# CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team: CCRB Case #:		Force	Force Discourt. U.S.		
John Teufel		Team # 6	200703392	🗹 Abuse	□ 0.L.	□ Injury	
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:	•	Precinct:	18 Mo. SOL	EO SOL	
Thursday, 03/08/2007, Saturda 8:01 PM	y, 03/10/2007	§ 87(2)(b) stationhouse.	/48th Pct.	48	9/10/2008	9/10/2008	
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported	: Date/Time	e Received at CCI	RB	
Sun, 03/11/2007 2:42 PM		CCRB On-line website S		Sun, 03/1	Sun, 03/11/2007 2:42 PM		
Complainant/Victim	Туре	Home Add	ress				
Witness(es) Home Address							
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command				
1. POM Miguel Frias	02814	930184	048 PCT				
Witness Officer(s)	Shield N	o Tax No	Cmd Name				
1. POM Starlin Dominguez	02943	935169	048 PCT				
2. POF Shevon Colon	01751	941580	048 PCT				
3. SGT Alexander Perez	01090	913792	048 PCT				
Officer(s)	Allegatio	Allegation			Investigator Recommendation		
A.POM Miguel Frias		Abuse: At 1005 East 179th Street in the Bronx, PO Miguel Frias stopped <sup>\$ 87(2)(b)</sup>					
B.POM Miguel Frias		Abuse: At the 48th Precinct stationhouse, PO Miguel Frias authorized the strip-search of <sup>\$ 37(2)(b)</sup>					
C.POM Miguel Frias		Abuse: At the 48th Precinct stationhouse, PO Miguel Frias issued summonses to §87(2)(b)					
§ 87(2)(g)							

#### **Synopsis**

**Solution** alleged that on March 10, 2007, at approximately 8:00 PM, she exited her apartment building at **Solution** and **Solution** in the Bronx and was approached and stopped by an officer identified as PO Miguel Frias (**Allegation A**). At the time, PO Frias was with his partner, identified as PO Starlin Dominguez. After some talk about narcotics, PO Dominguez handcuffed **Solution** and placed her inside a patrol vehicle. PO Dominguez and PO Frias transported **Solution** to the 48<sup>th</sup> Precinct stationhouse. At the stationhouse, **Solution** was strip-searched inside a bathroom by PO Shevon Colon. PO Colon had been requested to perform this search by PO Frias (**Allegation B**). After this search was completed, **Solution** was placed inside a holding cell. Approximately thirty minutes passed, after which an unidentified officer released **Solution** and handed her two criminal summonses. The summonses had been written by PO Frias (**Allegation C**). **Solution** then left the stationhouse.

§ 87(2)(g)

§ 87(4-b) § 87(2)(g)

# **Summary of Complaint**

**Solution** a Hispanic female employed by **Solution**, 5'6", 185 lbs., initially filed this complaint with the CCRB by email on March 11, 2007 (encl. 8A-C). She provided an official statement at the CCRB on March 23, 2007 (Encl. 10A-D). **Solution** 

exited her apartment building at On March 10, 2007, at approximately 8:00 PM, § 87(2)(b) § 87(2) in the Bronx. She had been there for approximately two hours. § 87(2)(b) apartment building, which is part of a housing project, contains a walkway leading residents from the front doors of their buildings to the sidewalk of East 179<sup>th</sup> Street. **§ 87(2)(b)** began her way down this walkway when she saw a man she knows named '§ 87(2) sin is not homeless, but often asks others for money. § 87(2)(b) had seen him around the neighborhood before and was friendly with him. and asked her if she could spare any money. As the two walked onto East 179<sup>th</sup> approached § 87(2)(b) Street from the walkway, \$37(2)(b) took some change from her pocket and handed it to The two were also talking as they walked. Almost immediately after reaching East 179th Street, PO Dominguez identified by name, and described as a male in his late 40's, about 5'7", with a (whom § 87(2)(b) medium build) approached § 87(2)(b) and told her to stop (Allegation A). At this point § 87(2)(b) was on the sidewalk of East 179th Street. She also noticed that a second officer, PO Frias, was standing near PO Dominguez, and a police car containing an officer in the front seat was parked next to the sidewalk. **§** 87(2)(b) identified PO Frias by name, stating that his nametag read "Fraud" or something of the sort. She stated that he was a Hispanic male in his 20s, 5'6".) There was also a large black man sitting in the back of the police car.

