

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

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 21, 2018

**TO:** DISTRIBUTION

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

**SUBJECT:** SHERIFF'S FINDING

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Deputy Joseph McKenzie, #55583, will receive the following as a result of AI-18-025:

1. A forty (40) hours Suspension, reduced by Educational Based Discipline (Review of General Order 15-2), is amended to a twenty-four (24) hours Suspension to be served on:

November 27, 2018 and November 30, 2018 (12 hours/day).

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri  
Chief Deputy Dan Simovich  
Assistant Chief Deputy Sean Jowell  
Assistant Chief Deputy George Steffen  
Colonel Dave Danzig  
Major Stefanie Campbell  
Major Bill Hagans  
Major Paul Halle  
Major Sean McGillen  
Major Larry Nalven  
Lieutenant Deanna Carey  
Director Jennifer Crockett  
Director Nancy Duggan  
Director Susan Krause  
Director Jason Malpass  
Shannon Lockheart, General Counsel  
Payroll  
Purchasing-Uniform Supply  
Deputy Joseph McKenzie

RW/kmm

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

**DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2018**

**TO: DEPUTY JOSEPH MCKENZIE, #55583**

**FROM: SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI**

**SUBJECT: CHARGES RE: AI-18-025**

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, May 14, 2018, 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: You engaged in the pursuit of a vehicle which violated Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Policy.

You initially attempted a traffic stop on the vehicle at Bonnie Bay Circle North and Channelside Lane.

You testified the reason for the stop was that the vehicle left a known drug house and failed to come to a complete stop as it entered the roadway. You also added that due to your prior knowledge of this location, you knew no one at this residence possessed a valid driver's license.

As a result of the attempted traffic stop, the vehicle fled and you disengaged. Later, another deputy located the vehicle and initiated a second traffic stop at 71<sup>st</sup> Street North and 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North. The vehicle also fled from this traffic stop and the deputy disengaged.

You then responded to the area of the second attempted traffic stop and observed the vehicle turn westbound on 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue North from 68<sup>th</sup> Street North. You did not pursue the vehicle at this point.

After losing sight of the vehicle, you proceeded westbound on 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue North to 71<sup>st</sup> Street North, where you made a northbound turn. Upon reaching the intersection of 71<sup>st</sup> Street North and Park Blvd, you again located the suspect vehicle in a northbound through lane, stopped for a red traffic signal.

As you approached the suspect vehicle, it made an abrupt eastbound turn onto Park Blvd, crossing northbound lanes of traffic and began to flee. At this time, you turned eastbound onto Park Boulevard and pursued the vehicle without activating your emergency lights and/or siren. You also failed to broadcast over the radio that you were behind the vehicle on Park Boulevard.

The vehicle turned south into the St Petersburg College parking lot located at 66<sup>th</sup> Street North and Park Boulevard. You activated your emergency lights and followed the vehicle into the parking lot. You attempted a Precision Immobilization Technique (P.I.T.) maneuver on the vehicle within the parking lot. The P.I.T. was unsuccessful and the vehicle exited the parking lot turning eastbound on Park Boulevard, at which time you continued to pursue with your emergency lights activated. You provided the vehicle's location and direction of travel via radio, however you failed to advise of the attempted P.I.T. maneuver.

You continued to pursue the vehicle through traffic, conducted a u-turn at Park Boulevard and 66<sup>th</sup> Street North behind the vehicle, and then continued to pursue westbound on Park Boulevard.

As the vehicle turned north into the Sam's Club parking lot located at Park Boulevard and 71<sup>st</sup> Street North, you attempted a second P.I.T. maneuver on the vehicle. The P.I.T. was unsuccessful and you continued to pursue the vehicle through the Sam's Club parking lot with your emergency lights activated. You disengaged from the pursuit in the parking lot only after being instructed by your supervision.

While engaged in this pursuit, you failed to consider traffic conditions, weather conditions (rain), and wet roadways.

You acknowledged you engaged in pursuit of the vehicle on the aforementioned roadways which was unauthorized and in violation of policy as the vehicular pursuit did not involve a forcible felony, an imminent and/or continuous threat, or any extremely dangerous driving.

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 Halle*

MAJOR PAUL HALLE  
PATROL OPERATIONS BUREAU  
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 11-21-2018

Time 0853

 # 55503  
SIGNATURE

BG:WGS:kmm