201014101 Felix Acosta Welinton Gomez

On October 7, 2010, PO Felix Acosta and PO Welinton Gomez were issuing a ticket to a van that had been double-parked while unloading material into a store in upper Manhattan. The owner of the store's son came out to complain. The officers recognized the son from an earlier incident when they had issued him a traffic summons and learned (after he had left) that he had an open warrant. They sought to arrest him for the warrant. Security video from the store shows that the man lifted his arm as the officers approached with handcuffs, and that they pinned him against the wall. The security footage then shows that PO Acosta presses his right forearm against the man while pointing his index finger towards the man's face. The video then shows PO Acosta pull his arm back and punch the man in the face, before both officers take him to the ground for a brief struggle before he is handcuffed.

Because the punch was an allegation in the CCRB complaint, each officer was specifically and directly asked whether PO Acosta had punched the man. Each specifically and directly denied that Acosta had done so, providing detailed statements that demonstrated they remembered the incident well. Each officer, after testifying, was shown the security footage that confirmed PO Acosta punched the man in the face while the man was standing still. At that point, each officer changed his testimony to state that he did not recall PO Acosta punching the man, despite the fact that each otherwise recalled the incident in detail.

The CCRB substantiated the allegation that PO Acosta had punched the man in the face without justification, and found that both officers had lied in their interviews.

The NYPD did not discipline either officer for the incident. Both have since been promoted to Sergeant.

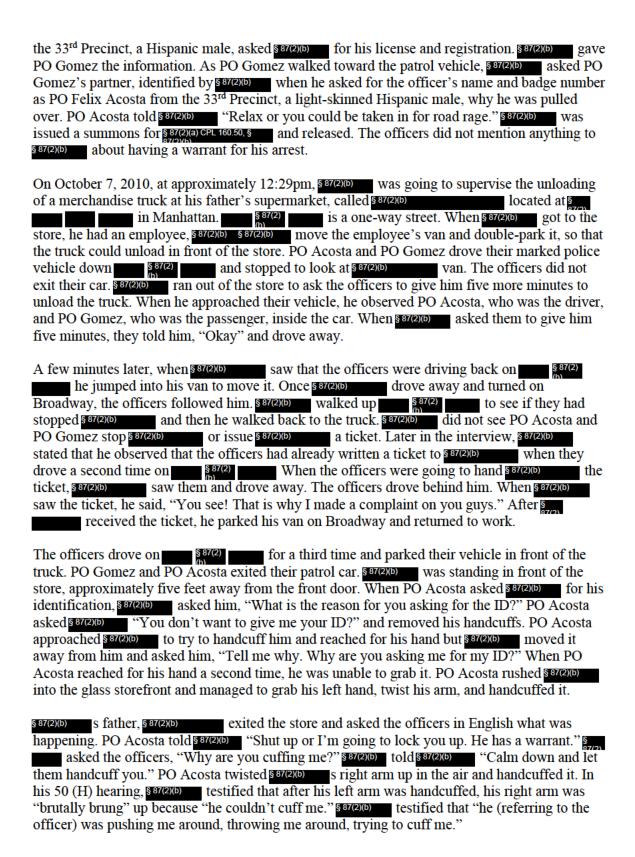
# CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	<b>▼</b> Fo	rce	☐ Discourt	. D U.S.	
Jacqueline Asencio		Team # 1	201014101	— Ab	ouse	<ul><li>□ O.L.</li></ul>	— □ Inju	ry
				<u> </u>				
Incident Date(s)	Location of Incident:	Location of Incident: Prec			18 Mo. SOL	EO SO	OL	
Thu, 10/07/2010 12:29 PM				3	33 04/07/2012 4/7/2012			)12
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported	V Reported: Date/Time Received at CCRB				
Thu, 10/07/2010 12:35 PM		IAB	Phone	We	Wed, 10/13/2010 12:35 PM			
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Add	ress					
Witness(es)		Home Add	ress					
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command					
1. POM Felix Acosta	11482	§ 87(2)(b)	033 PCT					
2. POM Welinton Gomez	23039	§ 87(2)(b)	033 PCT					
Witness Officer(s)	Shield N	o Tax No	Cmd Name					
1. SGT Victor Garcia	04000	§ 87(2)(b)	033 PCT					
2. SGT Fredy Cruz	00887	§ 87(2)(b)	033 PCT					
Officer(s)	Allegatio	on			Inve	stigator Reco	mmendati	ion
A . POM Felix Acosta	Force: A Acosta u	t <sup>§ 87(2)(b)</sup> sed physical force aga	in Manhattan, PO I inst § 87(2)(b) .	Felix	A . §	87(2)(g)		
B . POM Felix Acosta		Force: At the 33rd Precinct stationhouse, PO Felix Acosta used physical force against \$87(2)(b)			В.§	87(2)(g)		
C . POM Felix Acosta		Other: PO Felix Acosta intentionally made a false official statement when he said he did not strike 87(2)(b)			C . §	87(2)(g)		
D. POM Welinton Gomez	official s	O Welinton Gomez int tatement when he state osta strike §87(2)(b)			υ.	87(2)(g)		