PO Dominguez asked § 87(2)(b) what she had given her. § 87(2)(b) replied that she had given him some change. PO Dominguez then told to open up his hand. did this, revealing the change to which he still clung. PO Dominguez grabbed the change, then placed it in \$87(2)(b) s pocket. PO Dominguez asked \$ 87(2)(b) what she was doing there, and if she was buying drugs. \$ 87(2)(b) replied to PO Dominguez's question by saying that she lived there, and offering to show PO Dominguez her identification. PO Dominguez said that "he," meaning the man in the back of the police car, had said the same thing, and was actually selling drugs. PO Dominguez then removed what appeared to be two bags of crack from his own pocket, and showed them to \$87(2)(b) said that if PO Dominguez wanted, he could search her, as she had nothing on her. PO Dominguez told her she could be evicted, and asked why, since she had just left her home. PO Dominguez told § 87(2)(b) that he would get back to her, then walked over to PO Frias. PO Frias had previously walked away with and was now in the process of putting in handcuffs a few feet away. The officers conversed for a bit before coming back to § 87(2)(b) PO Dominguez proceeded to handcuff § 87(2)(b) § 87(2)(b) asked why she was being arrested, but did not raise her voice, struggle, use profanity, or at all impede PO Dominguez's progress. PO Dominguez then told her she would be taken down to the stationhouse and strip-searched, and if the officers found anything on her she would be locked up. If they did not, she would be let go. was then led into the parked police vehicle, where she was seated next to the man she had seen previously. was also put into this police vehicle.

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At the stationhouse, PO Dominguez took \$87(2)(b) to the front desk. At the front desk, PO Shevon Colon began to frisk and search \$87(2)(b) while she was still handcuffed. PO Colon removed s wallet and cell phone, and held on to both. After PO Colon finished doing this, she walked away, leaving \$ 37(2)(b) standing next to the front desk for a few minutes. PO Colon then approached § 87(2)(b) and led her to a nearby restroom. Once the two females were in the restroom, PO Colon first s handcuffs, and then instructed § 87(2)(b) to remove all of her clothing, removed § 87(2)(b) including her bra and panties. §87(2)(b) did this without complaint. When she was finished, PO Colon instructed her to turn around, squat, and cough several times. \$37(2)(b) did this, and afterward was told to put all of her clothing back on (Allegation B). When she finished redressing, \$37(2)(b) asked PO Colon what would happen now. PO Colon said \$37(2)(b) would be given summonses, and then be allowed to leave. § 87(2)(b) protested that she had not done anything. PO Colon then led \$87(2)(b) to remained for approximately thirty minutes. was in the a cell in the holding area, where \$87(2)(b) cell adjacent to her own. After a half an hour, an officer removed \$37(2) from her cell, led her to the lobby of the stationhouse, handed her two summonses, and told her she was free to go (Allegation C). One of the summonses was for \$87(2)(b), and the other for \$87(2)(b). The officer who wrote out the summonses appeared to be the desk sergeant, whom she had seen earlier.

#### **Results of Investigation**

# Attempts to Identify Additional Witnesses

**Ser(2)(b)** could not provide a last name or contact information for **Ser(2)** Documents obtained from the 48<sup>th</sup> Precinct, including a command log and prisoner holding pen roster, made no mention of an individual with the name **Ser(2)** or any similar name. Booking, Arraignment, and Disposition System records show that neither PO Dominguez nor PO Frias performed arrests on any individuals named **Ser(2)** or with a similar name on March 10, 2008. A Stop, Question, and Frisk Report log from the 48<sup>th</sup> Precinct also contains no entries for persons with the first name **Ser(2)** or a similar name. As such, this individual could not be located over the course of the investigation.

