



**NOT SUBSTANTIATED CASE — SEXUAL ALLEGATIONS UNIT
SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**

Case No. 21-00059

June 26, 2026

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "BW", is written over the date.

The OIG investigated former special education teacher Hilario Dominguez after receiving allegations that during the summer of 2017, he exchanged text messages with [REDACTED] questioned her about her dating life, commented on her physical appearance, had one-on-one interactions with her, and offered her rides home.

The OIG was unable to obtain information about the substance of Mr. Dominguez and [REDACTED] text messages apart from reports that they were "inappropriate." Further, the OIG never obtained additional information about the other allegations regarding Mr. Dominguez and [REDACTED] interactions except for what Mr. Dominguez provided in his interview. The OIG was unable to interview [REDACTED] despite repeated attempts.

At the time the conduct allegedly took place during the summer of 2017, Mr. Dominguez had left CPS and was working at a nonprofit, The Resurrection Project, which seeks to improve people's lives by creating wealth and engaging residents to be catalysts for change in Chicago's southwest neighborhoods. [REDACTED] was a CPS student who was volunteering with The Resurrection Project during this time.

These incidents reportedly occurred when Mr. Dominguez was not a CPS employee, but he had worked for CPS before and after the time of the alleged conduct. In between his time at CPS, he also ran to be the alderman of the 25th ward.

The Resurrection Project administrators internally discussed [REDACTED] allegations in 2017 or early in 2018 but did not notify their Human Resources department at the time. In around December of 2018, TRP's Human Resources department was notified and investigated the allegations but did not substantiate them because [REDACTED] was not willing to participate. TRP's HR department spoke to and gathered statements from several involved parties, but not [REDACTED]

Interviewees in TRP's investigation stated that [REDACTED] would not provide the text messages. Paloma Rodriguez, the only TRP staff member who reportedly saw the text messages between Mr. Dominguez and [REDACTED] did not disclose the content of the

text messages in her statement to HR. The Director of Organizing at TRP, Salvador Cerna, stated that he met with the reporting staff member, Ms. Rodriguez, and she said, twice, that she could not tell him specifically what the text messages said.

Some interviewees' statements suggested that Mr. Dominguez allegedly engaged in inappropriate conduct with other young female volunteers as well, but no interviewee provided any name apart from [REDACTED]

The OIG interviewed Mr. Dominguez, who acknowledged texting with [REDACTED] but denied that any of the messages were inappropriate. He acknowledged that he had driven [REDACTED] in his car, along with several other minors, as part of his work-related responsibilities. He said that [REDACTED] voluntarily told him about her boyfriend; she did this while Mr. Dominguez was standing with his girlfriend.¹ He denied ever commenting on [REDACTED] physical appearance or being alone with her.

There is insufficient evidence that Mr. Dominguez engaged in sexually inappropriate conduct with [REDACTED] or any other youth at The Resurrection Project.

DISCUSSION

A. INITIATION OF CASE

The OIG received the allegations in this case over three years after the conduct reportedly occurred.

In 2017, [REDACTED] disclosed to a TRP staff member, Paloma Rodriguez, that Mr. Dominguez had engaged in inappropriate behavior, including text messages, questions and comments about her dating life and physical appearance, one-on-one interactions, and offers regarding rides home. Ms. Rodriguez reported what [REDACTED] disclosed, and the matter was addressed informally at TRP in 2017 or early in 2018, but it was not reported to their HR department. [REDACTED] saw Ms. Rodriguez again during the summer of 2018, and [REDACTED] provided further information. At that time, Mr. Dominguez was running for alderman.

The matter was formally addressed with TRP's HR department in around December of 2018.

In January of 2021, which was several years after TRP's HR investigation concluded, Ms. Rodriguez's written statement that she had made during the HR investigation was anonymously dropped off in Glenda Campoverde's mailbox. Ms. Campoverde spoke to the OIG and described herself as a "trusted community person" who people

¹ At other times in this report, interviewees will refer to Mr. Dominguez's "girlfriend" as his "fiancée."

feel should “know information.” Ms. Campoverde did not know who the minor in question was and Ms. Campoverde was not affiliated with TRP or CPS.

Ms. Campoverde was disgusted and livid at the statement and she shared the statement on her social media outlets, emailed Mr. Dominguez (she found his CPS email via the school’s website), and also emailed the statement to several others, including the Alderman of the 25th Ward, The Resurrection Project, and the principal at Cooper Dual Language Academy, which is where Mr. Dominguez worked at the time.

After receiving Ms. Campoverde’s email, the principal at Cooper reported the allegations to CPS.

B. THE RESURRECTION PROJECT’S INTERNAL HR INVESTIGATION DID NOT SUBSTANTIATE THE ALLEGATIONS

In around December of 2018, TRP administrators solicited official statements from involved parties regarding Mr. Dominguez, who no longer worked for TRP.