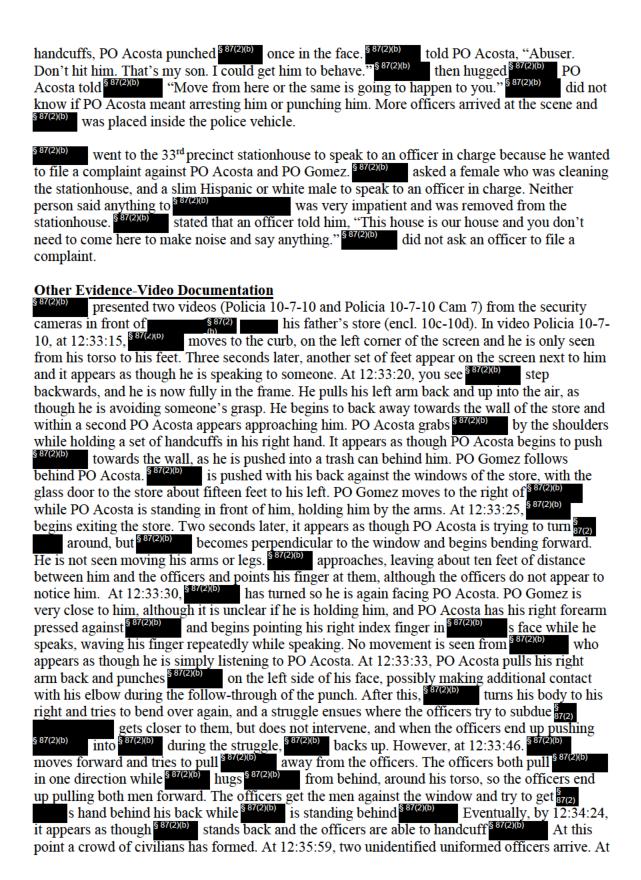
## **Case Summary**

filed this complaint by phone with the CCRB on October 13, 2010. 67(2)(b) filed the same complaint by phone with IAB on behalf of 68(2)(b) on October 7, 2010, but she withdrew her complaint. According to the IAB log, it appears as if 68(2)(b) also filed the same complaint on October 7, 2010, but he withdrew his complaint. On October 7, 2010, at approximately 12:30pm, 68(2)(b) was standing in front of his father's supermarket, located at 68(2)(b) 68(2)(c) 68(2)(c) 68(2)(c) 7, 2010, at approximately 12:30pm, 68(2)(c) 68(2)(c) 7, 2010, at approximately 12:30pm, 68(2)(c) 7, 2010, at approxim
Allegation A-Force: At \$87(2)(b) in Manhattan, PO Felix Acosta used physical force against \$87(2)(b) \$87(2)(g)
Allegation B-Force: At the 33 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct stationhouse, PO Felix Acosta used physical force against \$87(2)(0)  \$87(2)(0)
Allegation C-Other: PO Felix Acosta intentionally made a false official statement when he said he did not strike [887(2)(5)] Allegation D-Other: PO Welinton Gomez intentionally made a false official statement when he stated that he did not observe PO Felix Acosta strike [887(2)(5)]
§ 87(2)(g)
Results of Investigation
<u>Civilian Statements</u>
Complainant/Victim: §87(2)(b)  §87(2)(b)
CCRB Testimony
provided a statement to the CCRB on October 26, 2010 (encl. 10a-10g). §87(2)(9)
On September 22, 2010, 887(2)(b) was driving his vehicle and was exiting the Henry Hudson Parkway in Manhattan when he observed an individual pulled over by police officers. 887(2)(b) honked and yelled at a female driver, who would not drive past the officers' vehicle, and then 887(2)(b) drove around her car. At the red light at West 165th Street and Riverside Drive, he was pulled over by two uniformed police officers. An officer, identified by when he asked for the officer's name and badge number as PO Welinton Gomez from

