

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

DATE: AUGUST 24, 2026

TO: DISTRIBUTION

FROM: CAPTAIN ROBERT OSTERLAND *RO*
Professional Standards Division

SUBJECT: SHERIFF'S FINDING

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Lieutenant Paul Valachovic, #56483, will receive the following as a result of AI 26-015:

1. Demotion to sergeant

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
Sergeant Paul Valachovic

RO/blb

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

DATE: **AUGUST 24, 2026**

TO: **LIEUTENANT PAUL VALACHOVIC, #56483**

FROM: **SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI**

SUBJECT: **CHARGES RE: AI 26-015**

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 you committed the following violation:

On, but not limited to, May 26, 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.
2. You violated Pinellas County Sheriff's Office General Order 3-1.1, Rule and Regulation 5.17, Insubordination.

Synopsis: In October 2025, the Central Division captain directed you and the other Central Division lieutenants to ensure arrestees were not left waiting in the Central Sally Port for extended periods. A thirty (30) minute timeframe was established as the expectation for getting arrestees inside the facility.

On November 3, 2025, you attended a mandatory meeting with Sheriff Gualtieri and Department of Detention and Corrections command staff. During the meeting, Sheriff Gualtieri addressed excessive sally port wait times and directed that arrestees were not to remain in the sally port for extended periods. No exceptions were given for missing or incomplete arrest affidavits or anything else, and you did not ask any questions or request any clarification regarding whether any exceptions applied to the directive.

Following these directives, Central Division began tracking sally port wait times. As a shift commander, you reviewed the tracking information and were expected to document excessive delays and address problems affecting Intake operations.

As the Central Division A-Nights shift commander, you were responsible for Intake Receiving, booking operations, and the Central Sally Port. Your position requires you to exercise independent judgment, direct and supervise your staff, address operational problems, and keep command staff informed of unusual circumstances. SOP DET 01-02 also requires supervisors to coordinate, control, and provide direction to members under their command. The shift commander is

specifically responsible for determining the appropriate course of action and notifying the Division Commander of unusual circumstances occurring during the shift.

On May 26, 2026, at approximately 0321 hours, an arrestee arrived at the Central Sally Port in an Allied Universal Services transport vehicle. The arresting deputy had not successfully entered the arrest affidavits into VIPAR 2. Because the affidavits were not in the system, your staff did not allow the arrestee to enter the facility.

At approximately 0355 hours, a sergeant informed you that the arrestee was still waiting in the sally port because of the affidavit issue. You did not personally become involved in or direct another course of action.

The transport officer and other members continued trying to resolve the problem. At approximately 0418 hours, the arresting deputy arrived, assumed custody of the arrestee, and placed him, handcuffed, in the back of a patrol vehicle while continuing to work on the VIPAR 2 issue.

By approximately 0500 hours, you knew the arresting deputy was still having difficulty completing the affidavits, and the arrestee remained handcuffed in a vehicle in the sally port. At that point, the delay had substantially exceeded the thirty-minute expectation. You did not personally respond to the sally port, contact the arresting deputy's supervisor, seek help from another resource familiar with VIPAR 2, contact the division captain, or direct that the arrestee be brought inside and secured while the problem was resolved.

The tracking documentation showed that the arrestee arrived at approximately 0321 hours and had not entered Intake Receiving. The documentation passed through you as the shift commander. The missing affidavit was listed as the reason for the delay, but you took no further action or raised the ongoing issue with your chain of command.

At approximately 0545 hours, A-Days relieved your shift. You told the relieving acting shift commander that the arrestee had been waiting for an extended period because of the affidavit problem.

The dayshift acting shift commander recognized the issue of a handcuffed arrestee sitting in the sallyport for over two hours and immediately sought additional assistance. A perimeter deputy familiar with VIPAR 2 arrived at approximately 0554 hours and assisted the arresting deputy. After the affidavits were completed, the arrestee entered Intake Receiving at approximately 0607 hours. He had remained handcuffed in a patrol car in the Central Sally Port for nearly three hours—two hours and forty-six minutes.

During your subject interview, you said you believed SOP DET 05-01 required at least one arrest affidavit before an arrestee could be brought inside the facility. You acknowledged that you knew about the delay at approximately 0355 hours but did not personally help resolve the problem.

