

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

DATE: MAY 6, 2020

TO: DISTRIBUTION

FROM: CAPTAIN RAY WHITELEY *RW*
Professional Standards Bureau

SUBJECT: SHERIFF'S FINDING

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Deputy Levi Blake, #59881, received the following as a result of AI-19-027:

1. Written Reprimand

DISTRIBUTION:

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Chief Deputy Dan Simovich
Assistant Chief Deputy Sean Jowell
Assistant Chief Deputy George Steffen
Colonel Sean McGillen
Major Stefanie Campbell
Major Paul Carey
Major David Danzig
Major Bill Hagans
Major Dennis Komar
Lieutenant Deanna Carey
Director Jennifer Crockett
Director Nancy Duggan
Director Susan Krause
Director Jason Malpass
Shannon Lockheart, General Counsel
Payroll
Purchasing-Uniform Supply
Deputy Levi Blake

RW/kmm

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

DATE: MAY 4, 2020

TO: DEPUTY LEVI BLAKE, #59881

FROM: SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

SUBJECT: CHARGES RE: AI-19-027

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 26, 2019, 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 3-1.3, Rule and Regulation 3.20, Use of Force Reporting Procedures:

On October 26, 2019, you were working in the capacity of a deputy assigned to the DUI Unit. Patrol deputies called and requested you to respond to their traffic stop to assist them with the investigation of a possibly impaired driver. During your investigation, you developed sufficient probable cause to arrest the driver for driving under the influence.

When you made contact with the driver to take her into custody, she began to actively resist your efforts by bracing and tensing her arms and pulling away from you; these events were captured on video. You used force to overcome her resistance which was determined to be necessary, however such force requires a Use of Force Report documenting the force used.

As you were escorting the suspect from your cruiser to the entry door of the Central Breath Testing Facility, she again began to actively resist your efforts to maintain control by pulling, turning and stepping away from you; these events were captured on video. You used force to overcome her resistance which was determined to be necessary, however such force requires a Use of Force Report documenting the force used.

Following your entry into the Central Breath Testing Facility, you testified that the suspect again began to actively resist your efforts by bracing, refusing to sit down, flailing, and, at one point, kicking you. It was determined force was used in response to these actions. This force required a Use of Force Report to document the force used.

During testimony, you acknowledged that documenting the force you used was required by agency policy and was not completed.

The Administrative Review Board determined you committed this violation.

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of one (1) Level Three violation totaling fifteen (15) points. These points, which were affected by no modified points from previous discipline, resulted in fifteen (15) progressive discipline points. At this point level, the recommended discipline range is from a written reprimand to three (3) days Suspension.

Disciplinary action shall be consistent with progressive discipline, for cause in accordance with the provisions of the Pinellas County Civil Service Act.



MAJOR DENNIS KOMAR
PATROL OPERATIONS BUREAU
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 5/5/2020

Time 1606



SIGNATURE

BG:RHO:kmm