



**Preliminary Complaint Form**  
**Chief of Police – Anthony W. Rosa**

**Employee's Name:** Anonymous employee **Date:** 01/19/2022

**P.D. Case/Citation#:** \_\_\_\_\_ **I.A. #:** 22-02-02

**Alleged Misconduct** (Attach additional sheets if necessary):

19.6.5.1 - Members will treat Sunrise Police Department business as confidential, and shall not give information to any person or agency regarding Department business, the contents of Department records or files, without lawful purpose.  
See additional page

**Complainant** (print): Chief of Police Anthony W. Rosa **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** (home/Cell): \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** (work): 954-746-3363

**Address:** 10440 West Oakland Park Blvd, Sunrise FL 33351

**Supervisor Receiving Complaint:** Sgt. Darwin Arroyo

**Investigation Authorized by:** Chief of Police Anthony W. Rosa *[Signature]* 01/19/22

**Investigation Conducted by :** Sgt. Darwin Arroyo **I.A. Investigation:** Yes

**Findings:**  Unfounded  Not Sustained  Sustained  Exonerated  Training

**Division Commander:** LT.P. Brian Katz **Date:** 7/15/22

**Deputy Chief:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Recommended Discipline** (on Notice of Intent): \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Disposition:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chief of Police:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

In signing this report, I acknowledge only that it has been discussed with me and that I have received a copy. I understand that I may respond verbally or in writing, and that such response will be made part of this report and taken into consideration.

**Employee's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

19.6.6.6.1 - Department employees shall obtain the approval of the Chief of Police prior to making any formal public appearance or publishing any article, or releasing any official information which is not within their official duties when such speech, appearance or publication has, or is likely to have, an adverse effect upon the



# SUNRISE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Anthony Rosa  
Chief of Police

10440 W Oakland Park Blvd  
Sunrise, Florida 33351  
(954) 764-4357



## Internal Affairs Complaint Report Narrative

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### I. INTRODUCTION:

**Subject Employee:** Anonymous employee

**Complainant:** Chief Anthony W. Rosa

**Witnesses:** Jennifer O'farrill, Jacob Pincus, Michael Ryan, Andrew Saavedra, Janine Garcia, Evan Huggard, Mark Thomas, Daniel Cohen, Benjamin Hodgers, Justin Yarborough

On **January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022** Chief Rosa spoke to me about a possible leak of information from within the Department to a news agency regarding an incident that occurred between Sgt. Christopher Pullease and Ofc. [REDACTED] (case number 42-2201-002615). He stated the news agency, WSVN, reached out to him through our Public Information Office for an interview on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. When he met with them in January 2022, he learned that the news agency had intimate knowledge about the incident which was not previously released to the public.

It appeared to Chief Rosa that information was leaked to WSVN from within the Department. Therefore, Chief Rosa authorized me to investigate the matter.

The investigative narrative section outlines the details of my investigation into this matter and my conclusion with respect to any policy violations will be found in the investigative findings and disposition section.



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### II. INVESTIGATIVE NARRATIVE:

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Chief Rosa spoke to me about a possible leak of information from within the department to a news agency regarding an incident that occurred between Sgt. Christopher Pullease and Ofc. [REDACTED] (case number 42-2201-002615). He stated the news agency, WSVN, reached out to him through our Public Information Office for an interview on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. When he met with them in January 2022, he learned that the news agency had intimate knowledge about the incident which was not previously released to the public. Specifically, they knew when and where the incident occurred, Officer [REDACTED] name, and the fact that Chief Rosa attended briefings afterward to discuss the incident. Therefore, Chief Rosa authorized me to investigate the matter.

Later that day, while reviewing publicly available videos about this incident on social media sites, I noticed a comment on The Officer Tatum's YouTube channel. The comment read:

*"A person who worked with the female officer reached out to me. They said she has a history of doing things like this on her last department. Long story short, she has a terrible reputation. Allegedly."*

It was my understanding if a person that worked with Officer [REDACTED] would reach out to a YouTube blogger, they would be willing to communicate with a news agency as well. For that reason, I requested to speak to The Officer Tatum YouTube channel through their medium.

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, I requested Officer [REDACTED] internal affairs and personnel files to ascertain if the claim made to the YouTube channel had validity. A few hours later, I received and reviewed all of her files and did not see anything suggesting the claims were valid. I then made a second request to speak with The Officer Tatum YouTube channel (it should be noted that I never received a response from them).

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 I requested that Felicia Bravo, the city's public records manager, do a search for any correspondence to WSVN from November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (the incident date) until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 from city servers. Two days later, Felicia Bravo told me her search did not reveal any correspondence to WSVN about this incident during that time (aside from the Public Information Office communication).

