which covered first aid, legislative changes requiring documentation of use of force and that there was a mandated use of force field within Spillman. Officer Woodward clarified my question and asked if he remembered the training to which I replied yes. Officer Woodward stated, "I believe so". I further explained that during that training, Sergeant Stofila, Officer Hedtke, and I went over the requirement that if you point a gun at someone, you need to document it in a report and he stated yes. I asked him what his understanding of the training was, and he stated, "Exactly as you said Sergeant, that legislation says that if you point your firearm at someone it is a use of force to gain compliance. Officer Woodward confirmed that Sergeant's Stofila and Perkins had gone over the topic in subsequent briefing trainings throughout the remainder of the year. He further verified this by stating they had had two to three conversations during briefing regarding this topic. —see Addendum F.

I asked Officer Woodward since he pulled his gun out during that incident, why did he not write a report that evening (February 8, 2021). He said he did not write a report because of his conversation with Sergeant Healy and that is why he placed comments in the call. I asked him to tell me about his discussion with Lieutenant Fountain when he called him to tell him to come in and write the report. Officer Woodward stated he initially missed his call and immediately call him back when he noticed it. Lieutenant Fountain asked him if he recalled the incident at the Crossings Shopping Center and he replied yes. Lieutenant Fountain then told him that he needed to come in and write a report documenting the incident. Officer Woodward questioned him to as why and Lieutenant Fountain responded back that a report was needed. Officer Woodward stated he questioned what part of the incident needed to be documented and Lieutenant Fountain stated you just need to come in and write a report. —see Addendum A. Officer Woodward said due to his past incidents, he did not want to continue to ask why.

After speaking with Lieutenant Fountain, Officer Woodward responded to the station and completed the report. While writing the report, he reviewed his Body Worn Camera to help him recollect the incident. I asked Officer Woodward if after reviewing his body worn camera and report of the incident, did he ever point his handgun at the subject. Officer Woodward replied, "No



ma'am, I had it at the low ready the whole time that I was covering the area waiting for Officer Youngquist through the parts where Officer Youngquist is talking to him, I have it at the low ready, you can see it in my shadow, you can see it in my angle that I have it at the low ready and in like front of the like where the suspect is".

I asked Officer Woodard if he had a flashlight attached to his handgun and he advised yes. I asked him if he used that flashlight, while detaining the suspect, to see him better and Officer Woodward advised yes. I said during the video of the incident, the flashlight is turned on and its highlights the subject. I asked him if that would indicate the direction his handgun was pointing, and he said yes.

Detective Gottfried told Officer Woodward that she wanted to get a better understanding of what he meant by "low ready". She said since he mentioned low ready at the shooting range, how often did he go to the range and he stated at least every other week. Detective Gottfried mentioned that during range qualification, range staff would often give the command of low ready and asked how many times he has heard that term to which he replied multiple times. He described low ready as being off sights with it angled down and the muzzle pointing down. —see Addendum N.

Detective Gottfried asked Officer Woodward to give us the definition of a consensual encounter is talking to someone who feels that they are not being detained and are free to leave. She then asked what a detention was, and he replied to being ordered verbally or by use of lights or blocking someone's path and telling them that they are not free to leave. She then asked what an arrest is at which time and he said explaining to a person that they are under arrest for a specific crime, placing handcuffs on them and placing them in the back of a police unit.

Detective Gottfried asked questions related to the description of the suspect and later identification of him being the same person after removing some of his clothes. She further asked him why it took so long for him to put the information out over the radio. He said because the business had already recovered the property, he was just going to see if he could find him to talk to him. Once the subject began to run from him, Officer Woodward decided to go after him because he felt there might be something more than just a shoplifter.

Detective Gottfried asked Officer Woodward to clarify when he started to interact with the subject after he ran across Cajalco Road. He stated he was half in his car and half out of his car when he started to yell towards the subject. As he got out of his unit, is when he yelled to the subject to lay down at which time he did. Detective Gottfried asked Officer Woodward when he took his handgun out of the holster and he stated after he got out of his vehicle he went to the passenger's side and up onto the sidewalk. He could not see the subject at that time so he unholstered his firearm and put it at the low ready. He then sidestepped down the embankment until he could see the subject. Detective Gottfried asked if at any time did he bring his firearm up from low ready and Officer Woodward responded no. She asked why and he said because there was no threat. She reminded Officer Woodward that he had just said he did not know if this subject had any weapons on him and had no idea why he was running. She said at some point, for officer safety reasons, would not it had been more feasible for him to point his handgun at him. Officer Woodward responded no because he had already complied with his commands. He further explained based on his training, if he noticed the subject moving in an attempt to rise, he would give further commands then point his weapon at him to gain compliance which is a use of force.