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After PO Acosta handcuffed \$87(2)(b) s right hand, he punched him once in the left side of his face with a closed fist. PO Acosta's fist made contact with \$87(2)(b) s temple area down to his cheek. \$87(2)(b) received no injury from this punch. In his CCRB phone statement, \$87(2)(b) stated that after he was punched, he was elbowed in the face. In his 50 (H) hearing, \$87(2)(a) asked PO Acosta, "Why are you doing that?" PO Acosta told \$87(2)(b) "Mind your business. He has a warrant." In his 50 (H)
hearing, § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(a) Gen Mun. § 50-H(3)
was transported to the 33 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct stationhouse. As \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ was standing in front of the front desk, \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ told an officer, identified by \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ when he observed the officer's nameplate as Sgt. Victor Garcia, a Hispanic male with grey hair from the 33 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct, that PO Acosta had punched him. The investigation determined that Sgt. Fredy Cruz, also a Hispanic male, from the 33 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct was the officer who logged \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ in the command log. \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ told Sgt. Cruz that at the time the officers stopped him on September 22 he had a warrant, but he was not placed under arrest at that point. \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ told Sgt. Cruz that the officers were mad since he was going to file a complaint against them so when they saw him on October 7 they remembered his face and decided to ID him. Immediately after \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ made this statement to Sgt. Cruz, PO Acosta told \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ "Turn around." \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ told PO Acosta, "No." PO Acosta told him again to turn around and punched him with a closed fist on the right side of his face. In his October 19, 2010 phone statement to the CCRB, \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ did not mention that he was punched in the face in the stationhouse. \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ denied that he resisted and stated that he was standing still and handcuffed during this time. \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ was charged with \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$. In his 50 (H) hearing, \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ en. Mor. \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ was charged with \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$. In his 50 (H) hearing, \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ en. Mor. \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ was charged with \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$. In his
On \$87(2)(b) went to the hospital and told hospital personnel that five days earlier the police had twisted his right arm and he had been having shoulder pain since (encl. 22c).
Witness: §87(2)(b)  ● §87(2)(b)
provided a statement to the CCRB on October 26, 2010 (encl. 12a-12e). 387(2)(0)  additional information and exceptions noted in the text. At approximately 12:30pm, \$87(2)(0) who was in his office, went outside to ask his son, \$87(2)(0) a question. When \$87(2)(0) exited the store, he saw that PO Acosta, a tall muscular Hispanic male with an olive complexion, and PO Gomez, a short dark-skinned Hispanic male, had \$87(2)(0) against the wall. Since \$87(2)(0) did not know what was going on, he asked PO Acosta why he had \$87(2)(0) against the wall, hitting him. The officers said nothing to \$87(2)(0) to comply and in handcuffs. During this time, \$87(2)(0) was moving his body and moving his hands away from the officers. \$87(2)(0) then stated that \$87(2)(0) was moving his body and hands after he was punched. When \$87(2)(0) was placed in



12:36:09, 887(2)(b) is led away in handcuffs, but as he reaches the curb, he moves out of view. Neither video angle shows 887(2)(b) being placed into the police vehicle.

#### **NYPD Statements:**

## **Subject Officer: PO FELIX ACOSTA**

- PO Acosta is a \$87(2)(5) Hispanic male, height 5'11", weight 212 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.
- On October 7, 2010, PO Acosta was assigned to Sector A. He worked in uniform with PO Welinton Gomez from 7:05am to 3:40pm in a marked police vehicle.

## Memo Book

PO Acosta noted in his memo book that he stopped \$87(2)(b) in front of \$87(2)(b) who was a known perpetrator, was asked for identification in regards to an outstanding warrant. \$87(2)(b) refused saying, "Fuck you, I don't have to give you shit. I am in front of my business." \$87(2)(b) placed his hands in his jacket pocket. After repeatedly asking him for ID, \$87(2)(b) refused. PO Acosta noted in his memo book that he and PO Gomez attempted to place \$87(2)(b) in handcuffs, but he pulled away from them and flailed his arm. \$87(2)(b) started acting violent and pushed away from the officers at the same time they grabbed his arms, but he continued trying to turn around. The officers told \$87(2)(b) to stop resisting and to turn around. \$87(2)(b) continued trying to get loose. The officers pushed \$87(2)(b) closer to the wall to gain better control of the situation. PO Acosta also noted in his memo book that at 12:40pm \$87(2)(b) was placed into the police vehicle and continued to be combative and hit his head against the driver side passenger window in the police vehicle.

#### OLBS Worksheet-PO Felix Acosta

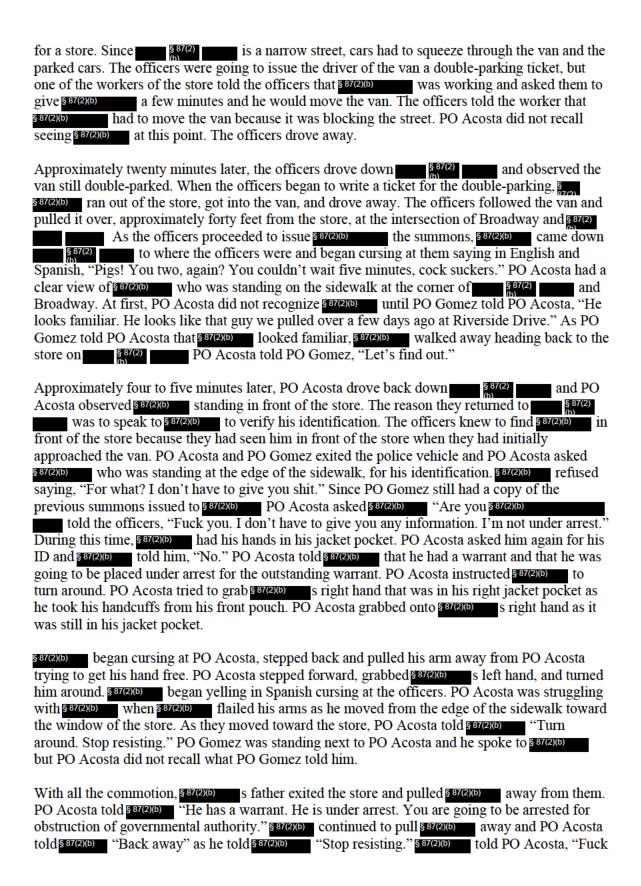
On October 7, 2010, PO Acosta prepared an arrest report for [887(2)(b)] (encl. 14a-14e). He will	rote
the following on the report: § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(a) CPL 160 50	

