

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

**DATE:** JULY 7, 2025

**TO:** DISTRIBUTION

**FROM:** CAPTAIN ROBERT OSTERLAND  
Professional Standards Bureau

*D.B.O.  
L.T. M. [Signature]  
5/11/16*

**SUBJECT:** SHERIFF'S FINDING

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Sergeant Richard Heaton, #54787, will receive the following as a result of AI 25-003:

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

July 3, 2025 (8 hours), July 7, 2025 (8 hours), July 8, 2025 (8 hours), July 17, 2025 (8 hours), and July 18, 2025 (8 hours).

2. Sign a Last Chance Agreement that results in automatic termination if you have any further substantiated discipline.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri  
Chief Deputy Dave Danzig  
Assistant Chief Deputy Paul Carey  
Assistant Chief Deputy Dennis Komar  
Colonel Dennis Garvey  
Major Deanna Carey  
Major Joe Gerretz  
Major Alyson Henry  
Major Nick Lazaris  
Major Jennifer Love  
Major Jon Tobeck  
Director Jennifer Crockett  
Director Susan Krause  
Director Tom Lancto  
Director Jason Malpass  
Shannon Lockheart, General Counsel  
Payroll  
Purchasing-Uniform Supply  
Sergeant Richard Heaton

RO/blb

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

**DATE: JUNE 27, 2025**

**TO: SERGEANT RICHARD HEATON, #54787**

**FROM: SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI**

**SUBJECT: CHARGES RE: AI 25-003**

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 that you committed the following violation:

Between, but not limited to, July 29, 2022, through May 4, 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 January 30, 2022, you were assigned as the sergeant overseeing the Court Processing Unit (CPU), which is responsible for serving civil processes and managing documents related to warrants issued by the agency.

On July 29, 2022, CPU deputies executed a final eviction at a residence on 16th Avenue North in St. Petersburg. You were not present at the scene. During the safety sweep, a deputy located two (2) locked safes, two (2) firearms, and several empty firearm cases. The deputy seized the firearms and allowed the safes to be transported to a locksmith, where they were subsequently opened in the absence of law enforcement.

On August 1, 2022, deputies responded to the locksmith's shop and discovered firearms, ammunition, narcotics, and various personal items belonging to both men and women inside the safes. Deputies also recovered property labeled with the names of other citizens, along with latent fingerprints linked to another male. Although you were aware of these findings, you allowed the deputy to focus solely on one subject, failing to ensure that a broader criminal investigation was initiated.

On August 3, 2022, five (5) days after the seizure, the same deputy entered the firearms into evidence at the Gulfport Police Department, labeling them as "found property" from a "vacant

home” with “no owner.” You reviewed and approved the deputy’s ACISS report, overlooking both the five-day delay in evidence submission and the improper labeling of the firearms.

On August 21, 2024, a circuit court judge ruled on a Motion to Suppress, noting that the deputy, rather than the property owner, had directed the safes to be forcibly opened following the eviction. The judge determined the subsequent search was unlawful, as it was conducted without a warrant or any applicable exception. As a result, the State Attorney’s Office declined to prosecute the case. Despite being made aware that the deputy’s actions led to the suppression of evidence, you failed to take any steps to educate, counsel, or correct the deputy’s conduct.

During your review of the deputy’s ACISS report, you missed multiple substantive errors, including factual misrepresentations and omissions. You also failed to notice the absence of any required documentation regarding body-worn camera (BWC) usage. This oversight contributed to the deputy providing false testimony in court, claiming that no BWC footage of the eviction existed.

You did not review any BWC footage from the eviction until immediately before your Subject Interview, conducted as part of this investigation. The footage revealed that deputies prematurely deactivated their BWCs and muted the audio while interacting with the homeowner. A timely review of this footage would likely have revealed policy violations and deficiencies in the deputy’s report.

On March 6, 2023, you were present for and supervised a second eviction at a residence on 14th Avenue South in St. Petersburg. You allowed deputies to enter the residence and begin a security sweep before all occupants had exited. Additionally, and in your presence, deputies deactivated their BWCs while still interacting with the occupants and before completing the sweep.

During the security sweep, the same CPU deputy involved in the July 29, 2022, incident unlawfully searched two (2) backpacks found inside the residence. After learning of the deputy’s actions, you failed to intervene or address this unlawful search. The deputy later seized additional items, including two (2) safes.

Despite the property owner’s refusal to authorize the removal of the safes, the deputy seized both safes, along with magazines, ammunition, and the backpacks. During your Subject Interview, you acknowledged that you failed to identify these seizures during your review of the ACISS report and admitted that you did not follow up with the deputy regarding property taken against the owner’s wishes.

On April 11, 2023, the deputy learned that the State Attorney’s Office declined to prosecute the case stemming from the second eviction. The deputy authored a supplemental report stating that

they had opened the safes at Property and Evidence, found no contraband, and submitted the contents for destruction. They again labeled the property as "found" with "no owner noted." You reviewed and approved the report without addressing the improper labeling or discussing chain-of-custody and seizure issues with the deputy.

During both your Subject Interview and the Administrative Review Board hearing, you admitted to this violation.

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of one (1) Level Five Rule 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 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.

Maj. DS #5020  
MAJOR DEANNA CAREY  
JUDICIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU  
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 7/2/25

Time 14:38

[Signature] 54757  
SIGNATURE

BG:RHO:blb