Detective Gottfried asked when Sergeant Healy arrived on scene was there any need for him to tell him about the incident, that someone got hurt, or there was a use of force. Officer Woodward advised no. She further asked him to clarify what he meant when he said that Sergeant Healy heard the conversation, he was having with Corporal Youngquist regarding the call. Officer Woodward said that Sergeant Healy was close to them when they were talking but never asked any questions. He further stated that Sergeant Healy was talking with Officer Alvarez when he was having his conversation with Corporal Youngquist and he does not know what their conversation was about (referring to Sergeant Healy and Officer Alvarez).

Even though Officer Woodward Mirandized the subject, he did not consider him under arrest. He said he did not consider this because they were still investigating the incident and waiting to see if the employees desired prosecution. Once Officer Alvarez advised him that the employees did not want prosecution was when they had the discussion regarding 849.

Detective Gottfried asked Officer Woodward why he did not call Sergeant Eveland to ask the question about 849 since he is his direct supervisor. Officer Woodward stated there is a long back story to his relationship with Sergeant Eveland that he did not want to get in. He chose to call Sergeant Healy because he is the one that had responded to the scene.

Detective Gottfried clarified that during his conversation with Sergeant Healy, he told him that he had Mirandized, handcuffed, and placed the subject in the back of his unit. She then asked him why he feels there was a second telephone call where Sergeant Healy specifically asked if he pointed a firearm at the suspect. Officer Woodward responded that he did not know but suspected it was because he was not present when the subject was taken into custody. Detective Gottfried asked why he thought a Sergeant would ask that type of question and Officer Woodward stated because it is considered a use of force. Detective Gottfried reiterated his understanding of our use of force policy as it pertains to pointing a handgun at someone. Officer Woodward indicated he was familiar with it and knew that the use of force circumstance code had to be marked. He was also fully aware of his responsibilities in documenting a use of force. Officer Woodward indicated that he had never written a use of force report.

I asked Officer Woodward if he made his appointment with the Counseling Team, which was a requirement on his Administrative leave paperwork. He advised me that he had not. I asked him if there was a reason he had not and he replied, is there a reason he needed to. I explained to him that the organization was looking out for his mental health and understood that this was a stressful time. He advised he has his own avenues of talking with someone aside from the Counseling Team. —see Administrative Leave Memo for further.

Detective Gottfried asked Officer Woodward if he could go back and change anything, he did that day, would he. He responded, that's a loaded question because during my last PI, that question was used against me. He then stated that he would not have done anything different with the way he conducted it but would have put out more information on the radio and sooner.

Susan Jerich asked Officer Woodward if unholstering his weapon and holding it at the low ready was considered a reportable use of force. Officer Woodward responded by saying no and continued to say there is no concrete use of force policy regarding this topic and that they have had arguments and conversation with sergeants and defensive tactics personnel and that it was

decided if you put your sights and gun on someone, it is considered a use of force and needs to be documented. He further indicated if he had put his sights on the subject, he would have documented it in a use of force report. He also stated that he has never written a use of force report because he pointed a gun at someone. I later clarified with Officer Woodward that he has pointed his gun at individuals during the course of his employment. He has not written a use of force regarding pointing a gun at someone because it is the discretion of the handling officer or Sergeant as to if the officer pulling their gun out writes a supplemental or that it is documented in the handling officers report (see Addendum K for further). Susan Jerich did clarify with Officer Woodward that after reviewing the body camera footage and report prior to the interview, did he intentionally try to mislead or misrepresent the facts in his report, to a supervisor or to any person during the course of this incident and Officer Woodward advised no.

This interview was concluded at 2:33 p.m. Refer to Recording #5 for further details.

#### **INVESTIGATOR NOTES:**

- 02-10-21: I contacted Aaron Cox-Senior Engineer for Traffic Engineering and inquired if the city had any cameras in the area of the incident. He advised although there are cameras near the location, they do not record due to installation issues. On March 1, 2021, I responded to the location where the subject was detained to determine if there were any video surveillance cameras. The fenced location surrounds a cell phone tower. I walked the perimeter and was unable to locate any video cameras. —see Addendum M.
- 02-11-21 I obtained the Quarterly Training for September 2020 from Officer Hedtke. The Quarterly Training consisted of a 60-minute update on SB 230 and AB392. Within the presentation, instructors went over requirements when brandishing of an officer's firearm. —see Addendum F. I also obtained a printout of Officer Woodward's POST training record, Individual Training Record, and Spillman Training Record. On the Spillman training record, Officer Woodward received briefing training on 8-17-20 regarding the Use of Force Circumstance code being mandatory. On 11-15-20 he received briefing training on Use of Force Reporting which Sergeant Stofila indicated was a review of policy and documentation required if you point your handgun at a subject. —see Addendum G.
- 02-16-21: I watched Officer Woodward's and Corporal Youngquist BWC recording from 02-08-21. During the video, the following incidents occur (indicated times are video marked):

**Officer Woodward's Body Worn Camera:**

5:21- [REDACTED] lays down on the ground after Officer Woodward told him to (Officer Woodward is exiting his vehicle).

