


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

DATE: JULY 27, 2022

TO: DISTRIBUTION

FROM: CAPTAIN DEANNA CAREY 
Professional Standards Bureau

SUBJECT: SHERIFF'S FINDING

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Deputy Heather Banting, #59027, will receive the following as a result of AI-22-011:

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

August 1, 2022 (11.5 hours), August 2, 2022 (11.5 hours), and August 5, 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 Heather Banting

DC/blb

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

DATE: JULY 22, 2022

TO: DEPUTY HEATHER BANTING, #59027

FROM: SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

SUBJECT: CHARGES RE: AI-22-011

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, April 27, 2022, while off duty in Pasco 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 3-1.3, Rule and Regulation 3.3, Knowledge of, and Obedience to, Laws and Rules and Regulations.
2. You violated Pinellas County Sheriff's Office General Order 3-1.3 Rule and Regulation 3.1 Standard of Conduct.

Synopsis: On April 27, 2022, while you were off duty at your private residence, you and your husband, who lives separately from you, were communicating at various times throughout the day. The communication occurred via text message and your work email. You and your husband have a juvenile daughter in common and she was present at your residence on this date. At approximately 1710 hours, your husband arrived at your residence. During that time, a verbal argument occurred between you and your husband about current relationship issues, as well as him arriving at your residence after you requested he not come over. Approximately ten minutes later he left your residence and you began consuming alcohol.

When your husband returned at approximately 2200 hours, he knocked on the backdoor of the residence and woke you up. You answered the door unclothed and a second argument ensued. You exited your house and while on the back porch, you pushed your husband several times towards his vehicle in an attempt to make him leave. Your juvenile daughter became aware of the domestic disturbance after she overheard the loud noises and subsequently viewed what was occurring between you and your husband.

After your husband left your residence for a second time, you called 911. During the 911 call, you advised dispatch that your husband would not stop harassing you, due to him

“non-stop texting” and emailing you. You told dispatch that you were a deputy for the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office. During the 911 call, you made no mention that your husband had previously been to your house that evening, or of the physical contact that had occurred.

At approximately 2304 hours, New Port Richey Police Department officers arrived at your residence, knocked on the front door several times, but you did not answer. This resulted in dispatch having to call your phone several times. Eventually, you answered the phone and agreed to meet with officers outside of your residence.

While officers were conducting the investigation, you were disrespectful, unprofessional and demeaning to them. While standing on the porch you made the following statements towards the officers: “You know what, this is why I hate fucking road cops, because you guys are all assholes. This is why I work in the jail.”; “Fuck you! You’re nobody, you’re a fucking peon who hasn’t even had any life experience. You probably li—still live with your mom and dad.”; “I work in the jail. I’m not nice.” The police report documents your behavior as “anti-law enforcement.”

You also screamed obscenities at your daughter, which prompted an officer to request she go back inside the residence. You yelled across the yard at your husband throughout the investigation, which resulted in additional officers being requested to respond to the scene to assist with keeping you and your husband separated while interviews were conducted.

When the lieutenant spoke to you, you admitted to pushing your husband to make him leave. Your husband told officers you “swung a few times” at him, “slapping” him in the head, face and neck. He stated you grabbed the collar of his shirt as you were pushing and pulling him, which caused his necklace to break. The police report documented your daughter witnessed you exit the house “naked and yelling,” and “slapping, hitting and grabbing at her father’s neck.” At the conclusion of the investigation, probable cause was established and you were arrested for simple battery, domestic.


During your Administrative Investigation Interview, you admitted to pushing your husband from the porch to his vehicle. Due to the amount of alcohol you consumed that night you did not recall swinging at your husband, but admitted you honestly did not know if it occurred or not. You admitted you were “belligerent” and “awful” towards the responding officers.

You admitted to these violations.

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of two (2) Level Three Rules and Regulations violation 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 from eight (8) hours Suspension to forty (40) hours 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 7/27/2022

Time 05:26 pm


SIGNATURE

BG:KCC:blb