

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

DATE: APRIL 14, 2021
TO: DISTRIBUTION
FROM: CAPTAIN DEANNA CAREY 
Professional Standards Bureau
SUBJECT: SHERIFF'S FINDING

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Deputy James Bonanno, #57429, will receive the following as a result of AI-20-022:

1. An eighty (80) hours Suspension, reduced by Education Based Discipline (Review of General Order 15-2), is amended to a forty (40) hours Suspension to be served on:
April 21, 2021 (12 hours), April 22, 2021 (12 hours), April 26, 2021 (4 hours) and April 27, 2021 (12 hours).

DISTRIBUTION:

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Chief Deputy George Steffen
Assistant Chief Deputy Dave Danzig
Assistant Chief Deputy Paul Halle
Colonel Paul Carey
Major Adrian Arnold
Major Dennis Garvey
Major Dennis Komar
Major Jennifer Love
Major Jesse Napier
Director Jennifer Crockett
Director Nancy Duggan
Director Susan Krause
Director Jason Malpass
Shannon Lockheart, General Counsel
Payroll
Purchasing-Uniform Supply
Deputy James Bonanno

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

DATE: APRIL 9, 2021

TO: DEPUTY JAMES BONANNO, #57429

FROM: SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

SUBJECT: CHARGES RE: AI-20-022

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, September 9, 2020, while on-duty in of Pinellas County, Florida, you violated the Pinellas County Sheriff's Civil Service Act Laws 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 on-duty and patrolling in the Lealman area of unincorporated Pinellas County, you were traveling westbound on 54th Avenue North and received a License Plate Reader (LPR) alert, which indicated the registered owner of a vehicle traveling ahead of you had a suspended driver's license. You then followed the vehicle into the parking lot of a gas station located at 4260 54th Avenue North. There, you attempted a traffic stop for a window tint violation by activating your emergency lights, as the vehicle drove through the pump area of the gas station. The vehicle then reentered 54th Avenue North and traveled eastbound. The vehicle showed no indication of stopping and you began to pursue the vehicle with your lights and siren activated. During this time, you advised dispatch the vehicle was "failing to stop."

While behind the vehicle, you turned off your siren and then continued to follow the vehicle as it turned northbound on 40th Street North. As you approached 58th Avenue North, you turned off your emergency lights and followed the vehicle through a school zone. Your corporal asked you via radio if you were "in pursuit" twice and you responded with, "I got fleeing right now." and "10-4." Once out of the school zone, you reactivated your emergency lights and continued pursuing the vehicle westbound on 58th Avenue North. After traveling through the intersection at 42nd Street North, you entered into the opposing lanes of traffic and placed your vehicle alongside the fleeing vehicle's driver's side rear quarter panel in order to effect a Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT). After realizing

this action is prohibited by policy, you returned your vehicle to the correct lanes of travel behind the fleeing vehicle and continued to follow. You were instructed by your sergeant via radio to “let it go” if the only charges were traffic-related. You acknowledged this order via radio by stating “10-4,” deactivated your emergency lights, manually turned off your in-car video recording system and continued to pursue the vehicle as it traveled westbound.

You continued to pursue the vehicle westbound on 58th Avenue North without reactivating your in-car video recording system, emergency lights, or siren. As you pursued the vehicle throughout this primarily residential area, you did not advise dispatch or your supervision that you were still in pursuit. As you were traveling northbound on 58th Street North, approaching the intersection at 62nd Avenue North, the suspect’s vehicle drove into oncoming traffic, passed a stopped vehicle, ran a red light, and nearly stuck another vehicle proceeding through the intersection. You stopped at the red light and discontinued your pursuit of the vehicle as it continued traveling northbound.

You did not properly document all of your actions during the pursuit in your ACISS report, you failed to issue the driver a citation for fleeing and eluding after he was later located by Pinellas Park Police Department, and you inaccurately tagged the video of this event as a “patrol non-event.”

You testified you engaged in a 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 twenty-five (25) carry over points from previous discipline, resulted in seventy-five (75) progressive discipline points. At this point level, the recommended discipline range is from ten (10) 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.


MAJOR DENNIS KOMAR
PATROL OPERATIONS BUREAU
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 4/13/21

Time 1246


SIGNATURE

BG:WGS:kmm