5:25-Officer Woodward pulls his firearm from his holster and points it at [REDACTED] who is on the ground.

5:31-Officer Woodward utilizes the flashlight attached to his gun to light up [REDACTED] (which is pointing at [REDACTED] and his shadow shows the gun pointing towards [REDACTED]).

5:52-Officer Woodward radios that he has [REDACTED] prone out.

6:01-Officer Woodward backs up and turns on his gun's flashlight at [REDACTED] This illuminates the area where [REDACTED] is.

6:13-Officer Woodward is pointing his firearm at [REDACTED] and he tells him that if he makes any sudden movements, he will get bitten by a K-9.

6:55- Corporal Youngquist gives a K-9 announcement to [REDACTED]

7:13-Corporal Youngquist and Officer Woodward approach the suspect and Officer Woodward holsters his firearm.

10:20-Corpoal Youngquist stands [REDACTED] up.

10:52-[REDACTED] is placed in the backseat of Officer Woodward's police unit.

13:09-Sergeant Healy walks up to Corporal Youngquist and Officer Woodward's location.

13:54-Officer's Alvarez and Ramirez arrive on scene.

14:10-Sergeant Healy is speaking with Officers Alvarez and Ramirez

14:31-Officer Woodward tells Officer Alvarez he would like them to help with the in-field lineup.

15:06-Sergeant Healy leaves

17:14-Officer Woodward gets in his police vehicle and drives towards Edwards Cinema.

19:02-Officer Woodward gets out of his police vehicle to recover [REDACTED] jacket and baseball hat.

19:32-Officer Woodward locates [REDACTED] jacket and baseball hat which was discarded behind landscaping near Edwards Cinema.

21:04- Officer Woodward reads [REDACTED] his Miranda Rights.

22:20-Officer Woodward ask [REDACTED] if the incident occurred at Khol's at which time [REDACTED] advises him it occurred at Marshalls.

22:47-Officer Woodward advises Officer Alvarez on the radio that the incident occurred at Marshalls.

24:30-Officer Woodward drives up to the front of Marshalls and contacts Officer Alvarez. He advises him that he will wait for him in front of Best Buy.

31:00-Officer Alvarez advises Officer Woodward that Marshalls does not desire prosecution.

31:17-Officer Woodward turns off his body worn camera.

**Officer Woodward's Vehicle Camera (wide lens):**

3:22-Officer Woodward run across the front of his unit (passengers' side to drivers' side).

3:34-Officer Woodward makes a U-turn westbound Cajalco Road at the 15 (northbound) off-ramp.

3:41-Two pedestrians crossing the street, run to get out of Officer Woodward's way.

4:52- [REDACTED] is running up the access road to Cajalco Road.

5:02- [REDACTED] runs into the westbound lanes of Cajalco Road.

5:17- Officer Woodward makes a U-turn at the 15 freeway on ramp.

5:31- [REDACTED] is running eastbound next to the fence.

5:36- [REDACTED] tries to climb the fence.

5:38- [REDACTED] puts his hands up in the air and gets down on the ground.

5:42-Officer Woodward crosses the front of his police unit (driver's side to the passenger's side).

5:45-Officer Woodward unholsters his handgun and points it towards [REDACTED]

5:48-Officer Woodward uses his flashlight on his gun to light up [REDACTED] laying on the ground.

6:19-Corporal Youngquist activates his lights westbound Cajalco Road at Grand Oaks.

6:29-Officer Woodward utilizes his flashlight on his gun to light up [REDACTED]

7:30-Corporal Youngquist and Officer Woodward begin their approach to [REDACTED].

7:32-Officer Woodward holsters his handgun.

10:41-Corporal Youngquist stands [REDACTED] up.

10:55-Corporal Youngquist, [REDACTED] and Officer Woodward walk out of cameras view.

**Corporal Youngquist Body Worn Camera:**

1:25-Corporal Youngquist exits his police vehicle.

1:28-Officer Woodward is pointing his handgun at [REDACTED]

1:47-Corporal Youngquist give a K-9 announcement.

2:03-Corporal Youngquist and Officer Woodward approach [REDACTED]

2:11-Corporal Youngquist handcuffs [REDACTED]

5:13-Corporal Youngquist helps [REDACTED] stand up.

5:44-Corporal Youngquist places [REDACTED] in the backseat of Officer Woodward's unit.

7:57-Corporal Youngquist shuts off his body worn camera.

**Corporal Youngquist Vehicle Camera (wide lens):**

1:00-Corporal Youngquist activates his overheads lights westbound Cajalco Road at Grand Oaks.

1:15-Corporal Youngquist makes a U-turn at Cajalco Road and the 15 freeway (northbound) off-ramp.

