

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

**DATE:** MARCH 01, 2021

**TO:** DISTRIBUTION

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

**SUBJECT:** SHERIFF'S FINDING

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Deputy James Bonanno, #57429, will receive the following as a result of AI-20-020:

1. Forty (40) hours Suspension, reduced to sixteen (16) hours. Remaining twenty-four (24) hours will be imposed if there is any further misconduct within a one (1) year period from February 26, 2021.

March 10, 2021 (8 hours) and March 11, 2021 (8 hours).

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri  
Chief Deputy Dan Simovich  
Assistant Chief Deputy Paul Halle  
Assistant Chief Deputy George Steffen  
Colonel Sean McGillen  
Major Adrian Arnold  
Major Stefanie Campbell  
Major Paul Carey  
Major Dave Danzig  
Major Dennis Komar  
Lieutenant Deanna Carey  
Director Jennifer Crockett  
Director Nancy Duggan  
Director Susan Krause  
Director Jason Malpass  
Shannon Lockheart, General Counsel  
Payroll  
Purchasing-Uniform Supply  
Deputy James Bonanno

RW/kmm

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

**DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2021**

**TO: DEPUTY JAMES BONANNO, #57429**

**FROM: SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI**

**SUBJECT: CHARGES RE: AI-20-020**

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, September 9, 2020, 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 5.9, Unauthorized Use of Property and Equipment - Members will not appropriate for their own use, either on a temporary or permanent basis any evidence, found, stolen, or recovered property.

Synopsis: On or about September 8, 2020, while cleaning your patrol vehicle, you located a plastic bag under your front passenger seat which contained an undetermined amount of marijuana. This marijuana was seized by you during the course of your duties, on an unknown date and as a result of unknown circumstances.

On September 9, 2020, while assigned as a patrol deputy and working in your assigned patrol area, you conducted a traffic stop of a vehicle at approximately 1310 hours. You subsequently conducted a search of this vehicle and located a small quantity of marijuana in a rolled cigarette. You cleared this traffic stop in the Computer Aided Dispatch as a "Warning" and subsequently failed to document this search in an Incident/Offense Report. You also failed to submit the marijuana into Property and Evidence.

On this same date, at approximately 1438 hours, you attempted a traffic stop on a black SUV that failed to stop. The suspect was later apprehended by the Pinellas Park Police Department. You responded to the scene and conducted a search of the suspect. During this search, you located a small amount of marijuana. You failed to document this search in an Incident/Offense Report. You also failed to submit the marijuana into Property and Evidence.

In these three (3) instances, you consolidated the marijuana located as a result of the traffic stop and the marijuana seized from the arrested driver of the fleeing vehicle, into the plastic bag you previously located under the passenger seat of your patrol vehicle. You then provided this seized marijuana to a Narcotics Detective to utilize as a "prop," to aid in maintaining his undercover status.

You testified that in addition to these three (3) instances, you have improperly discarded marijuana on at least three (3) or four (4) other occasions in the past, during the course of your duties.

Per Pinellas County Sheriff's Office policy, all drug evidence whether found, seized, or for destruction, shall be submitted to Property and Evidence.

You admitted to this violation.

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of one (1) Level Five Rules and Regulations violation totaling fifty (50) points. These points, which were affected by no modified points from previous discipline, resulted in fifty (50) progressive discipline points. At this point level, the recommended discipline range is from five (5) 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.

  
MAJOR DENNIS KOMAR  
PATROL OPERATIONS BUREAU  
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 3/1/21

Time 1:22

  
SIGNATURE

BG:SLT:kmm