# **Officer Statements**

# **PO Miguel Frias**

#### Memo Book

PO Frias's memo book contains no entries regarding this incident, or entries written at the time surrounding this incident (Encl. 11A-B). It also does not note the time at which PO Frias returned to the 48<sup>th</sup> Precinct stationhouse.

#### **Official Statement**

PO Miguel Frias, a Hispanic male, 6'1", 240 lbs., provided an official statement at the CCRB on December 13, 2007 (Encl. 12A-C).

On March 10, 2007, PO Frias worked an overtime tour of 4:00 PM to 12:00 AM. His assignment for this tour was general patrol of housing projects within the 48<sup>th</sup> Precinct. He did not recall his partner for this assignment. He was in uniform and utilizing a marked vehicle.

At approximately 8:00 PM on March 10, 2007, PO Frias was patrolling the area in and around the § 87(2) in the Bronx. He was with several officers at the time, though he housing project at could not recall the identities of these officers. He did not recall whether these officers traveled in the same vehicle as him. While performing this patrol, he noticed a male and a female exiting from the entrance of the housing project currently being patrolled. (PO Frias was shown a photo of § 87(2)(b) and positively identified her as the female he stopped.) He could not recall how long exactly he observed \$37(2)(b) and the unidentified male, but stated that he initially observed both individuals exiting the building. PO Frias decided to ascertain whether \$87(2) and the male resided within the building, as it is his understanding that these housing patrols are utilized for just that purpose. PO Frias could not specify any other suspicious behavior by \$37(2)(b) or the male, and stated that it is his job during these patrols to stop people and ask whether they reside in the building he is patrolling. He could not recall whether any other officers helped him in performing this stop. PO Frias approached \$87(2)(b) and asked whether she lived in the building. PO Frias could not recall whether \$87(2)(b) stated that she lived in the building or

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not, but assumed that she answered in the negative, as she was eventually taken to the stationhouse. PO Frias could not recall \$87(2)(b) states a demeanor during this exchange, and could not recall whether he asked any questions of the male. (PO Frias was directly questioned as to whether he witnessed \$87(2)(b) exchange anything with the male. He stated that he could not recall this occurring.)

PO Frias decided to bring \$37(2)(0) back to his stationhouse, as she was in a drug-prone location and may have had drugs on her for that reason. PO Frias noted during his CCRB interview that individuals often have drugs on them in "hard to find" places, and as such needed to be thoroughly searched at the stationhouse. He also noted that at this point, he was working with the assumption that \$27(2)(6) had drugs on her, based on her possible trespassing in a drug-prone area. PO Frias also decided that the unidentified male should be brought back to the stationhouse, as he also needed to be "further" searched. When questioned as to what he meant by stating that the male would be "further" searched, PO Frias specified that his pockets and the lining of his coat needed to be searched. He stated that this search would have taken too long to perform on scene.

PO Frias frisked \$37(2)(b) at the scene to make sure she did not have weapons on her, which she did not. He did not search her. PO Frias then transported her to the 47<sup>th</sup> Precinct stationhouse. Before being placed in the police vehicle she was handcuffed, though PO Frias could not remember who placed the handcuffs on \$37(2)(b) At the stationhouse, PO Frias decided to ask a female officer to search \$37(2)(b) in one of the stationhouse bathrooms. PO Frias stated that he did not intend to have \$37(2)(b) strip-searched, and that \$37(2)(b) was in fact not strip-searched. Instead, PO Frias believed that \$37(2)(b) s pockets would be searched inside a bathroom at the stationhouse. PO Frias stated that searches that occur in the bathroom are searches of jacket pockets and the like, for narcotics. PO Frias could not recall the officer he requested to perform the search of \$37(2)(b) He stated that he is familiar with PO Colon, but could not definitively state that this was the officer he spoke with regarding a search of \$37(2)(b)

PO Frias could not recall whether he immediately found a female officer at the stationhouse to search \$37(2)(b) He also stated that it was possible that \$37(2)(b) was held in a cell prior to being searched. PO Frias explained the procedure that is typically followed when an individual is taken to the stationhouse to ascertain whether they have narcotics in their possession: the individual's pedigree information is taken in front of a desk sergeant. Then, the individual is placed in a cell until someone is available to search the person. PO Frias stated that this would not be noted on a prisoner holding pen roster or command log, and reiterated that only the suspect's pedigree information would be noted. PO Frias also claimed that his command does not have a prisoner holding pen roster. PO Frias also stated that he did not recall how long \$37(2)(b) was placed in a holding cell.