1:29-Corporal Youngquist stops behind Officer Woodward's unit and Officer Woodward is on the passenger's side pointing his gun at [REDACTED] utilizing the handgun's flashlight.

1:37-Corporal Youngquist crosses the front of his police unit (driver's side to passenger's side).

2:11-Corporal Youngquist and Officer Woodward approach [REDACTED]

2:15-Officer Woodward holsters his handgun.

5:21-Corporal Youngquist stands [REDACTED] up.

5:53-Corporal Youngquist places [REDACTED] in the backseat of Officer Woodward's police unit.

8:04-Sergeant Healy arrives on scene.

8:58-Officer's Alvarez and Ramirez arrive on scene.

10:05-Sergeant Healy leaves.

11:31-Officer's Alvarez and Ramirez leave.

12:08-Officer Woodward gets in his unit.

12:14-Officer Woodward drives away.

12:29-Corporal Youngquist's camera is shut off.

02-17-21: I spoke with Lieutenant Fountain who stated he called Officer Woodward on Thursday February 11, 2021 and ordered him to come in and complete a report on the incident. He said this was at the direction of Command Staff and was required because it was a Use of Force documentation. —see Addendum A.

02-17-21 I conducted a Lexipol Audit (1-1-19 through 2-11-21) reference Officer Woodward's Daily Training Bulletins and Policy Acknowledgements. On 7-4-2019, Officer Woodward acknowledge an update to policy regarding Report Preparation (section 345) —see Addendum D. I also did an audit of Daily Training Bulletins and found two scenario questions related to Report Preparation and Reporting the Use of Force—see Addendum E.

2-24-21 During the interview with Officer Woodward, his attorney advised she wanted to put something on record. Susan Jerich went on to discuss Officer Woodward's previous personnel investigation (PI# 20-001) that is still pending possible appeal from Skelly. She discussed her interaction with the City Attorney, John

Higginbotham, regarding the appeal process. Based on her interaction with John Higginbotham and the current process of this Personnel Investigation she felt it necessary to lodge the objection that there are somethings that possibly do violate Officer Woodward's POBAR rights. She further clarified that it had nothing to do with what I have done.

PI #20-001 was the result of an accidental discharge that Officer Woodward was involved in (February 2020). As a result of the accidental discharge, a personnel investigation was started to determine if there were any policy violations regarding safety.

Additionally, during the interview with Officer Woodward, I asked him if he recalled signing his Administrative Leave Order (on February 11, 2021) which had a requirement that he speak with someone from the Counseling Team within a week of being placed on Administrative Leave. Officer Woodward acknowledged this order and advised no. I questioned him as to why and he questioned me why he needed to go. I explained to him that the organization wanted to ensure we were looking out for his mental wellbeing as this could be a stressful time for him. Officer Woodward advised he had other ways of dealing with that aside from talking with someone from the Counseling Team. Officer Woodward willfully defied this order without good cause (refer to Officer Woodward's interview for further). Based on his refusal to comply with the order, Officer Woodward is in violation of the following Corona Police Department policy section:

**340.5.1 Laws, Rules, and Orders**

(b) Disobedience of any legal directive or order issued by any department member of a higher rank.

- 03-18-21 After completing the interview Sergeant Stofila, I had an additional question to ask him. We went back on record to get that question audio-recorded. Therefore, there are two recordings for Sergeant Stofila.
- 04-06-21 Officer Woodward attended Red Dot Transition class on November 24, 2020, at the Corona Police Department. The instructors for the class were Officer Hungerford, Officer Tarrant, and Officer Goodman. During the class and live fire portions, the range safety rules were reiterated. Instructors continue to instruct proper low ready techniques and if a student was seen doing it improperly, the instructors corrected it immediately (Refer to Addendum G for class outline). Sergeant Perez inspected Officer Woodward's handgun on November 23, 2020. At that time, it had a Trijicon RMR Type 2 sight attached to it which is approved for use.

