

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

**DATE:** JANUARY 22, 2024

**TO:** DISTRIBUTION

**FROM:** CAPTAIN ROBERT OSTERLAND <sup>RO</sup>  
Professional Standards Bureau

**SUBJECT:** SHERIFF'S FINDING

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Deputy Peter Papas, #60325, received the following as a result of AI-23-020:

1. Policy Review

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri  
Chief Deputy Paul Halle  
Assistant Chief Deputy Dave Danzig  
Assistant Chief Deputy Dennis Komar  
Colonel Paul Carey  
Major Deanna Carey  
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 Peter Papas

RO/blb

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

**DATE:           JANUARY 18, 2024**

**TO:             DEPUTY PETER PAPAS, #60325**

**FROM:          SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI**

**SUBJECT:       CHARGES RE: AI-23-020**

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, I have determined that you committed the following violation.

On, but not limited to, July 17, 2023, 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: On July 17, 2023, while on duty within the City of St. Pete Beach, you heard the sounds of gunfire coming from an unknown location nearby. Moments later, you heard additional gunfire on your radio while a Treasure Island Police Officer was transmitting. Fearing that the Treasure Island Police Officer was actively involved in a shooting, you began driving towards them. While en route, you learned that the suspect vehicle had fled from the scene and was last seen driving southbound toward St. Pete Beach.

While responding, you encountered the suspect vehicle, a dark-colored Mercedes Benz, driving southbound on Blind Pass Road in St. Pete Beach. A traffic stop was attempted near Blind Pass Road and 89th Avenue, but the suspect vehicle fled, and a pursuit was initiated. You pursued the suspect vehicle from St. Pete Beach into South Pasadena, St. Petersburg, and eventually back towards Treasure Island.

Throughout this incident, and at times in congested traffic conditions, you pursued the suspect vehicle through several intersections against solid-red traffic signals without slowing or using due care. These intersections were 75th Avenue and Boca Ciega Drive at 44 miles per hour; Pasadena Avenue and Shore Drive South at 44 miles per hour; Pasadena Avenue and Gulfport Boulevard at 43 miles per hour; Pasadena Avenue and Central Avenue at 50 miles per hour, and Central Avenue and Park Street at 66 miles per hour. Although the pursuit was authorized, your driving actions and failure to use due care during this pursuit violated Pinellas County Sheriff's Office policy.

During your Administrative Interview, you testified that you got tunnel vision and did not feel in total control of your emotions during the pursuit. You acknowledged that you proceeded through each of these intersections against a red traffic signal without slowing or using due care.


During the Administrative Review Board, you acknowledged that on the date of the incident, you were familiar with General Order 15-02 Pursuit Operations of Sheriff's Office Vehicles, but that you used poor judgment during the pursuit.

You admitted to the 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 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 a forty (40) hour 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.

 #5446  
MAJOR NICK LAZARIS  
PATROL OPERATIONS BUREAU  
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 1/19/24

Time 0832 hrs.

  
SIGNATURE

BG:RO