

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

DATE: MARCH 27, 2023
TO: DISTRIBUTION
FROM: CAPTAIN DEANNA CAREY 
Professional Standards Bureau

SUBJECT: SHERIFF'S FINDING

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Deputy William Wiltse, #56815, will receive the following as a result of AI-23-001:

1. Forty (40) hour Suspension to be served on:

April 5, 2023 (12 hours), April 6, 2023 (12 hours), April 10, 2023 (12 hours), and April 11, 2023 (4 hours).

DISTRIBUTION:

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Chief Deputy Paul Halle
Assistant Chief Deputy Dave Danzig
Assistant Chief Deputy Dennis Komar
Colonel Paul Carey
Major Adrian Arnold
Major Dennis Garvey
Major Joe Gerretz
Major Nick Lazaris
Major Jennifer Love
Director Jennifer Crockett
Director Susan Krause
Director Tom Lancto
Director Jason Malpass
Director Michelle Posewitz
Shannon Lockheart, General Counsel
Payroll
Purchasing-Uniform Supply
Deputy William Wiltse

DC/blr

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

DATE: MARCH 23, 2023

TO: DEPUTY WILLIAM WILTSE, #56815

FROM: SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

SUBJECT: CHARGES RE: AI-23-001

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 22, 2022, 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 03-01, Rule and Regulation 5.4, Duties and Responsibilities.

Synopsis: On December 22, 2022, you were the corporal assigned to the Field Training Officer (FTO) squad, and at the time you were assigned a deputy recruit in phase four of the Field Training Program. You volunteered to conduct a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) investigation for another deputy who had conducted a traffic stop and suspected the driver was impaired. Your deputy recruit conducted the DUI portion of the investigation, which resulted in the driver's arrest. Prior to the arrestee's vehicle being impounded, you instructed your deputy recruit to complete the search incident to arrest and impound inventory of the vehicle and requested the other deputy not assist because the deputy recruit needed the experience.

Early during the search and inventory of the vehicle, your deputy recruit located controlled substances and a large sum of cash in the front seat area. To assist your deputy recruit with the search and inventory process, you took photographs of the vehicle and personally located drug paraphernalia in the center console. As your deputy recruit continued his search of the driver's front seat area of the vehicle, you spent approximately two minutes observing and photographing the rear passenger area; however, did not conduct a search and inventory of that area. Eventually you transitioned to the driver's side of the vehicle, where your deputy recruit and the other deputy were trying to identify the controlled substances located earlier. Eventually your deputy recruit resumed his search and inventory of the driver's side front area where he located a firearm under the floor mat. At this point the search and inventory ceased and was not resumed after the firearm was secured.

The vehicle was impounded by Yoho's Towing and transported to their tow yard. Later that morning, while searching for the vehicle's registration, an employee of Yoho's Towing located a bag containing additional firearms in the backseat. After notifying the Sheriff's Office, a deputy responded to the tow yard and conducted a further search of the backseat area, locating two Glock semi-automatic firearms, one mini-Draco 7.62 assault pistol, various rounds of additional ammunition, and three kilograms of cocaine.

Both your deputy recruit and the other deputy on scene testified during their witness interviews you stated to them you had already searched the back seat area of the vehicle.

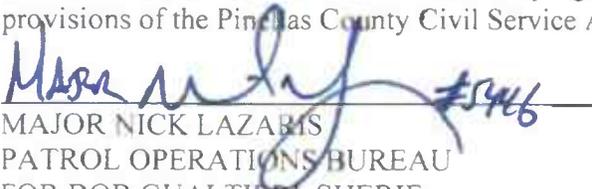
During your Administrative Interview, you testified, "When I opened the rear passenger door, I used my flashlight to kind of look in and I took a couple of pictures... It's unfortunate, but I did not search the back. I didn't open any bags. I just kind of looked and took a step back." You admitted you became "sidetracked and failed to ask if we finished searching the backseat" once the firearm was located under the floor mat. You stated due to miscommunication and lack of communication on your part, you made certain assumptions and did not verify with the deputy recruit or the other deputy that the search and impound inventory of the vehicle was completed. You testified, "I was the supervisor. I was FTO. I own this. It's my mistake."

You admitted to the policy violation.

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of one (1) Level Five Rules and Regulation 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 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.

 #5946
MAJOR NICK LAZARIS
PATROL OPERATIONS BUREAU
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIF

I have received a copy:

Date MARCH 27, 2023

Time 1407 HOURS

 #6815
SIGNATURE

BG:PDL