These statements were sent to Belinda Jones, TRP’s Human Resources Manager. Mr. Dominguez had left TRP by the time Ms. Jones became the HR Manager. Ms. Jones told the OIG that she spoke to all employees involved in the incident, and after doing so, the findings did not support the allegations because the volunteer was not willing to come forward.

1. *Statement from Mary Perez, Former Director of Human Resources at TRP (December 12, 2018)*

Ms. Perez had been TRP’s director of human resources from 2014 until the fall of 2018. She stated that in November of 2018, she was informed that Mr. Dominguez and a teenage female student volunteer had exchanged inappropriate text messages. She clarified that this matter was not brought to her attention at any point when she was the director of human resources. Because she was never informed of the issue, no HR investigative report from the relevant period existed. Ms. Perez stated that based on her observations, Mr. Dominguez acted and behaved in a professional manner with all individuals.

2. *Statement from Maria Ramos Cuaya, Associate Director of Homeownership at TRP*

Note: This statement—which was provided to the OIG by TRP’s Human Resources Manager—was cut off after a single page. The statement therefore does not show the signature and date block at the end, but it was probably written in December 2018, when all of the other statements were collected.

Ms. Ramos Cuaya stated that sometime late in 2017, her co-worker, Paloma Rodriguez, approached her and told her that a teenage volunteer confided in her during or shortly after the summer of 2017 and showed her inappropriate text messages from Mr. Dominguez. Ms. Rodriguez said that the teenager refused to talk to anyone else or provide the text messages as evidence of her claim.

Ms. Ramos Cuaya related this information to administrators and had a meeting with Ms. Rodriguez and one of the administrators. The administrators subsequently tasked Ms. Ramos Cuaya with talking to Mr. Dominguez. This group decided against involving Mr. Dominguez's manager Salvador Cerna because Mr. Cerna's daughter and Mr. Dominguez were engaged to be married. Ms. Ramos Cuaya noted that the HR department never approved her meeting with Mr. Dominguez.

Ms. Ramos Cuaya met with Mr. Dominguez on January 17, 2018. When explaining the matter to Mr. Dominguez, Ms. Ramos Cuaya did not provide specifics or the name of the teenager involved, but he said that he knew which teenager she was referring to and that he would never cross the line with one of his students. He acknowledged spending considerable time with the teenager because they were in different TRP committees and acknowledged texting her based on their work together. He denied sending the teenager any disrespectful messages and was shocked about the allegations. He denied any misconduct toward the teenager. Nevertheless, Ms. Ramos Cuaya advised Mr. Dominguez to set healthy boundaries with his students.

Note: The statement cuts off at around this point.

*3. Statement from Paloma Rodriguez, Home Purchase Counselor at TRP
(December 7, 2018)*

Ms. Rodriguez stated that during the summer of 2017, [REDACTED] approached her and stated that Mr. Dominguez had engaged in inappropriate behavior toward her, ranging from text messages to questions and comments about her dating life and physical appearance. He was also alone with her on more than one occasion and would offer rides home. [REDACTED] did not want to proceed with a formal complaint, but Ms. Rodriguez brought this to the attention of her supervisor, Maria Ramos Cuaya, and another staff member, Berto Aguayo. Mr. Dominguez was eventually spoken to about the incident. Shortly after, he took a leave of absence and did not return to his position.

The next summer—the summer of 2018—Ms. Rodriguez spoke to [REDACTED] at a TRP event, and they touched on the incident from the previous summer. [REDACTED] still did not want to come forward and make an official statement.

Following the conversation with [REDACTED] during the summer of 2018, Salvador Cerna approached Ms. Rodriguez regarding the incident during the summer of 2017. He told Ms. Rodriguez that he “took care of it,” meaning he spoke to Mr. Dominguez and told

him to stay away from [REDACTED] Ms. Rodriguez, and Ms. Ramos Cuaya. Mr. Cerna told Ms. Rodriguez that it was not the first time he had to have a talk to Mr. Dominguez about his behavior around young women.

Ms. Rodriguez concluded her statement by expressing regret for not ensuring the complaint was properly documented at the outset. She noted that her discomfort with the situation had led her to post about the matter on social media to alert the community of the situation, without using specific names.

4. Statement from Salvador Cerna, Director of Organizing at TRP (December 7, 2018)

Note: Mr. Cerna is the father of Mr. Dominguez's then-girlfriend.

During the summer of 2018, a TRP staff member, Berto Aguayo, explained to Mr. Cerna that a co-worker approached him with information that Mr. Dominguez had exchanged inappropriate text messages with young female volunteers. Mr. Aguayo had not seen the text messages himself, and he could not say who the young ladies were.