#### **CCRB Testimony**

PO Acosta provided a statement to the CCRB on December 13, 2010 (encl. 15a-15d). On September 22, 2010, PO Acosta and PO Gomez had responded to a vehicle accident at West 168<sup>th</sup> Street and Riverside Drive in Manhattan. Because of the accident and investigation, traffic had slowed down and \$87(2)(b) was the second or third vehicle behind their police car. \$87(2)(b) had rolled down his window, and started cursing and yelling at the female driver in front of him, who was driving slowly. PO Acosta and PO Gomez pulled \$87(2)(b) over. Since his driver's license was valid, they issued \$87(2)(b) \$87(2)(b) \$87(2)(c) \$87(2)(c) \$1 summons and released him. Approximately five to ten minutes after \$87(2)(b) had already left the location, PO Acosta and PO Gomez received a message from the computer informing them that \$87(2)(b) had an outstanding warrant. Since \$87(2)(b) had left the location, they could not place him under arrest.

On October 7, 2010, at approximately 12:20pm, PO Acosta, who was the operator, was driving on in Manhattan with PO Gomez, who was the recorder, when they observed a van double-parked at [87(2)] and a truck, legally parked, unloading merchandise

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you, pig." \$87(2)(b) did not manage to get \$87(2)(b) away from the officers. No other individual attempted to get § 87(2)(b) away from the officers, but the crowd was calling the officers names. As PO Acosta held onto \$ 97(2)(b) s left hand, he was trying to turn him around, and managed to handcuff one of his hands. PO Acosta was unable to handcuff the other wrist because [887(2)(b)] continued to try to turn around and move the arm away from him. After approximately four to five minutes of struggling with \$87(2)(b) PO Acosta placed him in handcuffs with the help of PO Gomez. PO Acosta managed to place \$87(2)(b) in handcuffs when he pushed \$87(2)(b) against the window as PO Gomez helped from the other side as he called for additional units. PO Acosta stated that he did not have to do anything else in order to get §87(2)(6) in control. PO Acosta denied that he punched [307(2)(0)] as he placed him in handcuffs. The following is a verbatim transcription of PO Acosta's statements concerning the force allegation in this case: [Before viewing the video] Inv. Asencio: \$87(2)(5) he, is alleging that you punched him, once while he was being placed under arrest, and the second time at the stationhouse. Did you punch him?" PO Acosta: "No." [After viewing the video] **ASI Jarett**: "Okay and that strike to his face? Do you recall?" PO Acosta: "No, I don't recall that." When \$87(2)(b) was placed in handcuffs, \$87(2)(b) continued to intervene and PO Acosta had to continued to fight and resist after he was physically move him away from §87(2)(b) already placed in handcuffs since he did not want PO Acosta to touch him or place him in the police vehicle. PO Acosta and PO Gomez stood on either side of \$87(2)(b) while grabbing his hands. PO Acosta did not have to do anything else in order to control him. When the additional units arrived, \$27(2)(0) was already in handcuffs. The officers were helping PO Gomez to push people back since they were "all over us." Sgt. Cruz also responded to the scene and asked PO Acosta what happened. PO Acosta explained that \$87(2)(b) had a warrant and that \$87(2)(b) resisted arrest. who was still agitated, was placed inside of the police vehicle. § 87(2)(b) hit his head on the passenger side window of the car. PO Acosta pointed out to Sgt. Cruz what [87(2)(b)] was doing and Sgt. Cruz confirmed that he saw what was happening. Later in the interview, PO Acosta stated that he did not actually observe \$37(2) hitting his head against the window and stated that he was told by someone else that §87(2)(b) was hitting his own head as he and PO Gomez were speaking to Sgt. Cruz. PO Acosta does not know how many times §87(2)(b) hit his head. § 87(2)(b) had no injuries. PO Acosta and PO Gomez transported \$87(2)(6) to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct stationhouse. \$87(2)(6) continued to act combative as he stood before the front desk by not wanting PO Acosta to touch him or search him. As he stood before the front desk, § 87(2)(b) was saying that the reason he was under arrest was because of the CCRB complaint he filed about the summons he was issued in September. § 87(2)(b) told the officers, "You guys have no right to do this. I was in front of my

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 refused. §87(2)(b) eventually calmed down and told PO Acosta that he knew he had a warrant. PO Acosta did not recall if he escorted §87(2)(b) to the holding cell.

When \$\frac{\text{\$\frac{87(2)(0)}}}{\text{arrived}}\$ arrived at the stationhouse, he began yelling at everyone and cursing at PO Acosta when he saw him walk by with \$\frac{\text{\$\frac{87(2)(0)}}}{\text{o}}\$ is warrant in his hand. PO Acosta showed \$\frac{\text{\$\frac{87(2)(0)}}}{\text{o}}\$ the copy of the warrant, but \$\frac{\text{\$\frac{87(2)(0)}}}{\text{o}}\$ did not want to hear what PO Acosta had to say to him. \$\frac{\text{\$\frac{87(2)(0)}}}{\text{o}}\$ was making a commotion and he was asked to leave the precinct. \$\frac{\text{\$\frac{87(2)(0)}}}{\text{o}}\$ refused and PO Acosta told him that he could have been arrested for obstruction of governmental administration and now he could be placed under arrest for trespassing because they were asking him to leave. Many unidentified officers (PO Acosta did not recall who they were) spoke to \$\frac{\text{\$\frac{87(2)(0)}}}{\text{to get him to leave and eventually he did. Before he left, \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{\text{\$\frac{87(2)(0)}}}\$ told PO Acosta that he wanted to file a complaint with the CCRB. PO Acosta stated that he did not recall \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{\text{\$\frac{87(2)(0)}}}\$ asking him for a phone number to file the complaint.

