


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

**DATE:** MARCH 4, 2022

**TO:** DISTRIBUTION

**FROM:** CAPTAIN DEANNA CAREY   
Professional Standards Bureau

**SUBJECT:** SHERIFF'S FINDING

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Deputy Benjamin Dunham, #59504, will receive the following as a result of AI-21-014:

1. Twenty-four (24) hour Suspension to be served on:

March 7, 2022 (11.5 hours), March 8, 2022 (11.5 hours), and March 11, 2022 (1 hour).

**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  
Director Jennifer Crockett  
Director Nancy Duggan  
Director Susan Krause  
Director Jason Malpass  
Shannon Lockheart, General Counsel  
Payroll  
Purchasing-Uniform Supply  
Deputy Benjamin Dunham

DC/blb

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

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 25, 2022

**TO:** DEPUTY BENJAMIN DUNHAM, #59504

**FROM:** SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

**SUBJECT:** CHARGES RE: AI-21-014

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, November 13, 2021, while off 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 5.5, Obedience to Laws and Ordinances, and General Order 3-1.3, Rule and Regulation 3.1, Standard of Conduct.

Synopsis: On November 13, 2021, while off duty, you went to OCC Roadhouse to watch a music band perform with other agency members. While at the bar, you began drinking alcohol heavily and admitted to becoming overly intoxicated.

After leaving OCC Roadhouse, you and other agency members took an Uber to Rudy's Sports Bar in Pinellas Park. While inside the establishment, your impairment became obvious after you became physically disruptive with other members and a customer seated at the bar. Due to your actions, you drew the attention of the security guard, and another member said you would leave to avoid any further issues.

After exiting the bar, several members attempted to calm you down, while another contacted an Uber to get you home safely. You became verbally aggressive with the members and then walked to a nearby ditch, where you were followed by a another member, after you had refused to get into the Uber that arrived. You and the member became involved in a conversation when, for no apparent reason, you utilized a "leg sweep" by kicking both legs from underneath the member, causing the member to fall to the ground. While on the ground, other members assisted by physically restraining you until Pinellas Park Police Department (PPPD) officers arrived.

During your encounter with PPPD officers, you were "very verbally aggressive" with them by screaming and using profanities towards them as they attempted to place you under arrest.


During your Administrative Interview and at the Administrative Review Board, you agreed your behavior during this incident was a violation of Florida State Statute and brought discredit to the agency, stating, "The members of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office are held at a higher standard, on or off duty, and that night I did not meet that standard."

You admitted to both violations.

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of two (2) Level Three Rules and Regulation violations totaling twenty-five (25) points. These points, which were affected by no modified points from previous discipline, resulted in twenty-five (25) progressive discipline points. At this point level, the recommended discipline range is a one (1) to five (5) day Suspension.

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

  
COLONEL PAUL CAREY  
DEPARTMENT OF DETENTION AND CORRECTIONS  
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 3/4/22

Time 08:27

  
SIGNATURE

BG:PDL:blb