

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

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 24, 2018**

TO: **DISTRIBUTION**

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

SUBJECT: **AI-18-020 SHERIFF'S FINDING**

On September 21, 2018 at 1548 hours, Deputy Michelle Parsons, #57288, was terminated per Sheriff Gualtieri as a result of AI-18-020.

DISTRIBUTION:

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Chief Deputy Dan Simovich
Assistant Chief Deputy Sean Jowell
Assistant Chief Deputy George Steffen
Colonel Paul Halle
Major Stefanie Campbell
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Major Rich Nalven
Major Laura Smith
Lieutenant Deanna Carey
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Director Susan Krause
Director Jason Malpass
Shannon Lockheart, General Counsel
Payroll
Purchasing-Uniform Supply

RW/kmm

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

DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

TO: DEPUTY MICHELLE PARSONS, #57288

FROM: SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

SUBJECT: CHARGES RE: AI-18-020

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, May 12, 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 5.2, Loyalty.

Synopsis: While on duty, and assigned as a Detention Deputy to the Department of Detention and Corrections, you provided confidential information to an inmate worker in reference to an impending detailed search of an inmate's housing area.

Your behavior was unethical, untrustworthy and compromised the safety and security of fellow deputies, as well as other inmates.

Agency Policy states that housing unit searches shall be performed on unannounced and irregular schedules. Housing searches are necessary for the safety and security of divisions. They are designed to uncover contraband, prevent escapes, maintain sanitary standards and eliminate fire and safety hazards.

When presented with the Agency Philosophy Core Values, as it relates to ethical behavior at all times; you agreed your behavior was not based upon a commitment of trust, integrity, accountability or respect.

You acknowledged that you have conducted yourself in this manner with inmates on more than one occasion.

During the Administrative Interview you made the following admissions:

- You admitted you told your Division Commander you provided restricted information to an inmate “twice.”
- You admitted while you were speaking to an inmate, “We started a conversation about something, and it just slipped out saying that we were having a shakedown.”
- During testimony concerning inmates, you admitted, “I just didn’t think that they would have, you know, like the shanks and everything or access to make stuff for the shanks.”
- You stated, “It was piss-poor judgment on my part. I don’t understand why I did it. I screwed up.”
- You testified, “I can’t believe I put anybody at risk with what I did stupidly.”
- You acknowledged that providing information to inmates in reference to housing unit searches is “a very big security risk.”
- You admitted, “It was a lack of judgment, poor judgment on my part, and not something that I had planned to do.”
- You testified, “I don’t have a good reason for why I did it other than blatant stupidity.”
- You stated you had a conversation with a supervisor in reference to housing unit searches and he informed you when and where the search was going to take place. After this conversation you admitted you were speaking to an inmate worker “and I believe she asked me, and I slipped and said it was 4C1.”

During the Administrative Review Board, you made the following admissions:

- When directly asked if you relayed information about an inmate housing search to an inmate you responded, “Yes.”
- You admitted to telling the inmate worker, “We have to get this all done before there was a shakedown.”
- You admitted, “If they knew there was a shakedown coming, I had to have said something.”
- When asked why you would tell an inmate of a shakedown you replied, “Because I am an idiot. Straight out, I screwed up.”
- You admitted to this violation and explained, “Because I went and told that there was a shakedown and put fellow deputies at risk.”

When presented with the opportunity to provide a statement on your behalf you delivered the following testimony:

- You testified, “I’m sorry that I’ve been such a poor deputy; that my fellow deputies have such a low opinion of me.”
- You stated, “I’m sorry that my actions put anyone in danger.”
- In comparison to other deputies you testified, “I am purposely right now the weakest link.”

You admitted to this violation.

2. You violated Pinellas County Sheriff's Office General Order 3-1.3, Rule and Regulation 3.5, Conduct Toward Superior and Subordinate Officers and Associates.

Synopsis: When initially questioned by your Chain of Command in reference to the allegation of informing inmates of potential searches within the housing units, you denied providing this information to an inmate worker assigned to your supervision.

During the Administrative Review Board you made the following admissions:

- You admitted, "I did not tell Sergeant Valentine and Lieutenant Taliaferro the night of the interview."
- When asked if you were less than candid with your chain of command when they asked if you told an inmate about a scheduled search of a housing area you replied, "At this time, I'd have to say yes."

You admitted to this violation.

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of one Level Five (5) and one Level Three (3) Rules and Regulations violation totaling (65) points, which by policy reverts back to sixty (60) points. These points, which were affected by no modified points from previous discipline, resulted in sixty (60) progressive discipline points. At this point level, the recommended discipline range is from a seven (7) day 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.

Capt. R. Whiteley
CAPTAIN RAY WHITELEY
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BUREAU
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 9/21/18

Time 1548

[Signature]
SIGNATURE 1548