After PO Acosta viewed the video footage provided by \$87(2)(0) in regards to the incident, he stated that he did not recall the punch to \$87(2)(0) is face, as it was shown to him on the video. PO Acosta did not recall what was happening before the punch and stated that he did not feel that he had \$87(2)(0) is a little secured" at that point because \$87(2)(0) is was not in handcuffs. When informed that in the video it shows that PO Acosta and PO Gomez had some sort of hold of \$7(2)(0) is PO Acosta stated that what is seen in the video is them trying to turn \$87(2)(0) is around. PO Acosta stated that \$87(2)(0) is kept trying to turn around and \$87(2)(0) is was pulling him when he was not in handcuffs.

#### Subject Officer: PO WELINTON GOMEZ

- PO Gomez is a \$87(2)(5) Hispanic male, height 5'11", weight 220 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.
- On October 7, 2010, PO Gomez was assigned to Sector A with PO Felix Acosta. PO Gomez worked in uniform from 7:05am to 3:40pm in a marked police vehicle.

#### Memo Book

PO Gomez had similar entries in his memo book as PO Acosta except that he noted that he went to \$87(2)(b) at 1:45pm for a scratched left hand and lacerations to left middle finger (encl. 16a-16c).

#### **CCRB Testimony**

approached the police vehicle and told the officers to give him five minutes since he was working. The officers agreed and when they returned approximately twenty minutes later, PO Gomez observed that the van was still double-parked on Gomez began to write \$\frac{87(2)}{6}\$ a double-parking ticket when \$\frac{87(2)}{6}\$ got into the van and drove away. During this time, PO Gomez observed \$\frac{87(2)}{6}\$ and Broadway. The officers. PO Acosta followed the van and pulled it over at and Broadway. The officers' vehicle was facing northbound on Broadway at and PO Gomez issued \$\frac{87(2)}{6}\$ and Broadway screaming at the officers, "Why are you doing that? You are the same two guys that gave me the summons a couple of weeks ago. You can suck my dick! I'm going to make another CCRB complaint against you." PO Gomez gave a summons to \$\frac{87(2)}{6}\$ acouple of weeks prior to the incident, but before that

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toward § 87(2)(b) he walked away. The officers decided to go back to because of the way \$87(2)(b) had screamed at them, which caused a lot of people to gather around him. PO Gomez stated that the intention of returning to was to ask \$87(2) was to ask \$87(2)(6) why he was screaming. It was PO Gomez's decision to drive back to speak to \$87(2)(b) When the officers had driven down for the third time, §87(2)(b) was standing in front of the supermarket. PO Gomez did not recall how long it took to drive back around to PO Gomez and PO Acosta exited the car together and PO Acosta, who stood in front of \$87(2)(6) asked him for his identification as PO Gomez stood to the left of PO Acosta. \$87(2)(b) told PO Acosta that he did not have to give him the ID because he was in front of his business and they had no right to stop him. § 87(2)(b) told the officers, "You can suck my dick." PO Acosta asked § 87(2)(b) a second time for the identification. PO Gomez did not recall if PO Acosta told \$87(2)(b) anything about the warrant. proceeded to walk toward the store. PO Gomez did not remember what PO Acosta did at this point because a crowd started to gather and PO Gomez was looking into the crowd. did not go into the store. PO Acosta wanted to place \$87(2)(b) under arrest because he refused to provide his ID and he was cursing at the officers, acting disorderly, and causing a crowd to gather. [307(2)(b) resisted by pulling his whole body away from PO Acosta and pushing back. PO Gomez tried to assist PO Acosta in handcuffing \$87(2)(b) but he had to keep the crowd back, as well. PO Acosta told \$87(2)(b) "Stop resisting." PO Gomez did not recall if \$87(2)(b) said anything during this time. s father exited the store and tried to pull \$37(2)(b) into the store. When \$37(2)(b) exited the store, \$87(2)(6) had one hand in a handcuff while his free hand was being held by PO Gomez, who was calling for additional units. PO Acosta was the officer who managed to handcuff one of s hands. During this time, PO Gomez was standing to the left holding \$37(2)(b) s other arm. PO Gomez did not recall if \$87(2)(b) made any threatening gestures toward them. PO Gomez did not remember how he and PO Acosta were able to handcuff \$87(2)(b) PO Gomez stated that he cut his fingers as they arrested \$87(2)(b) but he did not recall how he obtained the cuts. PO Gomez did not see PO Acosta punch \$87(2)(b) while he was being placed in handcuffs. The following is a verbatim transcription of PO Gomez's interview concerning the force allegation: [Before the video] Inv. Asencio: \$87(2)(b) is alleging that your partner [PO Acosta] punched him during the time that he was being placed in handcuffs. Did you see your partner do that?" PO Gomez: "No." [After the video] Inv. Asencio: "So you have him [referring to \$87(2)(b) in the storefront here, so what is going on here that? Do you recall what is going on during that time [where PO Acosta is seen punching § 87(2)(b) PO Gomez: "No." \$87(2)(b) was unable to get \$87(2)(b) into the store. PO Gomez did not speak to \$87(2)(b) because PO Gomez was using his radio. PO Gomez did not know if PO Acosta said anything to \$37(2)(5) Later in the interview, PO Gomez stated that PO Acosta told \$\mathbb{3}(2)(0) that he could be placed

