

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

DATE: **OCTOBER 13, 2026**

TO: **DISTRIBUTION**

FROM: **CAPTAIN ROBERT OSTERLAND** RO
 Professional Standards Division

SUBJECT: **SHERIFF'S FINDING**

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Deputy Penny Vaughan, #57402, will receive the following as a result of AI 26-020:

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

October 19, 2026 (8 hours), October 20, 2026 (8 hours), October 21, 2026 (8 hours),
October 22, 2026 (8 hours), and October 23, 2026 (8 hours).

DISTRIBUTION:

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Chief Deputy Dave Danzig
Assistant Chief Deputy Paul Carey
Assistant Chief Deputy Dennis Komar
Colonel Joe Gerretz
Major Jose Camacho
Major Deanna Carey
Major Greg Danzig
Major Alyson Henry
Major Jon Tobeck
Major Matt Wroe
Director Jennifer Crockett
Director Susan Krause
Director Jason Malpass
Director Kristi Wong
Shannon Lockheart, General Counsel
Payroll
Purchasing-Uniform Supply
Deputy Penny Vaughan

RO/blb

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

DATE: OCTOBER 9, 2026

TO: DEPUTY PENNY VAUGHAN, #57402

FROM: SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

SUBJECT: CHARGES RE: AI 26-020

An investigation has been conducted by the Administrative Investigations Section, Professional Standards Division, 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:

On, but not limited to, July 9, 2026, 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 9, 2026, while temporarily assigned to the Clearwater Courthouse, you were responsible for performing courthouse security duties, including ensuring that persons entering the facility were properly screened and that access to secure areas was restricted to authorized persons. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) JOB-01 requires Judicial Operations personnel to screen persons entering courthouse facilities to prevent weapons, explosives, contraband, and other prohibited items from entering. SOP JOB-05 further requires visitors entering court facilities with screening equipment to pass through the designated security checkpoint.

You arranged to meet a former deputy for lunch at the Clearwater Courthouse. At approximately 1208 hours, you exited the courthouse and provided the former deputy with your agency-issued proximity card. The former deputy then used your proximity card to gain access to the secure Sheriff's Office parking garage. You subsequently met the former deputy at the garage, retrieved your proximity card, and accompanied him back toward the courthouse.

At approximately 1213 hours, you used your proximity card to access the secured NW Basement Exterior door and permitted the former deputy to enter the courthouse through that entrance rather than through the public entrance and security screening checkpoint. The former deputy was no longer employed by the Sheriff's Office and was not authorized to enter the courthouse through the secured entrance. He did not undergo security screening before entering the facility.

After entering the courthouse, you accompanied the former deputy to the Bailiff's Quarters (BQ) and showed him the nearby gym. You then accompanied him to the magnetometer area, where you and the former deputy interacted with other deputies for approximately twenty-five (25) minutes. At the designated security screening location, you did not screen the former deputy, despite nothing preventing you from completing the required screening process.

At approximately 1241 hours, you and the former deputy left the magnetometer area together. You then provided the former deputy with a tour of secure areas of the historic courthouse, including Courtrooms 1 through 4. You did not obtain supervisor authorization to conduct the tour or notify your chain of command before taking the former deputy through those areas. At approximately 1305 hours, you used your proximity card at the NW Basement Hallway as you escorted the former deputy toward the secured exit.

At the time of the incident, you knew the former deputy had resigned from the Sheriff's Office and no longer had the access privileges of a deputy sheriff. Approximately two weeks earlier, you had received a Written Reprimand for an agency policy violation arising from your inappropriate relationship with the former deputy.

During your Administrative Interview and the Administrative Review Board, you acknowledged that the secure parking garage was not open to the general public, that you were responsible for safeguarding your proximity card, and that you provided the card to the former deputy so he could access the secure garage. You further acknowledged that the former deputy was no longer employed by the Sheriff's Office, was a member of the public, and was not authorized to use your proximity card or exercise the access privileges of a deputy sheriff.

You acknowledged that courthouse screening prevents weapons, contraband, and other prohibited items from entering the facility; that failing to screen a person creates a security risk; and that nothing prevented you from screening the former deputy once he was at the designated screening location. You did not have him screened.

You further acknowledged that applicable policy required visitors to undergo security screening, that the policy did not give you discretion to determine who would or would not be screened, and that policy took precedence over any informal practice you believed existed. You admitted that you never sought clarification or authorization from a supervisor regarding any perceived conflict between policy and practice.

During the Administrative Review Board, you acknowledged that you had never observed a former member being provided with an employee proximity card to access the secure parking garage or being brought into the courthouse through the NW Basement Exterior door. You also acknowledged that courthouse tours required supervisory notification and that you did not obtain such authorization before taking the former deputy through secure courthouse areas.

During both your Administrative Interview and the Administrative Review Board, you accepted responsibility for your conduct. At the Administrative Review Board, you stated that you should have screened the former deputy, should not have provided him with your proximity card, and acknowledged that your actions were wrong and violated agency policy. You further

acknowledged that your personal relationship with the former deputy affected the performance of your duties on July 9, 2026.

You admitted, and the Administrative Review Board determined, that you committed the violation. Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of one (1) Level Five Rule and Regulation violation totaling fifty (50) points. These points, which were affected by five (5) points from previous discipline, resulted in fifty-five (55) progressive discipline points. By policy, the fifty-five (55) points revert to fifty (50) total 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 10/13/26

Time 10:52 am

Penny Vaughan
Member's Signature

BG:RO:MLD:blb