PO Frias stated that it is his understanding of NYPD policy that only female officers can search female suspects. He specified that this was true of non-strip searches, in which only the clothing of the suspect is searched. PO Frias believed that **SE7(2)(5)** was searched inside a bathroom, as that is procedure.

PO Frias did not witness the search of § 87(2)(b) He did not recall what became of the male who was with § 87(2)(b) and did not recall whether he was taken back to the stationhouse.

PO Frias eventually issued two summonses for \$87(2)(b) after she had been searched. PO Frias initially could not recall what these summonses were for, and was informed by the investigator that one summons was for \$87(2)(b) PO Frias could not recall checking \$87(2)(b) sidentification. PO Frias stated that it would be proper procedure to check the identification of someone being summonsed for trespassing. PO Frias was asked the following: had \$87(2)(b) sidentification listed her address as the building PO Frias saw her exit, would she have been summonsed for trespassing? PO Frias stated that she would not have. After \$87(2)(b) was given the summonses, she was allowed to leave the stationhouse. PO Frias resumed patrol.

PO Frias could not recall who the desk sergeant on duty was on this evening.

### **PO Starlin Dominguez**

#### Memo Book

PO Dominguez's memo book contains no entries regarding this incident (Encl. 13A-C). PO Dominguez notes an arrest at 8:46 PM. PO Dominguez also brought a copy of the report for this arrest: the name of the arrested individual was \$37(2)(5) arrest, and the arrest occurred \$37(2) arrest.

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# **Official Statement**

PO Starlin Dominguez, a Hispanic male, 5'9", 200 lbs., provided an official statement at the CCRB on September 19, 2007 (Encl. 14A-B).

On March 10, 2007, PO Dominguez worked a double-tour. The first tour went from 7:05 AM to 3:40 PM. The second tour went from 4:00 PM to 12:35 AM. For the first tour, PO Dominguez was assigned to general patrol. He could not recall if this patrol was in a specific sector. For his second tour, he patrolled several NYCHA buildings in the vicinity of the 48<sup>th</sup> Precinct. He did not recall his partners during either of these tours. He was in uniform for both tours, and also used a marked vehicle for both.

PO Dominguez did not recall any incident occurring at 8:00 PM on March 10, 2007, involving a female named **\$72(0)** He did not recall where he was at that time. PO Dominguez estimated that it took him about ten minutes to arrest **\$72(0)**. PO Dominguez stated that he was familiar with PO Frias of his command, and stated that it is possible that he and PO Frias were partnered on this date, but that he did not know for certain. PO Dominguez was shown a picture of **\$72(0)** during this interview; he did not recognize her.

PO Dominguez was then given a description of this incident, including the summonses given to **S87(2)(b)** at the stationhouse. PO Dominguez still did not recall this incident. He stated that he does not always notate in his memo book when he returns to the stationhouse. PO Dominguez did not make any other arrests on the night of this incident. When asked whether it was possible that PO Dominguez returned to the stationhouse shortly before conducting the 8:46 PM arrest, he stated that it was possible.

# **PO Shevon Colon**

#### Memo Book

PO Colon's memo book contains no entries regarding this incident (Encl. 15A-B).

#### **Official Statement**

PO Shevon Colon, a Hispanic female, 5'2", 129 lbs., provided an official statement at the CCRB on January 8, 2007 (Encl. 16A-B).

On March 10, 2007, PO Colon worked a tour of 4:00 PM to 12:00 AM. She was working as telephone switchboard operator at the 48<sup>th</sup> Precinct stationhouse, and did not have a partner. PO Colon was in uniform.

