

**PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BUREAU  
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** AUGUST 21, 2019

**TO:** DISTRIBUTION

**FROM:** CAPTAIN RAY WHITELEY *Rw*  
Professional Standards Bureau

**SUBJECT:** SHERIFF'S FINDING

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Corporal Compton Persaud, #57139, will receive the following as a result of AI-19-010:

1. A forty (40) hours Suspension, reduced by Educational Based Discipline (Review of General Order 15-2), is amended to a twenty-four (24) hours Suspension to be served on:

September 7, 2019 and September 8, 2019 (12 hours per day).

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri  
Chief Deputy Dan Simovich  
Assistant Chief Deputy Sean Jowell  
Assistant Chief Deputy George Steffen  
Colonel Dave Danzig  
Major Stefanie Campbell  
Major Bill Hagans  
Major Paul Halle  
Major Sean McGillen  
Major Larry Nalven  
Lieutenant Deanna Carey  
Director Jennifer Crockett  
Director Nancy Duggan  
Director Susan Krause  
Director Jason Malpass  
Shannon Lockheart, General Counsel  
Payroll  
Purchasing-Uniform Supply  
Corporal Compton Persaud

RW/kmm

**PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** AUGUST 16, 2019  
**TO:** CORPORAL COMPTON PERSAUD, #57139  
**FROM:** SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI  
**SUBJECT:** CHARGES RE: AI-19-010

An investigation has been conducted by the Administrative Investigation Division, Professional Standards Bureau, of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. As a result of this investigation, the Administrative Review Board has determined you committed the following violation:

On, but not limited to, February 10, 2019, while on duty in Pinellas County, Florida, you violated the Pinellas County Sheriff's Civil Service Act Laws of Florida, 89-404 as amended by Laws of Florida 08-285, Section 6, Subsection 4, by violating the provisions of law or the rules, regulations, and operating procedures of the Office of the Sheriff.

1. You violated Pinellas County Sheriff's Office General Order 3-1.1, Rule and Regulation 5.4, Duties and Responsibilities.

Synopsis: You engaged in the pursuit of a vehicle which violated Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Policy.

While stopped facing east at the red light in the northbound turn lane of Ulmerton Road and 49<sup>th</sup> Street N., you observed a vehicle with an expired temporary tag. You conducted an FCIC/NCIC search of the vehicle's license plate, and verified the tag was expired.

When the traffic light turned to green, the vehicle made a U-turn to travel westbound on Ulmerton Road and you attempted to conduct a traffic stop by activating your emergency lights.

The vehicle turned into a restaurant parking lot and you followed. The vehicle continued to drive through the parking lot, failing to yield, and you activated your siren. The vehicle continued driving and exited traveling south onto 49<sup>th</sup> Street N. At this time, you deactivated your siren, however, your emergency lights remained activated and you continued to follow. You testified when the vehicle exited onto 49<sup>th</sup> Street N., you realized the vehicle was fleeing from you.

As a result of fleeing from the attempted traffic stop, the vehicle appeared to lose traction on the wet pavement, as it exited the parking lot onto 49<sup>th</sup> Street N. The vehicle turned westbound on Ulmerton Road, and again lost traction on the wet pavement. The vehicle then spun around on Ulmerton Road in a one hundred and eighty degree (180°) direction and went up onto the center median, with the two (2) left wheels coming off of the ground.

At this time, the vehicle made a U-turn and drove westbound in the eastbound lanes of Ulmerton Road. The vehicle drove towards on-coming traffic and passed three (3) vehicles. You paralleled the vehicle in the westbound lanes of Ulmerton Road, with your emergency lights activated and your siren off. As the vehicle continued driving towards on-coming traffic, it passed a fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) vehicle and you deactivated your emergency lights.

In the area of Ulmerton Road and 58<sup>th</sup> Street N., the vehicle again spun around in a one hundred and eighty degree (180°) direction, facing eastbound. You drove up onto the center median and into the eastbound curb lane of Ulmerton Road. You testified you drove into oncoming traffic to avoid a collision with signs in the median and believed the vehicle was going to hit you. The vehicle returned to the westbound lanes of Ulmerton Road, at which time you continued to pursue the vehicle and activated your emergency lights and siren.

Your supervisor, via radio, requested information reference the attempted traffic stop and criminal charges. You now deactivated your emergency lights and siren. You responded to supervision "it's just traffic related, I pulled him over for an expired tag." Supervision now advised on the radio for you to "back-off" if it was traffic-related. You replied on the radio, stating you were backing off and the vehicle was approaching US19.

The vehicle now stopped at the traffic light of Ulmerton Road and US19. The vehicle accelerated forward and appeared to lose traction on the wet pavement of Ulmerton Road and turned northbound on Frontage Road. You continued to follow the vehicle. At this time, another supervisor advised via radio for you to "back-off." You continued to pursue the vehicle as it turned eastbound on 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.

The vehicle turned southbound on 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N. and you followed. You were told again on the radio by your supervisor to "back-off" and not push the vehicle any further. You continued to pursue the vehicle until it came to a stop on the east side of 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N. and Ulmerton Road.

You testified you didn't think you backed-off far enough, and believed the driver of the vehicle knew you were behind him. You testified that the vehicular pursuit began as you exited the parking lot onto 49<sup>th</sup> Street.

While engaged in this pursuit, you failed to consider traffic conditions, weather conditions and the wet roadways.


You acknowledged you engaged in pursuit of the vehicle on the aforementioned roadways which was unauthorized and in violation of policy as the vehicular pursuit did not involve a forcible felony, an imminent and/or continuous threat, or any extremely dangerous driving.

You admitted to this violation.

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of one (1) Level Five Rules and Regulations violation totaling fifty (50) points. These points, which were affected by no modified points from previous discipline, resulted in fifty (50) progressive discipline points. At this point level, the recommended discipline range is from a five (5) days Suspension to Termination.

Disciplinary action shall be consistent with progressive discipline, for cause in accordance with the provisions of the Pinellas County Civil Service Act.

  
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MAJOR PAUL HALLE  
PATROL OPERATIONS BUREAU  
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 8/20/19

Time 1930

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

BG:JGL:kmm