Ms. Rodriguez met with Mr. Cerna and explained that a few young ladies (she did not specify who or how many) approached her complaining that they had felt uncomfortable because of text messages between them and Mr. Dominguez. Mr. Cerna asked what the messages said, but Ms. Rodriguez "could not tell" Mr. Cerna "specifically." Mr. Cerna asked if he could speak to the young ladies, but Ms. Rodriguez "said that they preferred to stay anonymous" and simply wanted Mr. Dominguez to understand that his behavior was inappropriate. Mr. Cerna again asked what the messages said but "she could not give [Mr. Cerna] any specifics."

Mr. Cerna met with Mr. Dominguez, who denied engaging in any inappropriate behavior with any young volunteer, including exchanging inappropriate text messages.

Ms. Rodriguez told Mr. Cerna that the young ladies did not want Mr. Cerna to take things any further or share this information with anyone else.

5. Statement from Kristen Komora, Vice President of Community Wealth Building at TRP (December 7, 2018)

Ms. Komora stated that the incident was brought to her attention sometime between September 2017 and January of 2018.

Her co-worker informed her that Ms. Rodriguez said that she had reason to believe Mr. Dominguez acted inappropriately with a TRP volunteer in the Back of the Yards office. Ms. Rodriguez did not want to report the situation to HR. The volunteer wished to remain anonymous and did not want to report the situation. Ms. Komora did not speak to Ms. Rodriguez herself.

Her co-worker had a conversation with Mr. Dominguez about the accusations. He denied them.

C. THE OIG'S INVESTIGATION

1. *The Resurrection Project*

The OIG reviewed the above statements sent by TRP and spoke to Belinda Jones, who is TRP's Human Resources Manager. She was unable to give a character reference regarding Mr. Dominguez because she did not head the HR department during the time he was employed. When she became aware of the allegations, she spoke to all the employees involved in the incident. After doing so, she determined that the allegations were not supported because the volunteer in question was not willing to come forward. She told the OIG that she did not know [REDACTED] last name and did not know that she was a CPS student.

2. *Glenda Campoverde, Who Emailed Paloma Rodriguez's Statement*

The OIG also spoke to Ms. Campoverde, who emailed the statement written by TRP's Ms. Paloma Rodriguez to several individuals, including the principal where Mr. Dominguez was working. She said that after she sent the email regarding the allegations against Mr. Dominguez, she received email responses from people in the community that knew about his predatory behavior. Ms. Campoverde did not feel comfortable disclosing the names of those community members.

3. *Cooper Dual Language Academy*

The OIG spoke to the principal of Cooper Dual Language Academy, which is the school that Mr. Dominguez was working at when the principal received Ms. Campoverde's email regarding the allegations.² The principal did not suspect that Mr. Dominguez engaged in any inappropriate behavior at Cooper; there were no complaints about him from students or parents.

The OIG also spoke to a teacher at Cooper, Ms. Carolina Avilez. She said that although she saw Mr. Dominguez as professional and never saw him flirting with staff or students, she heard from staff members [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that Mr. Dominguez mentioned sexually explicit things to them in a joking manner; [REDACTED] also said that he was always staring at her buttocks.

[REDACTED] spoke to the OIG and described Mr. Dominguez as a role model to male students, but she had seen Mr. Dominguez squeeze a couple of male students' shoulders, which made her believe that he may have been grooming the students.

² The principal told the OIG that the email was from TRP's Paloma Rodriguez. The OIG reviewed this email, which shows that it was sent from Ms. Campoverde. The statement within the email was written by Ms. Rodriguez.

She also noted that he organized an after-school field trip for the basketball team that he coached, which she thought was “weird.” She said that female staff members felt uncomfortable around him due to his “unwanted flirting”; she declined to tell the OIG the names of these female staff members. [REDACTED] noted that Mr. Dominguez’s behavior is “totally inappropriate,” and she feared that Mr. Dominguez would retaliate against her, possibly physically, if he found out that she had spoken with the OIG because retaliating against people is “what he does.”

On November 11, 2021, [REDACTED] reported to CPS’s Equal Opportunity Compliance Office discrimination allegations against Mr. Dominguez based on race and national origin, but she ultimately asked the office to close the matter without an investigation. EOCO did not investigate and closed the case.

On March 22, 2023, another Cooper staff member, [REDACTED], filed a report with EOCO that Mr. Dominguez had a vendetta against him for complying with certain district policies. As this complaint was a personal issue beyond the scope of what EOCO investigates, EOCO closed the case and recommended that the staff member work with his union and the school administration to resolve the matter.

4. The OIG Was Unable to Interview [REDACTED]

The OIG attempted to interview [REDACTED] but did not receive parental consent to do so and [REDACTED] did not reply to the OIG’s attempts to contact her.

