

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

**DATE:**        **OCTOBER 2, 2020**

**TO:**           **DISTRIBUTION**

**FROM:**       **CAPTAIN RAY WHITELEY <sup>RW</sup>**  
                  **Professional Standards Bureau**

**SUBJECT:**   **SHERIFF'S FINDING**

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Deputy Alex Rice-Tanner, #58058, received the following as a result of AI-20-015:

1.       Demotion from Deputy to Criminal Justice Specialist

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri  
Chief Deputy Dan Simovich  
Assistant Chief Deputy Paul Halle  
Assistant Chief Deputy George Steffen  
Colonel Sean McGillen  
Major Stefanie Campbell  
Major Paul Carey  
Major Dave 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 Alex Rice-Tanner

RW/kmm

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

**DATE:**           **OCTOBER 2, 2020**

**TO:**             **DEPUTY ALEX RICE-TANNER, #58058**

**FROM:**         **SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI**

**SUBJECT:**      **CHARGES RE: AI-20-015**

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 19, 2020, 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.

On May 19, 2020, you responded to assist a Treasure Island Police Department (TIPD) officer who requested emergency assistance. You arrived on scene at the same time as a second TIPD officer.

While the two (2) TIPD officers were detaining a subject, a citizen arrived on scene. You described the vehicle the citizen arrived in as approaching at a high rate of speed. As the citizen exited the vehicle, you described the citizen as angry, shouting, gesturing, and described him quickly walking with his arm extended outwards pointing towards the TIPD officers. As the citizen was walking toward the scene, you began walking toward him to prevent him from advancing on the TIPD officers.

As you and the citizen approached one another, the citizen told you he was the father of the person detained. You instructed him to return to his vehicle. The citizen began to comply, walking back to his vehicle. You followed a few feet behind him, as you believed he was possibly involved in the incident TIPD was investigating. While following the citizen, he quickly turned back toward you, pointed a finger within a foot or two (2) of your face, and used profane language toward you.

In response, you conducted a strike to the citizen's chest to create distance, as you felt threatened due to the citizen's overall behavior. The citizen fell to the ground and was placed into handcuffs.

As a Deputy in a law enforcement function, you have certain duties and responsibilities to perform. During this incident, you failed to follow the policies and procedures listed below:

Although your response to this emergency call for assistance was appropriate and necessary, you failed to notify the Communication Center that you left your post, were responding to the call, or that you had arrived at the call.

Once force was used on the citizen, a TIPD officer responded to assist you and placed the citizen in handcuffs. You failed to communicate with the TIPD officer and did not inform the officer you had no criminal charges.

The striking technique you used is a Use of Force and required documentation and supervisory notification. In this case, two (2) separate reports were required per agency policy; a Use of Force report and an incident report which should have been completed prior to the end of your shift.

These reports and the supervisory notification were not completed, despite you being aware of the established policy.


An overall evaluation of the incident reveals you used poor officer safety, poor judgement in assessing the situation, and you made no attempt to deescalate the situation involving the citizen which resulted in a Use of Force.

An 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 Five Rule/Regulation 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 ranges from a 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 BILL HAGANS  
JUDICIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU  
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 10/2/20

Time 1340 hours

*Alfred* \*58058

SIGNATURE

BG:CCK:kmm