

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

DATE: MARCH 11, 2026
TO: DISTRIBUTION
FROM: CAPTAIN ROBERT OSTERLAND *RO*
Professional Standards Bureau
SUBJECT: SHERIFF'S FINDING

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Deputy Shawn Atkinson, #56250, will receive the following as a result of AI 25-018:

1. A seventy-eight (78) hour Suspension. Forty (40) hours to be served as a Suspension, the remaining thirty-eight (38) hours will be satisfied through the forfeiture of accrued leave.

The forty (40) hour Suspension to be served on:

March 16, 2026 (8 hours), March 17, 2026 (8 hours), March 18, 2026 (8 hours), March 19, 2026 (8 hours) and March 20, 2026 (8 hours).

DISTRIBUTION:

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Chief Deputy Dave Danzig
Assistant Chief Deputy Paul Carey
Assistant Chief Deputy Dennis Komar
Colonel Joe Gerretz
Major Jose Camacho
Major Deanna Carey
Major Greg Danzig
Major Alyson Henry
Major Jon Tobeck
Director Jennifer Crockett
Director Susan Krause
Director Jason Malpass
Director Kristi Wong
Shannon Lockheart, General Counsel
Payroll
Purchasing-Uniform Supply
Deputy Shawn Atkinson

RO/blb

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

DATE: MARCH 10, 2026

TO: DEPUTY SHAWN ATKINSON, #56250

FROM: SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

SUBJECT: CHARGES RE: AI 25-018

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, October 31, 2025, 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.

Synopsis: As the assigned bailiff in a felony courtroom, you were responsible for maintaining courtroom security and order during judicial proceedings, conducting continuous surveillance, managing and controlling defendants, litigants, and spectators, and maintaining close proximity to defendants so you could respond immediately to any safety or security concern. You were also required to remain at your assigned post until another deputy relieved you or the presiding judge adjourned court. These duties required your continuous presence, vigilance, and full attention.

On October 31, 2025, while assigned as a bailiff in a felony courtroom, a supervisor observed you using your personal cellular phone for an extended period during an active court session. Your attention to the phone was so substantial that you failed to notice the supervisor standing in the courtroom. Later that day, another supervisor was reviewing courtroom video and observed you sitting in the back row of the gallery pews, where you periodically checked your phone. You stopped only after that supervisor sent you a direct text message ordering you to put the phone away.

This conduct was especially concerning because, on October 8, 2025, you had already received continuous feedback after supervision observed you placing both your personal and agency-issued phones on the courtroom bar directly behind a defendant during a jury trial. At that time, a supervisor explicitly instructed you to refrain from phone use while court was in session.

During your administrative interview, you admitted that you used your phone to browse social media and watch short clips for stimulation because of the monotony of the proceedings and to avoid falling asleep. You acknowledged that this behavior created a significant officer-safety issue by distracting you from your core responsibilities, including maintaining courtroom security and supervising defendants.

This investigation also identified a long-term pattern of unauthorized absences during which you abandoned your post to spend extended periods with another agency member with whom you were engaged in an extramarital relationship. Beginning in early 2023, you routinely left the courthouse for extended periods to visit the jail's North Division Healthcare Building. To conceal these visits, you intentionally bypassed mandatory sign-out logs and failed to notify supervisors before leaving the courthouse. During your interview, you admitted that you avoided the sign-out sheets because you did not want anyone to know you were away from the courthouse and meeting this member.

An analysis of key card access logs and video evidence confirmed that, between 2023 and 2025, you accumulated 78.74 hours (4,724 minutes) of loafing time while away from your assigned duties.

- 2023: 3.15 hours (189 minutes)
- 2024: 25.02 hours (1,501 minutes)
- 2025: 50.57 hours (3,034 minutes)

During your administrative interview and before the Administrative Review Board, you admitted that your actions violated General Order 3-1.1, Rule and Regulation 5.4, Duties and Responsibilities. You described your behavior as “dumb” and “stupid” and acknowledged that you had become “complacent” in your role. You also acknowledged that, in addition to the officer-safety concerns created by your cellphone use, your unauthorized absences from the courthouse placed an unfair and excessive burden on your coworkers, who were required to cover your responsibilities while you were away.

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of one (1) Level Five Rule and Regulation 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 a forty (40) hour 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.

Maj. DC #5020
MAJOR DEANNA CAREY
JUDICIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 3/11/20

Time 1400

[Signature]
SIGNATURE

BG:RHO