5. Mr. Dominguez Denied Any Sexually Inappropriate Conduct Toward [REDACTED]

Mr. Dominguez told the OIG that TRP conducted an investigation into the allegations against him and he was “cleared.” He left TRP to work on a politician’s campaign. Mr. Dominguez denied having inappropriate interactions with minors and denied having had a relationship with any minor or CPS student.

Mr. Dominguez told the OIG that he knew [REDACTED] and noted that she was the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Mr. Dominguez also noted that Paloma Rodriguez, the TRP employee who reported [REDACTED] allegation, had a close personal relationship with [REDACTED]

Note: The OIG also attempted to contact [REDACTED] on multiple occasions, but she did not respond to the OIG’s voicemails. At the time of these contact attempts, [REDACTED]

Mr. Dominguez acknowledged communicating a lot with [REDACTED] and engaging in phone communications with her, but he said this was often for organizing-related work. When they communicated outside of organizing for TRP, it was mostly for [REDACTED] to vent about the [REDACTED] that she had with her mother. Mr.

Dominguez said he was careful communicating to her about his personal life, especially after being a CPS teacher. He denied discussing dating with [REDACTED] but said that she once voluntarily told him and his fiancée that she had a boyfriend.

Mr. Dominguez acknowledged that he drove minors at TRP when he was organizing, and that [REDACTED] had been in his car, but she was not alone with him because his girlfriend (his fiancée at the time of his interview) was also present. He denied ever commenting on her appearance and denied ever being alone with her. To his knowledge, there had never been any sexual allegations made against him in his career apart from the TRP one.

Mr. Dominguez's fiancée also organized at TRP, and his fiancée's father, Mr. Salvador Cerna, was his direct supervisor there. Mr. Dominguez said that Mr. Cerna never had an explicit conversation with him about how he spoke to young women. However, when the allegations came out, Mr. Cerna told Mr. Dominguez that he needed to stay away from "all these people." At some point, Mr. Cerna also told Mr. Dominguez, "You have to be careful how you talk to young girls being in the public light."

D. THERE IS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE THAT MR. DOMINGUEZ ENGAGED IN SEXUALLY INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT TOWARD [REDACTED] OR OTHER FEMALE VOLUNTEERS

There is insufficient evidence that Mr. Dominguez made sexually inappropriate comments to [REDACTED] inappropriately commented on her physical appearance, or spent time alone with her for a sexual purpose. As previously mentioned, the only TRP staff member who reportedly observed the text messages between Mr. Dominguez and [REDACTED] did not disclose the content of the text messages in her statement to HR. The Director of Organizing at TRP stated that he met with this reporting staff member and she said, twice, that she could not tell him specifically what the text messages said.

The OIG tried but was unable to interview [REDACTED]

The OIG interviewed Mr. Dominguez, who confirmed texting with [REDACTED] while he worked for TRP but denied that any of the messages were inappropriate. He confirmed that he had driven [REDACTED] in his car while he worked for TRP, along with several other minors, as part of his work-related responsibilities. He confirmed that [REDACTED] voluntarily told him, in front of his girlfriend, about her boyfriend. He denied ever commenting on [REDACTED] physical appearance and denied being alone with her.

Some TRP interviewees' statements suggested that Mr. Dominguez allegedly engaged in inappropriate conduct with other young female volunteers as well, but no interviewee provided any name apart from [REDACTED]

There is insufficient evidence, however, that Mr. Dominguez engaged in any sexually inappropriate conduct toward any CPS student, including [REDACTED]

CONCLUSION

The OIG is closing this case as not substantiated.

INVESTIGATION PROFILE

FORMER EMPLOYEE

Hilario Dominguez
Special Education Teacher
Cooper Dual Language ES
Employee ID [REDACTED]

IMPACTED STUDENTS

[REDACTED]

Additional Information

Main Allegation(s)

Engaged in sexually inappropriate behavior with [REDACTED] including making inappropriate comments about her dating life, texting, commenting on her physical appearance, and offering to drive her home.

Incident Report Number(s) or Other Initial Report(s) Associated with This Investigation

Aspen #2126806

DCFS Involvement

[REDACTED]

CPD Involvement

N/A

Subject's Employment History

Per Mr. Dominguez, he worked for CPS from 2015 to 2017 and from 2019 to 2022.

Mr. Dominguez was not pulled from his position in relation to this investigation.

He is currently running to be the president of the Chicago Board of Education.

Subject's Current Employment Status

Per Mr. Dominguez, he voluntarily left the District in around 2022.

	Mr. Dominguez is running to be the president of the Chicago Board of Education.
Relevant Past Investigations and Incident Reports Involving the Subject	None at CPS. Mr. Dominguez was investigated by The Resurrection Project in connection with the allegations at issue in the current investigation. The Resurrection Project's investigation did not substantiate the allegations.
Other Students Interviewed	N/A