moment he did not realize it was the same person. PO Acosta did not mention anything to PO Gomez about recognizing [887(2)(b)] from the prior incident. When PO Gomez began to walk

under arrest for obstruction of governmental administration. PO Gomez denied that any officer threatened \$87(2)(b) with the use of force. PO Gomez did not recall which officers responded to his call and stated that when the additional officers arrived they rushed \$87(2)(b) into the police vehicle. Once \$87(2)(b) was inside of the police vehicle, they observed \$87(2)(b) hitting the left side of his head against the window, trying to hurt himself. PO Gomez did not observe any injuries on \$87(2)(b)

At the stationhouse, PO Gomez and PO Acosta escorted to the front desk. Once they stopped at the front desk, PO Gomez went straight to the bathroom to wash his hand since it was bleeding. PO Gomez saw the doctor at the hospital in regards to his cut but he did not go "Line of Duty." PO Gomez did not observe PO Acosta punch while he was at the stationhouse. PO Gomez saw \$87(2)(0) at the stationhouse, but neither PO Gomez nor PO Acosta spoke to him.

After viewing the video, PO Gomez identified himself as holding one of \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{27(2)}\$ s arms as he used his other hand to call for additional units since people had started to gather. One of \$\frac{8}{27(2)}\$ s wrists was already in handcuffs. PO Gomez stated that he sees from the video PO Acosta trying to handcuff \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ and \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ not wanting to put his other arm back. \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ was moving his arm as the officers were trying to handcuff him. PO Gomez stated that he observed \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ struggling at the same time he was being struck in the face by PO Acosta as PO Gomez stood to \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ s right side with PO Acosta standing in front of him. PO Gomez did not recall what was happening during the time that PO Acosta is seen punching \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ PO Gomez did not have any independent recollection of PO Acosta punching \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$

## Witness Officer: SGT. FREDY CRUZ

- Sgt. Cruz is a [87(2)(0)] Hispanic male, height 5'9", weight 195 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes.
- On October 7, 2010, Sgt. Cruz was assigned to the Conditions Unit. Sgt. Cruz was dressed in plainclothes and worked alone in an unmarked police vehicle from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

#### Memo Book

Sgt. Cruz noted on his fly sheet that PO Acosta had arrested [887(2)(6)] at [187(2)(6)] at [187(

#### **CCRB** Testimony

Sgt. Cruz provided a statement to the CCRB on April 1, 2011 (encl. 19a-19b). Sgt. Cruz responded to a call for additional units at in Manhattan. When Sgt. Cruz arrived at the scene, he observed a large crowd of approximately ten to fifteen people along with other police officers, including PO Acosta. Sgt. Cruz could not remember which other officers were present. Sgt. Cruz approached PO Acosta since he was having a problem with structed but moving his body around. structed Po Acosta since he was uncooperative and combative by not standing still. structed Po Acosta to put structed Po

Sgt. Cruz began to disperse the crowd and as he was dispersing the crowd, \$87(2)(b) attempted to pass Sgt. Cruz to go toward \$87(2)(b) in the car. Sgt. Cruz held onto \$87(2)(b) and told him, "No,

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you can't interfere." sar(2)(b) calmed down and Sgt. Cruz explained to him that sar(2)(b) was
going to be taken to the 33rd Precinct stationhouse. When Sgt. Cruz arrived at the stationhouse, he
logged \$87(2)(b) in the command log. When \$87(2)(b) stood before him at the front desk,
did not tell Sgt. Cruz anything about the arrest or anything in regards to PO Acosta. Sgt.
Cruz did not observe any injuries on \$87(2)(b) or hear him complain of any injuries. \$87(2)(b)
was upset, but he did not recall what \$87(2)(b) said to him. Sgt. Cruz did not observe PO Acosta
punch sar(2)(b) in the stationhouse. Sgt. Cruz remained at the stationhouse for the remainder of
his tour doing "desk duties." \$87(2)(b) arrived at the stationhouse to protest \$87(2)(b) s arrest and
Sgt. Cruz spoke to him, but \$87(2)(b) did not mention to Sgt. Cruz that he wanted to file a
complaint. Sgt. Cruz explained to \$87(2)(b) why \$87(2)(b) was placed under arrest and what he
could do about the arrest. During this time, \$87(2)(b) was calm. There was no need to have \$87(2)(b)
removed from the stationhouse. If \$87(2)(b) wanted to file a complaint, it would have been noted in
the command log.

