

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

DATE: MARCH 7, 2022

TO: DISTRIBUTION

FROM: CAPTAIN DEANNA CAREY 
Professional Standards Bureau

SUBJECT: AI-21-017 SHERIFF'S FINDING

On March 7, 2022 at 1434 hours, Corporal Jamason Jessie, #55433, was terminated per Sheriff Gualtieri as a result of AI-21-017.

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

DC/blb

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

DATE: MARCH 7, 2022

TO: CORPORAL JAMASON JESSIE, #55433

FROM: SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

SUBJECT: CHARGES RE: AI-21-017

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 19, 2021, 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.
2. You violated Pinellas County Sheriff's Office General Order 3-1.1, Rule and Regulation 5.6, Truthfulness

Synopsis: On November 19, 2021, while on-duty and assigned to the Department of Detention and Corrections, Central Division, you were responsible for the care, custody, and control of inmates at the Pinellas County Jail. During this time, an inmate, who was secured in a temporary holding cell, was heard by staff kicking the cell door. You entered the cell directly behind Sgt. Patrick Knight to address the inmate's behavior. Without provocation or justification, against agency policy, and unlawfully Sgt. Knight pushed the handcuffed inmate in the chest, using open hands, causing the inmate to fall backward, striking his head on the edge of the concrete bench inside the cell. The inmate, who was secured in handcuffs behind his back, fell to the ground, in the corner of the cell. Sergeant Knight then struck the handcuffed inmate in the face several times with an open hand and closed fists, resulting in a laceration above the inmate's eye. You witnessed this incident and failed to intervene and stop Sgt. Knight from using excessive and unlawful force against the inmate as required by law and agency policy.

After the incident, you deviated from standard protocol and left the inmate alone in the holding cell with the head injury. It was approximately 2 minutes and 45 seconds before a member regained a visual of the inmate. Medical staff and your lieutenant were notified of the incident and responded to the holding cell. After observing the inmate's injury and speaking with him, the lieutenant quickly determined the sergeant's subsequent statements

detailing the incident were not consistent with the injuries. When questioned further about how the inmate sustained the laceration above his eye, you lied and fabricated a reenactment of the alleged use of force for the lieutenant. You stepped back into the wall as if you were pushed and touched your head to the wall to demonstrate how the inmate sustained the laceration. The lieutenant specifically asked you if any strikes were delivered to the inmate and you stated no, again a lie.

Approximately three hours after the incident, you admitted to your lieutenant that the sergeant did use excessive force against the inmate by striking him with an open hand and closed fists in the face, stating, "He did exactly what the inmate said he did."

During your Administrative Interview, when asked if you could have intervened you testified, "I could have pulled him off and told him to stop. I could have called for the lieutenant immediately. Those are the things I could have done." When asked why you were untruthful with the lieutenant when she initially asked you about what occurred during the incident, you could provide no valid justification. You admitted that you discussed the incident with another deputy before returning to the lieutenant's office a third time to disclose the truth.

During your interviews with the Administrative Investigation Division, and Robbery/Homicide Unit during the criminal case, and at the Administrative Review Board, you provided false and inconsistent statements and omitted information to include:

- False and inconsistent statements about whether you and the sergeant had a conversation about the incident immediately after leaving the inmate's cell
- False and inconsistent statements about whether you and the sergeant had a conversation about the incident while together inside the Sergeant's Office prior to you disclosing the truth to your lieutenant
- Inconsistent statements about the sergeant previously using excessive force against inmates
- Intentionally omitting a phone conversation you and the sergeant had directly after your shift ended pertaining to the incident and after the sergeant had been put on notice of investigation by the Administrative Investigation Division

During your Administrative Review Board you further stated you "failed to respond" and failed to intervene while the sergeant was battering the inmate. You admitted that "I definitely could of stopped him." You admitted that you were "less than candid" with your lieutenant and "did not speak the truth at that time." You admitted that you have witnessed the sergeant go "into cells and hit an inmate for no reason" previously, but have never intervened or reported the excessive use of force incidents. You stated, "I take full responsibility for my actions in this case, or lack thereof." You admitted to the violations and apologized "for the aforementioned deceit, the not coming to stop him, not initially telling the truth, all this is not acceptable."

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of two (2) Level Five Rules and Regulations violation totaling sixty (60) points. These points, which were affected by no modified points from previous discipline, resulted in sixty (60) progressive discipline points. At this point level, the recommended discipline range is from seven (7) 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.

Capt DS #5020
CAPTAIN DEANNA CAREY
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BUREAU
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 3/7/22

Time 1422


SIGNATURE

BG:SLT:blb