PO Colon did not recall interacting with (37(2)(0) or conducting any strip-searches on March 10, 2007. She stated that she was in the stationhouse for her entire tour. PO Colon was shown a photograph of (37(2)(0) and did not recognize her. PO Colon stated that while she was familiar with PO Frias and PO Dominguez, she did not recall interacting with these officers during this tour. PO Colon stated that she has conducted strip searches in the past, at the stationhouse.

After providing the above testimony, PO Colon was given a brief outline of the incident. She was informed that \$37(2)(b) claimed to have been strip-searched by an officer with the last name "Colon." She was also told that PO Frias admitted to speaking with a female officer about conducting a search of \$37(2)(b) inside a bathroom. PO Colon specified that she did not recall performing this action, and also stated that the only specific recollection she has of this tour is being on telephone switchboard duty. She did not recall who the desk sergeant was during this tour.

# Sgt. Alexander Perez

#### Memo Book

Sgt. Perez's memo book contains no entries regarding this incident (Encl. 17A-B).

#### **Official Statement**

Sgt. Alexander Perez, a Hispanic male, 5'5", 175 lbs., provided an official statement at the CCRB on March 11, 2008 (Encl. 18A-B).

On March 10, 2007, Sgt. Perez worked a tour of 4:00 PM to 12:00 AM. He was desk sergeant during this tour, and did not have a partner in that capacity. He was in uniform and not utilizing a vehicle.

Sgt. Perez stated that he had no specific recollection of tour on March 10, 2007. During this interview he was shown a picture of §87(2)(b) and stated that he did not recognize her. Sgt. Perez could

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not recall interacting with PO Frias or PO Colon on the date of this incident, and also did not recall any strip-searches being performed during this tour. Sgt. Perez stated that procedure would dictate that he approve any strip-searches, and note his approval on the 48<sup>th</sup> Precinct command log.

Sgt. Perez also stated that he does not believe that it is inappropriate for a male officer to search, not strip-search, a female, though strip-searches must only be conducted by officers of the same gender as the person being strip-searched.

# NYPD Records

A copy of the 48<sup>th</sup> Precinct Stop, Question, and Frisk Report log contains no entries for and the stop of the sto

A copy of the 48<sup>th</sup> Precinct tour 3 roll call does not note the assignments of PO Frias or PO Dominguez, likely because they were both working overtime tours (Encl. 23A-H). It does note that Sgt. Perez was assigned to desk duty, and PO Colon was assigned to be telephone switchboard operator.

# Summonses

#### Status of Summonses

#### [§ 87(2)(b)] [§§ 86(1)(3)&(4)] [§ 87(2)(c)]

According to a representative of Bronx Criminal Court, neither summons number is on file. \$37(2)(b) provided the investigator with two documents given to her by the Criminal Court of the City of New York, Count of Bronx (Encl. 25A-B). The documents respectively contain the numbers of the summonses given to \$37(2)(b) Both contain the following notice: "As of the above referenced date [May 11, 2007], the NYPD has failed to file a legally acceptable accusatory instrument with this court. There is no need for you to return to court on the summons number referenced above." Both documents are addressed to \$37(2)(b)

# Civilian Criminal Conviction History (see Encl. 26A-R)



# **Civilian CCRB History**

This is \$87(2)(b) s first CCRB complaint (Encl. 5A).

#### **Officer CCRB History**

PO Frias, a five-year veteran of the NYPD, has one prior substantiated CCRB complaint on his record (Encl. 7A). In case number 200401687, he was substantiated for refusing to provide a name and shield number, and was given instructions by the NYPD.

# **Conclusions and Recommendations**

# **Officer Identification**

**ST(2)(b)** identified both PO Colon and PO Dominguez by name. She identified PO Frias as PO "Fraud." PO Frias's identity was confirmed by the summonses issued to **St(2)(b)** which contained his tax number. Sgt. Perez was identified as the desk officer on duty the evening of this incident by the 48<sup>th</sup> Precinct roll call.