#### Witness Officer: SGT. VICTOR GARCIA

- Sgt. Garcia is a 887(2)(b) Hispanic male, height 5'9", weight 230 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.
- On October 7, 2010, Sgt. Garcia was assigned as the desk officer at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct stationhouse. Sgt. Garcia worked alone and in uniform from 6:55am to 3:50pm.

#### Memo Book

Sgt. Garcia had no memo book entries for this incident (encl. 20a-20c).

#### **CCRB Testimony**

Sgt. Garcia provided a statement to the CCRB on February 10, 2011 (encl. 21a-21b). Sgt. Garcia had no independent recollection of this incident. After Sgt. Garcia looked at the Command Log, he stated that he did not log \$87(2)(b) in the Command Log since the entry was not his handwriting. Sgt. Garcia did not remember seeing \$87(2)(b) with PO Acosta and PO Gomez, and he did not observe \$87(2)(b) being punched by PO Acosta at the front desk. Sgt. Garcia did not recognize \$87(2)(b) s photograph.

#### Medical Records

On \$87(2)(b) visited \$87(2)(b) visited \$87(2)(b) . \$87(2)(b) with a right shoulder sprain and prescribed him Naproxen tablets (encl. 22e).

#### **NYPD Documents**

#### **Sprint**

On October 7, 2010, two duplicate Sprints were created regarding this incident, Sprint #

\$87(2)(6)

and \$87(2)(6)

. At approximately 12:30pm, a civilian caller, calling from number \$87(2)

\$87(2)(6)

, hung up when transferred to the Spanish translator and the call was qualified as an unknown condition at the scene. At 12:32pm, Sgt. Cruz arrived at the scene. At 12:38pm, \$87(2)(6)

and the police. At 12:42pm, Sector A had \$87(2)(6)

under arrest (encl. 23a-23c).

#### **Command Log**

• The Command Log indicates that PO Acosta arrested \$87(2)(b) \$87(2)(b) \$87(2)(c) \$87(2)(d) \$87(

Page 12 CCRB Case # 201014101 Central Booking. It was noted in the command log that PO Gomez went line of duty to for an injury to his hand at 1:10pm. It was also noted that Sgt. Cruz began his desk duties at 1:15pm. The command log has no entry indicating that \$87(2)(6) wanted to file a civilian complaint against PO Acosta or PO Gomez.

#### Arrest Photograph

• §87(2)(b) s arrest photograph shows no visible injuries (encl. 25a).

#### **Summons for Incident and Disposition**

• The \$87(2)(b), \$87(2)(a) CPL summons (\$87(2)(b), \$87(2)(a) issued to \$87(2)(b) on September 22, 2010 was dismissed.

#### **Arrest for Incident and Disposition**

• \$87(2)(b) s arrest has been sealed (encl. 28b).

#### **Status of Civil Proceedings**

• \$87(2)(b) filed a Notice of Claim with the City of New York on \$87(2)(b), claiming improper assault, battery, detention and is seeking \$10,000,000.00 as redress (encl. 29a-29c).

#### Civilian Criminal History

- The Office of Court Administration records reveal that on January 21, 2010 a warrant was issued for [887(2)(b)] (encl. 28e).
- As of September 28, 2011, Office of Court Administration records reveal the following criminal convictions for [8] 87(2)(5)
  - ⊙ § 87(2)(b)

#### Civilian CCRB History

- §87(2)(b) has filed the following CCRB complaints (encl.6a):
  - regarding the \$87(2)(b), \$87(2)(a) CPL summons (\$87(2)(b), \$87(2)

    referred to the Office of the Chief of Department.
  - § 87(2)(b)

## Subject Officers CCRB History

- PO Felix Acosta has been a member of the service for five years and there are no substantiated CCRB allegations against him (encl. 4a).
- PO Welinton Gomez has been a member of the service for five years and there are no substantiated CCRB allegations against him (encl. 5a).

## **Conclusion**

## Identification of Subject Officers

- \$87(2)(b) identified PO Acosta as the officer who had punched him when he requested the officer's name and badge number during a prior incident. PO Acosta also identified himself on the video as the officer who punched \$87(2)(b) As such, Allegations A, B, and C are pled against him.
- PO Gomez identified himself on the video as the officer holding one of sarms as he called for additional units. As such, Allegation D was pled against him.

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#### Allegations Not Pled

alleged that he was approached by PO Acosta because he had filed a complaint against him and PO Gomez for a stop that took place a few weeks before the incident. PO Acosta testified that he and PO Gomez approached \$87(2)(b) after they recognized him as the individual they had previously stopped and who they had released before learning that he was wanted for an outstanding warrant. PO Acosta stated that they approached [887(2)(b)] to determine his identity. Yet, PO Gomez testified that they returned to speak to \$87(2)(b) because he had screamed at them and had caused a crowd to gather while they were issuing \$87(2)(b) as a summons on October 7. g87(2)(b) did have an outstanding warrant that was noted on his arrest paperwork and OCA records. Since PO Acosta requested \$87(2)(b) s ID to verify his identity as the person sought in the warrant, the stop allegation was not pled.

testified that PO Acosta threatened to arrest his father as he was being placed under arrest. PO Acosta admitted that he told \$87(2)(0) that he could be placed under arrest for obstruction of governmental administration. Based on the video documentation, §87(2)(b) was seen pulling his son away from the officers as they are handcuffing him. Therefore, PO Acosta's comment was a statement of fact, not a threat. In addition, \$87(2)(b) testified that after he observed PO Acosta punch his son, PO Acosta told him, "Move from here or the same is going to happen to you." \$87(2)(b) stated that he did not know what PO Acosta meant by the statement. Since s actions at the time his son was being placed under arrest could have resulted in his arrest and since he was not sure if PO Acosta meant that he would arrest him or punch him, the allegation was not pled.

