

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

DATE: **JANUARY 24, 2017**

TO: **DISTRIBUTION**

FROM: **CAPTAIN RAY WHITELEY *Rw***
 Professional Standards Bureau

SUBJECT: **AI-16-026 SHERIFF'S FINDING**

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Corporal Scott Nichols, #57511, will receive the following as a result of AI-16-026:

1. Reappointment from Corporal to Deputy,
2. Removal from the Corrections Response Team (CRT),
3. Remove from the Field Training (FTO) Program,
4. Eighty (80) hours Suspension to be served on:

January 27, 28, and 29, 2017 (11.5 hours/day), February 6, 7, and 20, 2017 (11.5 hours/day), and February 21, 2017 (11.0 hours/day).

DISTRIBUTION:

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Chief Deputy Dan Simovich
Assistant Chief Deputy Sean Jowell
Assistant Chief Deputy George Steffen
Colonel Paul Halle
Major Stefanie Campbell
Major Dave Danzig
Major Bill Hagans
Major Rich Nalven
Major Lora Smith
Captain Dennis Fowler
Director Jennifer Crockett
Director Nancy Duggan
Director Susan Krause
Director Jason Malpass
Director Julie Upman
Shannon Lockheart, General Counsel
Payroll
Purchasing-Uniform Supply
Deputy Scott Nichols

RW/kmm

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

DATE: JANUARY 17, 2017
TO: CORPORAL SCOTT NICHOLS, #57511
FROM: SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI
SUBJECT: CHARGES RE: AI-16-026

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 violations:

While on and 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 3-1.3, Rule and Regulation 3.40, Associating with Married Members.

Synopsis: You were involved in an inappropriate relationship with another agency member, Deputy Kerilyn Peterson, #56901. At the time of this intimate relationship, you were both married to non-agency members, not separated or residing apart from your spouses and neither had legally filed for divorce.

You admitted to this violation.

2. You violated Pinellas County Sheriff's Office General Order 3-1.3, Rule and Regulation 3.40, Associating with Married Members.

Synopsis: You were involved in an inappropriate relationship with another agency member, Deputy Ashley Wheatley, #58642. At the time of this intimate relationship, you were both married to non-agency members, not separated or residing apart from your spouses and neither had legally filed for divorce.

You admitted to this violation.

3. You violated Pinellas County Sheriff's Office General Order 3-1.3, Rule and Regulation 3.4(d), Performance of Duty.

Synopsis: While assigned to the Department of Detention and Corrections, it was determined, based on your interaction with Deputy Ashley Wheatley, #58642, that you neglected your assigned duties and responsibilities.

INS 17-002

You acknowledged that while on duty, extended periods of time were spent alone with Deputy Wheatley in an unoccupied room at the Pinellas County Jail. You admitted that while in this room, you and Deputy Wheatley were socializing. There is Pinellas County Jail surveillance video documenting this contact, at times up to fifty-five (55) minutes. You acknowledged during testimony that as a result of this, you were absent from your assigned post, negligent in supervisory responsibilities and were inefficient and ineffective in accomplishing your assigned duties.

You acknowledged that while on duty at the Pinellas County Jail, you engaged in substantial social media messaging with Deputy Wheatley. It was determined that this messaging was primarily related to your intimate relationship with Deputy Wheatley. Also identified in this messaging exchange, were derogatory statements toward supervision, as their presence prevented your contact and socialization with Deputy Wheatley.


While engaged in the use of inappropriate social media and alone in a room for extended periods of time with Deputy Wheatley, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office duties and responsibilities were neglected.

You admitted to this violation.

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of three (3) Level 3 Rules/Regulations, totaling forty (40) points. These points, which were affected by no modified points from previous discipline, resulted in forty (40) progressive discipline points. The recommended discipline ranges are from three (3) days Suspension to a fifteen (15) days 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 HALLE
DEPARTMENT OF DETENTION AND CORRECTIONS
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 01/24/17

Time 0647



SIGNATURE