**ADDENDUM ITEMS:**

- A: CAD printout of incident #21-06553.
- B: Screen shot of Sergeant Healy's call history with Officer Woodward.
- C: CPD policy section 345-Report Preparation.
- D: DTB and Policy Acknowledgements for Officer Woodward.
- E: DTB scenario involving Use of Force completed by Officer Woodward.
- F: Septembers Quarterly Training sign in sheet and handout that was given out
- G: Training records from POST, Individual Training Activity, and Spillman for Officer Woodward. Training subject with titles of use of force or reporting requirements were printed and attached. Sergeant Perkins provided an article regarding Muzzle positioning that she had gone over in briefing (October 4, 2020). Refer to her statement for further regarding this article. Class outline for Red Dot Transition class.
- H: Spillman printout of messaging from 2-8-21 at 1700 hours to 2-9-21 at 0600 hours. I completed an audit of messages sent during Officer Woodward's shift. This was to identify any possible messages sent regarding the incident, which none were found. During the interview, Detective Gottfried refers to a message sent to Officer Woodward by Sergeant Hackett. Each message received or sent by Officer Woodward is highlighted in yellow.
- I: CAD printout of call with request for radio traffic.
- J: Two Notice to Corrects regarding Officer Woodward. One was related to Safety, Report Preparation, Officer Responsibilities, and Property Booking Procedures (6-24-19 PI#19-001). The second Notice to Correct was related to a Preventable Traffic Collision (7-13-17).
- K: Woodward's Use of Force as reported to DOJ and clarifying email from Sgt. Stofila regarding the DOJ report.
- L: Screen Shot of Officer Woodward's body camera video of the incident.
- M: Photographs of the location where the subject was detained during the day light. The photographs were taken to show no other video surveillance were affixed to the location.
- N: CPD's training on "low ready" from Sergeant Perez. Photograph of the CPD firearms safety rules.
- O: Audio Recordings of interviews

**RECORDINGS:**

- #1: Sergeant Eveland's interview
- #2: Sergeant Healy's interview
- #3: Corporal Youngquist's interview
- #4: Sergeant Healy 3-2-21
- #5: USB drive of Officer Woodward's Interview
- #6: Radio traffic of incident
- #7: Second interview with Sergeant Healy



#8: Sergeant Stofila

#9: Sergeant Stofila

#10: Sergeant Perkins

#11: Sergeant Perez

09/27/22  
15:52

Corona Police Department  
CALL DETAIL REPORT

440  
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Call Number: 21C013286

Nature: Flag Down  
Reported: 19:57:45 02/08/21  
Rcvd By: Casey June How Rcvd: O  
Occ Btwn: 19:57:45 02/08/21 and 19:57:45 02/08/21  
Type: 1  
Priority: 4

Address: 2459 TUSCANY ST; MARSHALLS  
City: CORONA

Alarm:

COMPLAINANT/CONTACT  
-----

Complainant: ,  
Race: Sex: DOB: \*\*/\*\*/\*\*  
Address: ,  
Home Phone:

Name#:

Work Phone:

Contact:  
Address:  
Phone: ( ) -

RADIO LOG  
-----

Dispatcher	Time/Date	Unit	Code	Zone	Agnc	Description
Casey June	19:57:48 02/08/21	332	ARRV	3	CPD	incid#=21-06553 On-site call=2461
Casey June	19:58:30 02/08/21	331	ARRV	3	CPD	incid#=21-06553 c=2461
Casey June	19:58:37 02/08/21	331	ENRT	3	CPD	incid#=21-06553 c=2461
Casey June	19:58:43 02/08/21	K91	ENRT	3	CPD	incid#=21-06553 c=2461
Neff E	20:00:11 02/08/21	K91	ARRV	3	CPD	incid#=21-06553 Arrived on Scene call=2461
Navarro B	20:03:57 02/08/21	332	DLIN	3	CPD	[REDACTED]
Navarro B	20:03:57 02/08/21	332	DLIN	3	CPD	[REDACTED]
Navarro B	20:04:26 02/08/21	332	DLIN	3	CPD	[REDACTED]
Navarro B	20:04:26 02/08/21	332	DLIN	3	CPD	[REDACTED]
Ramirez S	20:06:33 02/08/21	331	ARRV	3	CPD	(MDC) Arrived on scene incid#=21-06553 call=2461
Youngquist	20:20:54 02/08/21	K91	CMPL	3	CPD	(MDC) Completed call incid#=21-06553 call=2461
Ramirez S	20:28:51 02/08/21	331	CMPL	3	CPD	(MDC) Completed call incid#=21-06553 call=2461
Neff E	20:37:02 02/08/21	332	14	3	CPD	ENRT 1130 CC, call=2461
Woodward M	20:53:06 02/08/21	332	ARRV	3	CPD	(MDC) Arrived on scene incid#=21-06553 call=2461
Navarro B	20:53:20 02/08/21	332	LOCT	3	CPD	Unit Location: 1130 CIRCLE CITY

09/27/22  
15:52

Corona Police Department  
CALL DETAIL REPORT

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Woodward M 21:00:27 02/08/21 332 CMPL 3 CPD (MDC) Completed call  
incid#=21-06553 call=2461

