


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

DATE: MAY 04, 2022

TO: DISTRIBUTION

FROM: CAPTAIN DEANNA CAREY 
Professional Standards Bureau

SUBJECT: SHERIFF'S FINDING

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Deputy Bryan Beeler, #59216, will receive the following as a result of AI-22-004:

1. Forty (40) hour Suspension to be served on:
May 4, 2022 (4 hours), May 5, 2022 (12 hours), May 13, 2022 (12 hours), and May 23, 2022 (12 hour).
2. Removal from the position of Field Training Officer (FTO)

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 Bryan Beeler

DC/blb

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

DATE: APRIL 29, 2022

TO: DEPUTY BRYAN BEELER, #59216

FROM: SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

SUBJECT: CHARGES RE: AI-22-004

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, November 29, 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 3-1.1, Rule and Regulation 5.4, Duties and Responsibilities.

Synopsis: You engaged in the pursuit of a vehicle that violated Pinellas County Sheriff's Office policy.

While on-duty and conducting self-initiated activity at 1201 Sunset Point Road, Clearwater, you instructed your Phase 4 deputy recruit, who was sitting in the passenger seat, to run the tag of a vehicle driving by. Your recruit ran the tag through NCIC/FCIC and was alerted that the vehicle had an expired tag and the registered owner had an expired driver's license. You attempted a traffic stop on the vehicle by activating your emergency lights and siren. The vehicle failed to stop but appeared to be obeying traffic laws. At that point, it was unknown to you if the vehicle was fleeing from you or if the driver was unaware you were behind him. You continued to follow the vehicle with your emergency equipment activated.

As the vehicle approached a stop sign at Union Street and Edgewater Drive, the driver drove around a truck that had stopped to yield to your emergency equipment. As the vehicle turned south onto Edgewater Drive, the driver looked back at you through his exterior driver's side mirror. At that point, you deactivated your emergency equipment and advised dispatch the driver was aware you were behind him and you were not in pursuit.

As you continued to follow the vehicle south on Edgewater Drive, a conversation took place over the radio with your supervision regarding whether or not to perform a Precision

Immobilization Technique (PIT) on the vehicle. Your lieutenant advised you to “standby” on the PIT since the vehicle was a sport utility vehicle and told you to just continue following the vehicle if it was driving normally until the helicopter was overhead. You followed the vehicle east onto Nicholson Street from Garden Avenue. You told your recruit, “I’m gonna try and pinch his door.” At that time, you accelerated into the driver’s side door of the vehicle, intentional ramming it with the front passenger side of your vehicle. This maneuver was unsuccessful, and the driver accelerated away from you. The “pinching” of a vehicle door while the vehicle is in motion is not an approved technique taught at the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office and could have put your deputy recruit at a tactical disadvantage based on the position of the vehicles.

As the vehicle turned south onto Blanche B Littlejohn Trail from Nicholson Street, you attempted to perform a PIT on the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle was able to break away from the PIT and continued to accelerate away from you. Both you and the vehicle ran the stop sign at Blanche B Littlejohn Trail and Seminole Street. You continued to pursue the vehicle at various distances despite telling supervision you were letting the vehicle go and were not in pursuit.

As the vehicle turned east on Drew Street from Vine Avenue, you were directly behind it despite supervision instructing you to keep a “long eye” on the vehicle. You stayed directly behind the vehicle until supervision instructed you to “cut it off,” at which point you continued to follow the vehicle at various distances as it attempted to evade you by cutting through parking lots and around stopped vehicles to avoid traffic signals.

Once the helicopter arrived in the area, supervision told you again to “back way off.” You told supervision you were “breaking contact,” but continued to follow the vehicle at various distances, ending up directly behind the vehicle again at Martin Luther King Jr Avenue and Druid Road. You followed the vehicle as it drove around stopped traffic at Martin Luther King Jr Avenue and Lakeview Road, avoiding stop sticks another deputy had deployed at the intersection.

You continued to pursue the vehicle south on Missouri Avenue and were told once again by supervision to “back off.” Nevertheless, you followed the vehicle as it jumped a curb and cut through the 1603 South Missouri Avenue parking lot. The vehicle stopped shortly thereafter, and the driver was taken into custody.

During your Administrative Interview, you testified the only charges you had on the driver were fleeing and eluding. At the time, you believed the driver of the vehicle was the registered owner who had an expired driver’s license and an expired vehicle registration. It was later discovered the driver of the vehicle was not the registered owner. You acknowledged a pursuit of this vehicle for the aforementioned charges was not in compliance with agency policy. You testified, “Given what was in front of me, I should have stopped. I should have created more distance. At the time, I was not as familiar with the pursuit policy as I probably should have been as an FTO.” You admitted attempting to “pinch” the vehicle could have trapped your deputy recruit in the vehicle and put him in harm’s way if the suspect was armed.


During your Administrative Review Board, you admitted to violating policy and stated, "I should have stopped following or pursuing that vehicle at the very beginning, when it made the left onto Edgewater and looked in the rearview mirror." You also stated, "I own it, I'm responsible for it." You admitted you set a bad example for your deputy recruit during this incident and that you were not as familiar as you should have been with the agency policies due to you being "lazy" and "complacent."

You admitted to this violation.

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of one (1) Level Five Rules and Regulations violation 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 range is from forty (40) hours 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 DENNIS KOMAR
PATROL OPERATIONS BUREAU
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 5-4-22

Time 1310 hrs.


SIGNATURE

BG:SLT:blb