§ 87(2)(g)
The descriptions of PO Frias and PO
Dominguez provided by \$87(2)(b) do not definitively match the appearances of PO Frias and PO
Dominguez, and there remains a possibility of \$87(2)(b) attributing names incorrectly to the officers
involved in this stop. § 87(2)(g)
While \$87(2)(b) claimed that PO Dominguez initiated her stop, PO Frias's
testimony reveals that he in fact was responsible for stopping §87(2)(b)
§ 87(2)(g)
Disputed and Undisputed Facts
It is undisputed that PO Frias stopped and frisked §87(2)(b) brought her back to the
stationhouse, and eventually issued her two summonses. PO Frias also stated that \$87(2)(b) may have
been placed in a holding cell for an amount of time.
§ 87(2)(g)
Assessment of Evidence
§ 87(2)(g) According to PO Frias,
§ 87(2)(b) was initially stopped solely because she exited a housing project. The stop escalated into a
detainment because the housing project § 87(2)(b) exited has a high incidence rate of drug sales.
(g)
Instead she was not
charged with any offense related to buying, selling, or possessing narcotics.
§ 87(2)(g)
First, as Sgt. Perez confirmed, there is no NYPD policy
disallowing male officers from performing simple, non-strip searches of females. § 87(2)(9)

# **Allegations Not Pleaded**

**\$87(2)(b)** alleged that **\$87(2)** was stopped at the same time as her, and also removed to the 48<sup>th</sup> Precinct stationhouse. As **\$87(2)** could not be located over the course of this investigation, the circumstances surrounding his own stop and detainment are unknown. **\$87(2)** 

Allegation A: At a set of a set of the Bronx, PO Miguel Frias stopped \$37(2)(b) \$37(2)(b) alleged that she was approached by both PO Dominguez and PO Frias. PO Dominguez then proceeded to question \$37(2)(b) regarding the possibility that she had purchased narcotics. PO Dominguez did not recall this incident. For his part, PO Frias stated that he decided to stop

ser(2)(b) first to ascertain whether she resided in the housing project from which she had exited. He could not recall ser(2)(b) s response to his query, but assumed that she answered in the negative server serve

§ 87(2)(g)

(Encl. 1A). An officer with "mere suspicion" for believing that a person has engaged in a criminal activity may "approach the person and ask questions," (see TAP Guidelines, Encl. 1A). The TAP guidelines specify that "when an officer is not in the building...merely observing an individual entering and exiting the building, or simply exiting the building, is not enough to conduct a stop," (Encl. 1A).

Allegation B: At the 48th Precinct stationhouse, PO Miguel Frias authorized a strip-search of \$87(2)(b)

**§ 87(2)(b)** claimed that in the bathroom of the 48<sup>th</sup> Precinct stationhouse, she was strip-searched by PO Colon. PO Frias confirmed that he requested that PO Colon search **§** 87(2)(b) in the bathroom, but denied requesting that PO Colon strip-search **§** 87(2)(b) **§** 87(2)(c)

Patrol Guide 208-05, as well as the NYPD memorandum regarding strip searches sent to every command on May 13, 2004. That memorandum, which summarizes the Patrol Guide procedure for strip-searches, states, "A strip-search may only be conducted when the arresting officer reasonably suspects that weapons, contraband, or evidence may be concealed upon the person or in the clothing in such a manner that they have not been discovered by either a frisk/field search or other search at a police facility," (Encl. 3A-B). §37(2)(g)

on to note that a strip-search "requires express authorization from a supervisor prior to being conducted."

§ 87(2)(g)

§ 87(2)(g)

Allegation C: At the 48th Precinct stationhouse, PO Miguel Frias issued summonses to [887(2)(6)

PO Frias gave § 87(2)(b) two summonses during this incident. One was for an unspecified subsection of § 87(2)(b) and the other was for § 87(2)(b) Both of these summonses were dismissed.

PO Frias saw \$87(2)(b) exit exit \$87(2) exit. That is not in dispute. This building is also listed as \$87(2)(b) as address on the trespassing summons later given to her. In effect, \$87(2)(b) was given a trespassing summons for exiting the building in which she resides. \$87(2)(9)

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s demeanor during this

The memo goes

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