

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

**DATE:**        **OCTOBER 16, 2017**

**TO:**           **DISTRIBUTION**

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

**SUBJECT:**   **AI-17-023 SHERIFF'S FINDING**

On October 16, 2017 at 10:42 hours, Deputy Brian Britt, #55428, was terminated per Sheriff Gualtieri, as a result of AI-17-023.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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

RW/kmm

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

**DATE:           OCTOBER 16, 2017**

**TO:             DEPUTY BRIAN BRITT, #55428**

**FROM:          SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI**

**SUBJECT:       CHARGES RE: AI-17-023**

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:

Between, but not limited to, December 31, 2016, and January 10, 2017, while on and off 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 3-1.2 Rule and Regulation 4.10, Associating with Subjects Involved in Criminal or Civil Cases and General Order 3-1-1 Rule and Regulation 5.2, Loyalty.

Synopsis: On December 31, 2016, you were dispatched and responded to a residence in Oldsmar, Florida. This call was in response to a teletype received from the St. Petersburg Police Department. The teletype requested that the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office locate and arrest an 18 year old female who was wanted on a charge of domestic battery.

Upon your arrival at the residence, you made contact with a subject you believed to be the suspect. The suspect was wearing only a towel and it appeared she had just exited the shower. In an effort to confirm the subject's identity, you followed the female suspect into a bathroom in the residence as she retrieved identification. As the female entered the bathroom, you observed a second female that you described as "naked" in a shower while the suspect retrieved her identification. The suspect was positively identified and allowed to dress. She was placed under arrest, handcuffed and escorted to your patrol vehicle.

You then transported the suspect to a secondary location and waited approximately 20 to 30 minutes for a prisoner transportation van. You admitted that you had not conducted a thorough search of the arrested subject, yet you removed her handcuffs and left her unrestrained until the prisoner transportation van arrived. While waiting for the transportation van with the un-handcuffed suspect, you engaged her in personal and flirtatious conversation; revealing personal information about yourself, including your financial status and the location of your personal residence. You also discussed the female subject's place of employment and that she was an adult entertainer/dancer. You inquired whether the arrested female's friend, who you had just observed naked in the shower,

worked at an adult club as well, and the arrested female replied that she did. You discussed with the arrested female that you would like to go the adult club where she worked during your off-duty time. You admitted during your testimony that “small talk included me talking too much about my private life.”

After she was booked into the Pinellas County Jail, the arrested female placed a recorded phone call to her female friend you inquired about and stated, “You know the officer that came in there, the older one, how about he was trying to flirt. He took me out of my handcuffs, tell your home girl again I’m sorry for seeing her, I mean I’m sorry for opening the bathroom and looking at her. I didn’t mean to. And he was like what club do you work at. I’m like Foreplay Gentleman’s Club. He’s like where is that located. I’m going to have to come check you out. My girlfriends been wanting to come to a strip club. He’s like does she work there to? I said yah, come see us.”

You admitted that the day after you arrested this female and within minutes of her release from the Pinellas County Jail, you called her using your department cell phone at a phone number she provided through the investigation. You explained you did this as you “cared about her feelings,” and you “genuinely felt that, I don’t know, in some way that she was probably arrested for something that didn’t occur.” You explained that you “felt bad for her” and were “sympathetic to her situation.” You also inquired whether the victim appeared in court and asked the arrested female if “it all worked out as I said it would” concerning the court process.

You admitted that for the next seven to ten days after the arrested female’s release from jail, using your personal cell phone, you continually communicated with the arrested female via text messaging and that the two of you exchanged several texts. Your texts were flirtatious and included information about your marital status and your personal life. You also admitted to sending a photograph of yourself to the arrested dressed as the “Hulk.”

During one of these texting conversations, you asked the arrested female if she trusted the police, which was followed by your intentional effort to solicit her to come to your residence for an encounter. The arrested inquired about the purpose of the invitation and explained her time was not free. She also explained she was currently with the female friend you had seen naked during the initial call for service. You told the arrested “she’s hot too. Bring her.” You explained to the arrested that the purpose of the visit to your residence was for “conversation” and you offered to pay the arrested and her female friend \$100.00 each for a one hour visit.

On the same date you exchanged these text messages, the arrested subject agreed to go to your residence with her female friend who you referred to as “hot.” They travelled from St. Petersburg to your residence in Pasco County. According to your testimony, when they arrived, both girls showed signs of impairment. You also admitted you were impaired and had consumed approximately 12 shots of Tequila. You invited the arrested female and her “hot” female friend into your residence, had the lights dimmed, candles lit, and engaged in conversation, including the arrested explaining to you that she is compensated for engaging in “fetishes” requested by clients. The arrested referred to you as a client. At some point during this conversation, you began rubbing the arrested female’s thigh.

As you rubbed the girl's thigh she became angry, stating that this was not the agreement for \$100 and that they had only come to your house for "conversation." You explained to the arrested female that you were not going to pay them for only "conversation." The arrested female stated she was angry as she and her female friend had driven hours to New Port Richey from St. Petersburg as you had agreed to nothing more than conversation via the text messages and were now refusing to pay. You provided the arrested and her friend with gas from a can at your residence to compensate them for their travel and they departed, though you suspected their impairment. You later texted the arrested and apologized for upsetting her and stated that you did not want hard feelings. You testified that you invited the arrested female and her "hot" friend to your home because you were drinking, depressed and wanted "interaction."

In conclusion you stated, "I'm an idiot." After the incident occurred, you recognized you made a "crucial and regretful error in judgement." You admitted to telling yourself, "Stupid, stupid, stupid! What the hell were you thinking Chad?"

You also admitted that when the arrested female and her friend arrived at your home for "interaction" that your 11 year old daughter was present and asleep in your residence.

It was determined by the Administrative Review Board that you failed to demonstrate responsibility and your duty to maintain a standard of conduct in your personal and professional life which is ethical. You failed to adhere to the principles of and to display the degree of integrity required through the law enforcement code of ethics established by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

You admitted to both violations.

#### Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of one (1) Level 5 and one (1) Level 4 Rules/Regulations totaling eighty (80) points, which by policy reverts back to seventy-five (75) points. These points, which were affected by no modified points from previous discipline, resulted in seventy-five (75) progressive discipline points. At this point level, recommended discipline ranges are from ten (10) 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.

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

I have received a copy:

Date 10/16/2017

Time 10:40

Brian C. Britt  
SIGNATURE

BG:MWW:kmm