

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

DATE: **OCTOBER 29, 2025**

TO: **DISTRIBUTION**

FROM: **CAPTAIN ROBERT OSTERLAND** 
 Professional Standards Bureau

SUBJECT: **AI 25-012 SHERIFF'S FINDING**

On October 28, 2025, at 1644 hours, Deputy Jovan Hardwick, #57153, was terminated per Sheriff Gualtieri as a result of AI 25-012.

DISTRIBUTION:

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Chief Deputy Dave Danzig
Assistant Chief Deputy Paul Carey
Assistant Chief Deputy Dennis Komar
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Shannon Lockheart, General Counsel
Payroll
Purchasing-Uniform Supply

RO/blb

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

DATE: **OCTOBER 28, 2025**

TO: **DEPUTY JOVAN HARDWICK, #57153**

FROM: **SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI**

SUBJECT: **CHARGES RE: AI 25-012**

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, August 11, 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 5.2, Loyalty.
2. You violated Pinellas County Sheriff's Office General Order 3-1.1, Rule and Regulation 5.15, Custody of Arrestees / Prisoners.
3. You committed two (2) separate violations of Pinellas County Sheriff's Office General Order 3-1.1, Rule and Regulation, 5.6, Truthfulness.

Synopsis: You are employed as a deputy sheriff and as such you are responsible for maintaining personal and professional integrity and upholding ethical, fair, and honest conduct.

On August 11, 2025, while working in the Healthcare Building (2H3) at the Pinellas County Jail, you were distributing dinner trays to inmates housed in single cells with solid steel doors. You ordered an inmate with mental health issues and on psychiatric observation status to remove his arms from the open food trap. The inmate refused and kept his arms extended.

When reporting for work that day, you brought several personal items into the jail, including an aerosol can of Lysol disinfectant spray. After the inmate refused to remove his arms from the open food trap, you retrieved your Lysol can from the 2H3 Officer's Station, returned to the inmate's cell, and sprayed the Lysol into the open food trap. The inmate was kneeling with his arms extended and his face positioned near the opening. Inmate workers witnessed the incident and the incident was captured on video. You sprayed the inmate on psychiatric observation status in his face with Lysol.

When the inmate still refused to comply, you struck the top of his hands twice with the base of the Lysol can. You then directed another deputy to open the cell door. As the door opened, the inmate stood and attempted to push past you. You executed a takedown, placing him in a prone position. Additional staff and supervisors responded, and the inmate was restrained and secured in the Pro-Strait Safety Chair (PSSC).

You lied upon notifying supervision of this incident. You intentionally failed to disclose that you sprayed a chemical disinfectant into the inmate's face. You submitted an incident report documenting your actions. Supervisors reviewing the report immediately identified inconsistencies and noted that your account conflicted with video evidence. Your written report contained the following false statements:

- You claimed you poured water from a water bottle onto the inmate, when you had actually sprayed Lysol disinfectant in his face.
- You stated the inmate grabbed your water bottle and pinned your hand. Video evidence shows he only made evasive movements to avoid being sprayed.
- You attached a photo labeled "water bottle" to your report. The image actually showed the bottom of the Lysol can.

Supervisors held two separate meetings with you to clarify the incident, but you continued to provide false and inconsistent statements:

- In both meetings, you repeatedly claimed you used a water bottle containing water.
- When asked to produce the bottle, you said you discarded it in the pod's trash. In fact, you placed the Lysol can in your backpack and took it home after your shift.
- You later sent your supervisor an internet photo of a metal water bottle, falsely claiming it matched the item used.
- You fabricated a claim that a former supervisor knew you routinely used water to splash inmates.
- You said the "water" (Lysol spray) only touched the inmate's chest and arms, but video evidence showed it struck his face.
- When you finally admitted you used an aerosol can, you minimized its size, falsely describing it as much smaller than it was.

During your Administrative Interview, you lied about disposing of the Lysol can, claiming you had thrown it away. Investigators challenged you after confirming on video that you retrieved the can and placed it in your backpack after being asked to turn it over. You later admitted that you lied during the interview and to your supervisor at the time of the incident. You also admitted to intentionally making false statements both orally and in writing.

During your Administrative Interview and the Administrative Review Board, you admitted to these violations.

The Board determined that you committed these violations.

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of four (4) Level Five Rules and Regulations violations totaling one hundred (100) points. These points, which were affected by no modified points from previous discipline, resulted in one hundred (100) progressive discipline points. At this point level, the recommended discipline range is from a one-hundred-twenty (120) 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.



CAPTAIN ROBERT OSTERLAND
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BUREAU
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 10/28/2025

Time 1645


SIGNATURE

BG:RHO