

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

**DATE:** MARCH 16, 2022  
**TO:** DISTRIBUTION  
**FROM:** CAPTAIN DEANNA CAREY   
Professional Standards Bureau

**SUBJECT:** SHERIFF'S FINDING

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Deputy Tyler Bentley, #59456, will receive the following as a result of AI-21-020:

1. Written Reprimand

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri  
Chief Deputy George Steffen  
Assistant Chief Deputy Dave Danzig  
Assistant Chief Deputy Paul Halle  
Colonel Paul Carey  
Major Adrian Arnold  
Major Dennis Garvey  
Major Dennis Komar  
Major Jennifer Love  
Director Jennifer Crockett  
Director Nancy Duggan  
Director Susan Krause  
Director Jason Malpass  
Shannon Lockheart, General Counsel  
Payroll  
Purchasing-Uniform Supply  
Deputy Tyler Bentley

DC/blb

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

**DATE:** MARCH 11, 2022

**TO:** DEPUTY TYLER BENTLEY, #59456

**FROM:** SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

**SUBJECT:** CHARGES RE: AI-21-020

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, December 14, 2021, 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 3.31 (C), Inappropriate Conduct by Members of the Agency – Careless Handling of Firearms.

Synopsis: While on-duty you responded to reports of a fleeing stolen vehicle. At Tyrone Boulevard North and Park Street, the driver of the vehicle exited and fled on foot. The vehicle's passenger moved to the driver's seat and continued to flee in the vehicle, southbound on Park Street.

Several deputies established a perimeter for the subject fleeing on foot, while you continued to follow the vehicle from a distance. The vehicle suddenly stopped in the roadway in front of 1901 Park Street.

As you came upon the vehicle, the driver exited the vehicle with his hands above his head, and was beginning to get on the ground, into the prone position. As you exited your vehicle, you un-holstered your firearm with your left hand while simultaneously manually activating your Body Worn Camera (BWC), which had been in Sleep Mode, by double tapping the center button with your right hand. The BWC had been placed in Sleep Mode during a personal break just prior to the call for service and not placed back into Buffering Mode due to the relative newness of the BWC. As you did this, you unintentionally pulled the trigger on your firearm, discharging a round. You immediately notified supervision via the radio that you had an accidental discharge. It was later determined the fired round struck the pavement. The suspect was eventually taken into custody upon the arrival of other deputies.

There were no injuries or damages due to the discharged round.

During your Administrative Interview, you testified you believed the accidental discharge was due to your left hand's sympathetic response to the motion of your right hand as you reactivated your BWC.

You admitted to this violation.

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of one (1) Level Three Rules and Regulations 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 Written Reprimand to a 24 Hour 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 3/16/2022

Time 1205

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

BG:MLJ:blb