COMMENTS

-----  
19:58:09 02/08/2021 - Casey June - From: Woodward M  
HMA HEADING TO CALAJO WHI SHIRT TAN PANTS  
19:58:17 02/08/2021 - Casey June - From: Woodward M  
PETTY THEFT FOR KOHLS  
19:58:51 02/08/2021 - Navarro B - From: Woodward M  
IM SENT  
19:59:39 02/08/2021 - Neff E - From: Ramirez S  
I HAVE HIM PRONED OUT ON SS OF CONSTRUCTION ZONE  
20:00:47 02/08/2021 - Neff E - From: Woodward M  
MERCH WAS RECOVERED  
20:01:14 02/08/2021 - Neff E - From: Woodward M  
4/6 1 DETAINED  
20:03:02 02/08/2021 - Neff E - From: Youngquist R  
C4  
20:07:19 02/08/2021 - Navarro B - From: Woodward M  
4/6 ON PRIM  
20:16:17 02/08/2021 - Neff E - From: Woodward M  
TO 331 CORR NOT KOHLS ITS MARSHALLS  
20:20:12 02/08/2021 - Neff E  
\*URGENT\* Address change from 2650 TUSCANY ST; EDWARDS CINEMA to 2459 TUSCANY ST;  
20:36:49 02/08/2021 - Neff E - From: Woodward M  
14 X1 TO 1130 CC  
21:00:26 02/08/2021 - Woodward M  
FLAG DOWN FROM MARSHALLS EMPLY REF PC 490.2. OBSERVED HMA WEARING BLACK  
WINDBREAKER, TAN PANTS WALKING WITH A LARGE SACK WITH MERCHANDISE HANGING OUT.  
HMA SUBJ SAW PD AND DROPPED THE MERCHANDISE BY A SHOPPING CART IN PK LOT AND  
WALKED AWAY. AFTER MERCHANDISE WAS COLLECTED AND GIVEN BACK TO EMPLOYEE, PD ATT  
TO MAKE CONTACT WITH HMA SUBJ WITH VERBAL COMMANDS. HMA SUBJ IGNORED COMMANDS  
AND RAN AWAY FROM PD. HMA WAS LOC RUNNING ACROSS CAJALCO ROAD FROM MORTH TO  
SOUTH WHEN PD ACTIVATED POLICE VEHICLES RED AND BLUE LIGHTS. HMA SUBJ ATT TO  
CLIMB A FENCE BUT WAS UNABLE TO AND PUT HIS HANDS ABOVE HIS HEAD AND LAID DOWN  
ON THE GROUND. SUBJ [REDACTED] WAS HANDCUFFED AND DETAINED FOR QUESTIONING.  
MARSHALLS EMPLOYEE DENIED PROSECUTION. [REDACTED] WAS RELEASED IN THE FIELD.  
SGT HEALY WAS ADVISED AND APPROVED THE RELEASE OF [REDACTED].

UNIT HISTORY

-----  
Unit Time/Date Code  
-----  
331 19:58:30 02/08/21 ARR  
331 19:58:37 02/08/21 ENRT  
331 20:06:33 02/08/21 ARR  
331 20:28:51 02/08/21 CMPL  
332 19:57:48 02/08/21 ARR  
332 20:03:57 02/08/21 DLIN  
332 20:03:57 02/08/21 DLIN  
332 20:04:26 02/08/21 DLIN  
332 20:04:26 02/08/21 DLIN  
332 20:37:02 02/08/21 14  
332 20:53:06 02/08/21 ARR  
332 20:53:20 02/08/21 LOCT

09/27/22  
15:52

Corona Police Department  
CALL DETAIL REPORT

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332	21:00:27	02/08/21	CMPL
K91	19:58:43	02/08/21	ENRT
K91	20:00:11	02/08/21	ARRV
K91	20:20:54	02/08/21	CMPL

RESPONDING OFFICERS

Unit	Officer
331	Ramirez S
332	332
K91	Youngquist R

INVOLVEMENTS

Type	Record#	Date	Description	Relationship
LW	21-06553	02/08/21	Flag Down 21-06553 2459 TUS	Initiating Call



# Corona Police Department

## Officer Report for Incident 21-06553

**Nature:** Flag Down  
**Location:** RCRO

**Address:** 2459 TUSCANY ST; MARSHALLS  
CORONA CA 92880

**Statute Codes:** Incident Report Incident Report

**Received By:** June Casey -  
001582

**How Received:** O

**Agency:** CPD

**Responding Officers:** Matthew Woodward - 003545, Stephanie Ramirez - 004346, Richard Youngquist - 003022

**Responsible Officer:** Matthew  
Woodward -  
003545

**Disposition:** H 02/11/21

**When Reported:** 19:57:45 02/08/21

**Occurred Between:** 19:40:00 02/08/21 and 19:57:45 02/08/21

**Assigned To:**

**Detail:**

**Date Assigned:** \*\*/\*\*/\*\*

**Status:**

**Status Date:** \*\*/\*\*/\*\*

**Due Date:** \*\*/\*\*/\*\*

### Complainant:

**Last:**

**First:**

**Mid:**

**DOB:** \*\*/\*\*/\*\*

**Dr Lic:**

**Address:**

**Race:**

**Sex:**

**Phone:**

**City:** ,

### Offense Codes

**Reported:**

**Observed:**

**Additional Statute:** Incident Report Incident Report

### Circumstances

0UOFN Use of Force - No

LT08 Department or Discount Store

NIGHT Night (6 p.m. - 6 a.m.)