Furthermore, §87(2)(b) testified that when he went to the stationhouse to file a complaint against PO Acosta and PO Gomez, he asked two individuals to speak to "an officer in charge." Since ger(2)(b) did not tell these individuals specifically that he wanted to file a complaint, but wanted to speak to a supervisor, the refusal to file a complaint against PO Acosta and PO Gomez was not pled.

#### Investigative Findings and Recommendations

## § 87(2) force against § 87(2)(b) It is undisputed that once PO Acosta approached \$87(2)(6) to place him in handcuffs, \$87(2)(6) resisted arrest. The video documentation supports the officers' claim that \$87(2)(b) resisted when he pulled his arms away from them. PO Acosta pushed \$97(2)(b) against the store front in order to subdue him. While against the wall, \$87(2)(b) testified that PO Acosta punched him in the left side of his face after he was placed in handcuffs. When interviewed, PO Acosta denied that he

■ in Manhattan, PO Felix Acosta used physical

could not explain the circumstances that resulted in the punch and stated that at the time the punch occurred \$37(2)(b) was not in handcuffs. PO Gomez also testified that he did not observe PO Acosta punching § 87(2)(b) and stated after he viewed the video that he did not recall what took place with \$87(2)(b) during the time PO Acosta is seen punching him. Yet, PO Gomez testified that one of \$87(2)(b) s wrists was handcuffed at the time as PO Gomez held onto

had punched \$87(2)(b) After viewing the video showing him punching \$87(2)(b)

s other arm.

Allegation A-Force: At

The video documentation shows that when PO Acosta punched (1972) PO Acosta and PO Gomez had some control of (1972) who was not moving any part of his body and appeared to simply be listening to PO Acosta. After the punch, (1972) begins to offer much more resistance. PO Gomez testified that he received a cut to his fingers after the interaction with (1972) but he was unable to articulate how he received the injury. The officers also testified that once (1972) was inside of the police vehicle, he was banging his own head against the window, in an attempt to injure himself. Although (1972) testified that he received no injuries from the punch and that he did not inform hospital personnel about the punch, the video documentation clearly shows that PO Acosta did punch (1972) in the face. New York City Patrol Guide Procedure 203-11 states "all uniformed members of the service are responsible and accountable for the proper use of force under appropriate circumstances. All members of the service at the scene of a police incident must use minimum necessary force" (encl. 1a-1b). (1972)
Allegation B-Force: At the 33 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct stationhouse, PO Felix Acosta used physical force against stationary alleged that as he stood before the front desk and in the presence of Sgt. Cruz, PO Acosta punched him on the right side of his face. statement, but he did not mention the allegation during his phone statement. Sgt. Cruz and PO Gomez denied seeing PO Acosta punch statement at the stationhouse, and PO Acosta denied doing so. When statement went to the hospital, he did not tell hospital personnel that he was punched in the face at the stationhouse.
Allegation C-Other: PO Felix Acosta intentionally made a false official statement when he said he did not strike \$87(2)(5)  The undersigned interviewed PO Acosta approximately two months after the incident. Before PO Acosta was shown video evidence, he told the undersigned that he did not punch \$87(2)(5)  The video clearly depicted PO Acosta striking \$87(2)(5)  in the face as he stood against the storefront,
did not testify that he "did not recall" whether he punched \$87(2)(b) but denied that he had done so entirely. As \$87(2)(b) s arresting officer, PO Acosta made a detailed entry in his memo book about \$87(2)(b) s resistance and also wrote a detailed narrative on \$87(2)(b) s arrest report. When he was interviewed at the CCRB, PO Acosta provided a detailed account of \$87(2)(b) s actions before and after he was placed under arrest, demonstrating that he had an independent recollection of this incident. \$87(2)(b)

## Allegation D-Other: PO Welinton Gomez intentionally made a false official statement when he stated that he did not observe PO Felix Acosta strike 887(2)(b) PO Gomez provided a statement to the CCRB approximately three months after this incident and testified before viewing the video that he did not observe his partner punch §87(2)(b) while they were arresting him. After viewing the video, PO Gomez testified that he did not recall what was going on at the time of the punch. In the video, PO Gomez was standing to the side of \$87(2)(0) as PO Acosta stood in front of \$87(2)(6) and punched him. \$87(2)(9) Team: One Investigator: Signature **Print** Date Supervisor: Title/Signature **Print** Date Reviewer: Title/Signature Print Date Reviewer: Title/Signature **Print** Date