You admitted that nothing prevented you, as the shift commander, from authorizing another solution. You also acknowledged that you did not personally contact the division captain, patrol supervision, IT, the perimeter deputy, or another resource for assistance.

You described several prior occasions when arrestees without completed affidavits remained in the sally port beyond thirty minutes. You handled those incidents the same way and did not raise the recurring issue with your chain of command or ask for clarification despite knowing of the Sheriff's thirty-minute directive.

You acknowledged that Sheriff Gualtieri did not identify missing affidavits or anything else as an exception during the November 3rd meeting. You understood that the purpose of the direction was to eliminate extended sally port waits.

When asked whether you met the division captain's expectation that supervisors assist other agency members who are having problems, you stated, "No. I believe I failed." You also acknowledged that you could have brought the arrestee inside, contacted the perimeter deputy, or found someone else to assist the arresting deputy.

You admitted violating General Order 3-1.1, Rule and Regulation 5.4, Duties and Responsibilities, stating that you "could have done more." You denied violating Rule and Regulation 5.17, Insubordination.

During the Administrative Review Board, you confirmed that the division captain had given you the thirty-minute timeframe and stated that the direction had always been clear.

The Chief Deputy also described what he told the group immediately after Sheriff Gualtieri spoke at the November 3rd meeting. He explained that arrestees were to be brought inside, patted down, and placed in a holding cell while whatever problem was causing the delay was resolved. You stated that you remembered that direction.

You acknowledged that neither Sheriff Gualtieri nor the division captain told you there was an exception when an affidavit was missing. The exception was based on your own interpretation of the booking procedure.

When asked why another lieutenant who attended the same meeting understood the direction differently, you referred to your narrow understanding that an arrestee without an affidavit was not brought inside. You stated that you did not know whether that prior belief "kind of overtook my brain at that time." You otherwise could not explain why you interpreted the directive differently.

You also acknowledged that the Central Sally Port and booking operation were your responsibility and that you had the authority to make decisions as the shift commander. You agreed that the position required you to use judgment, discretion, and solve problems rather than simply relying on your black-and-white interpretation of policy.

When discussing the thirty-minute tracking document, you acknowledged that it passed through your hands and showed the arrestee had never entered Intake Receiving. You said you believed documenting the missing affidavit explained the delay. At the ARB, however, you acknowledged that the prolonged wait should have been discussed with the division captain and that you should have raised the issue when affidavit-related delays first began exceeding the established timeframe.

When asked why you did not take control of the problem on May 26th, you acknowledged that you failed and made a bad decision. You said you should have gone to the sally port yourself, contacted

the arresting deputy's chain of command, found someone who could assist with VIPAR 2, or otherwise taken steps to resolve the problem. You also acknowledged that you were not a dynamic problem solver during the incident and that you did not follow Sheriff Gualtieri's directive.

You again admitted violating General Order 3-1.1, Rule and Regulation 5.4, Duties and Responsibilities. You continued to deny violating Rule and Regulation 5.17, Insubordination.

The Administrative Review Board determined that you committed both violations.

Your failure to take control of the situation, make an appropriate decision, direct available resources, and elevate the continuing problem was inconsistent with the duties and responsibilities expected of a lieutenant and shift commander and violated General Order 3-1.1, Rule and Regulation 5.4, Duties and Responsibilities.

You also failed to follow Sheriff Gualtieri's directive regarding extended sally port waits. Although no affidavit exception had been given, you applied one based on your own erroneous interpretation of the booking procedure and continued that practice without seeking clarification. On May 26, 2026, that decision resulted in the arrestee remaining in the sally port for approximately two hours and forty-six minutes and violated General Order 3-1.1, Rule and Regulation 5.17, Insubordination.

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of two (2) Level Five Rule and Regulation violations totaling sixty (60) points. These points, which were affected by no modified points from previous discipline, resulted in sixty (60) progressive discipline points. At this point level, the recommended discipline range is from a fifty-six (56) 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.


COLONEL JOSEPH GERRETZ
DEPARTMENT OF DETENTION AND CORRECTIONS
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 8/24/26

Time 1011

 56483
SIGNATURE

BG:YT:RO