LT18 Parking Lot or Garage

WNONE No Weapon Used

### Responding Officers:

**Unit :**

Matthew Woodward - 003545

332

Stephanie Ramirez - 004346

331

Richard Youngquist - 003022

K91

**Responsible Officer:** Matthew Woodward -  
003545

**Agency:** CPD

**Received By:** June Casey - 001582  
**How Received:** O OnView Activity  
**When Reported:** 19:57:45 02/08/21  
**Judicial Status:**  
**Misc Entry:**

**Last Radio Log:** 21:00:27 02/08/21 CMPLT  
**Clearance:** LOK LOCK - RECORDS ONLY  
**Disposition:** H **Date:** 02/11/21  
**Occurred between:** 19:40:00 02/08/21  
**and:** 19:57:45 02/08/21

<b>Modus Operandi:</b>	<b>Description :</b>	<b>Method :</b>
Scene	Type of Crime Scene	Business
Objective	Criminal Objective	Theft
Day of Week	Preferred Day of Week	Monday
Demeanor	Personal Demeanor	Talkative
Time of Day	Preferred Time of Day	Late Evening

### Involvements

<b>Date</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Relationship</b>
02/11/21	Name		Other

## Narrative

INCIDENT RECORDED ON BODY/DASHBOARD CAMERA: Yes.

SCENE: This incident occurred outside the Marshall's shopping store located at , 2459 Tuscany St., Corona.

POINT OF ENTRY/EXIT: south facing front doors pedestrian doors.

WEAPON/INSTRUMENT: N/A

EVIDENCE: N/A

INJURIES: None

PROPERTY TAKEN: Stolen merchandise was returned to the store employee.

PROPERTY DAMAGE: N/A

ASSISTING PERSONNEL: Corona Police K9 Officer R. Youngquist, Officer S. Ramirez, Officer (FTO) D. Alvarez.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS: N/A

### DETAILS:

On 02/08/2021, I was employed as a Police Officer, in the City of Corona, County of Riverside, assigned to patrol in a marked black / white police vehicle (#79264) wearing a full police uniform. At approximately 1950 hours, I was conducting a vehicle patrol through the Corona Crossings Shopping Mall area at the listed location. While patrolling the west side of the parking lot area near the above listed location, I observed an employee exit the front south facing pedestrian doors of the Marshall's shopping store waiving her hands above her head in an attempt to get my attention. As I started to drive toward the employee, I observed a Hispanic Male Adult(HMA) walking east through the parking lot, carrying a large burlap sack with what looked like white bedding material or bed sheets hanging out of the sack. The HMA (who was later identified as SU01 [REDACTED]) as approximately 5'9"/200 lbs wearing a black hat, black windbreaker with a green logo design on the back, tan pants, and grey tennis shoes. SU01 [REDACTED] saw me driving toward the Marshall's store and he slowly dropped the stolen merchandise by a shopping cart in the parking lot and slowly walked southeast through the parking lot, away from the stolen merchandise.

I drove my police vehicle to the where the stolen merchandise was at and waited for the employee to walk to me to collect the merchandise, while still keeping observation of SU01 [REDACTED] as he walked southeast through the parking lot. After I gave the merchandise back to the Marshall's employee, I returned to my police vehicle and started driving toward the center plaza area of the shopping center where there are multiple restaurants and was the last area where I saw [REDACTED] walk into. I parked my vehicle to the rear of PizzaRev restaurant, located at 2560 Tuscany St., and walked into the plaza area to see if I was able to locate [REDACTED] I was unable to locate [REDACTED] so I returned to my police vehicle and drove east through the parking lot towards the Edwards theatre and main central plaza.

As I pulled in front of the main plaza area I observed [REDACTED] walking southwest past the large water fountain, located in the center of the main plaza in front of Edwards theatres. I exited my vehicle and was approximately 100 feet away from [REDACTED] when I ordered [REDACTED] twice to come speak with me. [REDACTED] continued to walk away from me, while yelling back at me that he didn't do anything and that he didn't steal anything and he left it all there. I advised [REDACTED] that there was a Police K9 officer on the other side of Cajalco Road and if he were to run, he was going to get caught. [REDACTED] then turned away from me and ran

southwest along the pedestrian sidewalk, running between Edwards theatres and Con Amore restaurant, located at 2470 Tuscany St.

I went back to my police vehicle and drove west through the parking lot in order to get to the rear of the shopping center and theatre. When I arrived to the rear of the south side of the shopping center and behind the theatre I did not see [REDACTED]. There were two citizens eating food in their vehicle and I asked them if they had seen a Hispanic male run through the parking lot area and both citizens pointed east toward the rear of the theatre and stated that the Hispanic male had ran east behind the Edwards theatre.

