

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

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

**TO:** DISTRIBUTION

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

**SUBJECT:** SHERIFF'S FINDING

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Deputy Charles Godfrey, #59642, will receive the following as a result of AI-22-017:

1. Eight (8) hour Suspension to be served on:  
October 03, 2022 (8 hours.)

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri  
Chief Deputy Paul Halle  
Assistant Chief Deputy Dave Danzig  
Assistant Chief Deputy Dennis Komar  
Colonel Paul Carey  
Major Adrian Arnold  
Major Dennis Garvey  
Major Joe Gerretz  
Major Nick Lazaris  
Major Jennifer Love  
Director Jennifer Crockett  
Director Nancy Duggan  
Director Susan Krause  
Director Jason Malpass  
Shannon Lockheart, General Counsel  
Payroll  
Purchasing-Uniform Supply  
Deputy Charles Godfrey

DC/blb

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

**DATE:           SEPTEMBER 16, 2022**

**TO:             DEPUTY CHARLES GODFREY, #59642**

**FROM:          SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI**

**SUBJECT:       CHARGES RE: AI-22-017**

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, July 7, 2022, 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 3-1.3, Rule and Regulation 3.4(d), Performance of Duty.

Synopsis: On July 7, 2022, you responded to a retail theft investigation at Publix, located at 7880 113<sup>th</sup> St N, in Seminole. The Publix manager observed the suspect exiting the store with a bag and then leaving the area on a black scooter. Although unidentified, the manager recognized the suspect from previous thefts, so he reviewed the surveillance cameras inside the store. The manager confirmed the suspect stole approximately \$260 worth of meat and then contacted law enforcement.

You were provided with video surveillance from Publix and pictures the manager took of the suspect and the scooter. The license plate number on the scooter was clear from the photographs and you were able to obtain the registered owner's information. Over the course of your investigation, you compared photographs from the video surveillance to the driver's license photographs of the scooter's registered owner. After comparing the photographs and running a criminal history, you believed the suspect to be the registered owner. You wrote in your offense report that you were able to "positively identify the suspect due to his facial features."

You immediately issued a probable cause affidavit for felony retail theft for the registered owner of the scooter. During your investigation, you failed to attempt contact with the registered owner, administer a photo array to the Publix manager, or utilize other investigative resources available to you.

On July 8, 2022, you were notified via email that Largo Police Department (LPD) arrested the suspect based on your probable cause affidavit. Additionally, LPD charged the suspect with resisting arrest without violence and had to use force to take the suspect into custody. After the notification, you viewed the suspect's booking photograph, along with body worn camera video from a previous case, and determined you had misidentified the registered owner of the scooter as the suspect in the retail theft. You waited over two days to notify your supervisor of the misidentification due to the subject having been already released from the Pinellas County Jail.

During your Administrative Review Board you testified, "I take full responsibility for my actions and inactions. This should have been a simple investigation, but I failed to use the tools provided to me by the Sheriff's Office, and I failed to use basic investigative skills to investigate this case properly.... My error and rush to judgment resulted in an innocent person being arrested."

You admitted to the violation.

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of one (1) Level Three Rule and Regulation violation totaling fifteen (15) points. These points, which were affected by no modified points from previous discipline, resulted in fifteen (15) progressive discipline points. At this point level, the recommended discipline range is a Written Reprimand to a twenty-four (24) hour Suspension.

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

  
MAJOR NICK LAZARIS  
PATROL OPERATIONS BUREAU  
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 9-22-22

Time 1523 HRS

  
SIGNATURE #59642

BG:PDL