As I drove east behind the Edwards theatre I observed [REDACTED] who had taken off his black windbreaker and black hat, running south toward the vehicle exit on Grand Oaks road leading to westbound lanes of Cajalco Road. As I drove toward [REDACTED] he ran onto the westbound lanes of Cajalco road, continued over the center median, across the east bound lanes of Cajalco road and into the brush grass area on the south side of Cajalco Road near the construction area fencing. Due to my concern for the safety of vehicles driving on Cajalco road and [REDACTED] running across all lanes of traffic, I activated my red and blue overhead vehicle lights and proceeded west on Cajalco road until I reached the traffic light at the intersection of Cajalco Road and the I-15 freeway exit ramp. I conducted a u-turn and drove eastbound approximately 580 feet where I observed [REDACTED] attempting to climb over a chain link fence that leads to a construction area. I positioned my police vehicle facing southeast along the south curb line, with my red and blue overhead lights and spot lights facing [REDACTED] who was still attempting to get over the chain link fence. I exited my vehicle and ordered [REDACTED] to "Just lay down" and [REDACTED] realizing he was unable to get over the fence, faced me, extended his hands and arms straight over his head and went down to his knees, and then laid down on his stomach with his arms and hands still extended over his head. As I approached [REDACTED] in the brush grass, I took my my duty firearm out its holster for officer safety and the fact that I did not know if [REDACTED] was armed or not at that time. I advised Corona Police Dispatch that I had [REDACTED] "proned out". I awaited for Corona Police K9 Officer, R. Youngquist to arrive on scene and once he arrived, we handcuffed SU01 [REDACTED] and he was advised he was detained for suspicion of petty theft. I positively identified [REDACTED] using his name and date birth through a records check with Corona Police Dispatch.

While awaiting the records check results for [REDACTED] Corona Police Officer S. Ramirez and Officer (FTO) D. Alvarez arrived on scene to assist me with the investigation. Before placing [REDACTED] in my police vehicle his handcuff were pinky checked for fit and double locked to to the rear. I placed [REDACTED] in my police vehicle and asked him why he ran from the police and he stated that his friend had been killed by the police, so he was scared and that is why he ran. I asked him where he took off his black windbreaker and hat and [REDACTED] stated he ditched them behind the theatre.

I asked Officer Ramirez if she could make contact with the employees at the Marshall's store to ask them if they will conduct an in-field lineup and if they desired prosecution. Officer Ramirez and Officer Alvarez drove to the Marshall's to make contact with the employees and I drove with [REDACTED] in the rear of my police vehicle to the rear of the Edwards theatre to locate the black windbreaker and hat that [REDACTED] ditched as he was trying to evade the Police. I located the black windbreaker and black hat, rolled up in a ball behind bushes located to the rear of the Edwards theatre on the south east corner. Due to the possibility of asking [REDACTED] questions regarding him committing the crime of PC 488/490.2 and PC 148(a)(1) I read SU01 [REDACTED] is Miranda warning admonishment from my Corona Police issued card. [REDACTED] answered every question with a nod of his head up and down and "Yes", that he understood his rights and that he would speak to me about what had occurred that evening.

I then drove my police vehicle to the parking lot located in front of Best Buy store to wait for Officers Ramirez and Alvarez to contact me about conducting an in-field lineup. At approximately 2030 hours, Officer Ramirez and Alvarez drove to my location and advised me that the store employee did not want to be identified, did not want to conduct an in-field lineup, and did not request prosecution due to the merchandise being returned undamaged.



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Due to the nature of the call and the fact that SU01 [REDACTED] was handcuffed and detained in my police vehicle, I contacted Corona Police Sergeant Healy to advise him that the store employee did not request prosecution and if I was clear to release [REDACTED] in the field with an advisement. Sergeant advised me to release [REDACTED] from detention with an advisement. I explained to Sergeant Healy that I was going to transport [REDACTED] to his home of record at [REDACTED] and Sergeant Healy advised that I was clear to transport [REDACTED] to his home and release him from custody there. At approximately 2100 hours I arrived in the vicinity of [REDACTED] home, removed him from the rear of my police vehicle, removed the handcuffs and I released SU01 [REDACTED] from custody with an advisement and provided him my information.

Disposition: Case Closed. Informational purposes only

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**Name Involvements:**

Other : 18602  
Last: [REDACTED] First: [REDACTED] Mid: [REDACTED]  
DOB: [REDACTED] Dr Lic: [REDACTED] Address: [REDACTED]  
Race: [REDACTED] Sex: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED] City: [REDACTED]  
Height: [REDACTED] Weight: [REDACTED] Eyes: [REDACTED] Hair: [REDACTED] Build: [REDACTED] Ethnic: [REDACTED]  
SSN: [REDACTED]