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Lt. Katz advised me he received information from Sgt. Pullease's cellphone (obtained via a search warrant) that could be of assistance to this investigation. I reviewed the information which was a combination of text conversations and phone calls. Of importance, a text conversation between Sgt. Pullease and Officer Mark Thomas, and a phone conversation between Sgt. Pullease and Officer Evan Huggard on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Below is a breakdown of how the conversations transpired:

On Sunday, 1/30/22,

5:54pm – Sgt. Pullease asked Officer Mark Thomas for Officer Robbie Weir's number.

6:36pm – Sgt. Pullease received Officer Robbie Weir's number from Officer Mark Thomas (no further correspondence was found between Officer Weir and Sgt. Pullease).

7:09pm – Sgt. Pullease asked Officer Mark Thomas for Officer Evan Huggard's number.

7:10pm – Sgt. Pullease received Officer Evan Huggard's number from Officer Mark Thomas.

7:11pm – Sgt. Pullease called Officer Evan Huggard and had a 17-minute conversation.

7:53pm – Sgt. Pullease sent Officer Mark Thomas two texts, one which read "Hodges," the other read "The leak."

After seeing that information, I reviewed all of the remaining information obtained from the search warrant and learned that he spoke with Officer Evan Huggard multiple times after the incident. No other material relevant to the leak was discovered on any of the search warrant returns. At that point in the investigation, I had no actual evidence confirming who the source of the leak of information was and needed to interview possible witnesses.

Between March 17<sup>th</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, I spoke with all the officers that had intimate knowledge of what occurred on scene and afterward. I spoke with the following officers and all denied leaking the information and had no knowledge of who may have leaked the information:

Officers J. O'Farrill; J. Pincus; M. Ryan; A. Saavedra; and J. Garcia.

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 I obtained Officer Evan Huggard's sworn statement. In his statement, Officer Huggard said he does not know why Sgt. Pullease sent Officer Mark Thomas the text, "Hodges," "The leak" after their phone conversation. Officer Huggard confirmed having several phone conversations with Sgt. Pullease since the incident, but never about who leaked the information to the media. Officer Huggard denied knowing who the leak was and he was unable to provide any insight as to who communicated with the media.

I then spoke with Officer Mark Thomas on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. In his sworn statement, Officer Mark Thomas told me he remembered the text conversation between him and Sgt. Pullease on January 30, 2022. He also reviewed a printout of the text conversation and confirmed that was the same text conversation he remembered having with Sgt. Pullease. Officer Thomas remembered Sgt. Pullease writing that "Hodges" was the leak. Officer Thomas stated he believed Sgt. Pullease was referring to Officer Benjamin Hodgers. He also stated that Sgt. Pullease had been throwing out names since the beginning of his suspension and that he (Officer Thomas) did not have any information to prove that Officer Hodgers did in fact leak the information to the media. Not only did Officer Thomas not know why Sgt. Pullease wrote that "Hodges" is the leak, he also had no knowledge as to who may have leaked the information to the media.

Officers Huggard and Thomas were the only officers the evidence suggested would have known who leaked the information. However, before I spoke with Officer Hodgers, I wanted to attempt to confirm him as the media's source. Therefore, On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 I called Daniel Cohen (WSVN producer) over the phone. Cohen did not wish to provide a sworn statement. Cohen plainly told me that he was not going to confirm who his source was or by what means he obtained the information. Although, it was clear that he did in fact receive the information from a source.

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 I obtained Officer Benjamin Hodgers' sworn taped statement after providing him the civil suit disclosure and understanding form, his non-criminal rights advisory sworn form, as well as his Garrity rights. I showed Officer Hodgers the printout of the text conversation between Officer Thomas and Sgt. Pullease in which Sgt. Pullease stated that "Hodges" is the leak. Surprised, Officer Hodgers told me he does not know why Sgt. Pullease would accuse him of leaking the information. Officer Hodgers denied leaking the information and stated he does not know who did. He also denied knowing any details about the investigation prior to it being aired on the news.

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 I obtained Officer Justin Yarborough's sworn statement because of his role as one of the police department's public information officers. Officer Yarborough stated he was the original person to receive the inquiry from WSVN. Officer Yarborough advised the producer, Daniel Cohen, told him that a source provided him the information, but never claimed or confirmed the source was an officer or a member of a police union. Officer Yarborough stated

he has had numerous conversations with Cohen since their initial one, and has never learned of who the source is or how the news organization obtained the information.

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 I obtained a sworn taped statement from Anthony Hodge, a City of Sunrise Fire Department employee. Prior to obtaining Mr. Hodge's statement I confirmed with the Fire Department that Mr. Hodge was not on duty when the incident took place, therefore he was not present at the scene and would not have had first had knowledge of what transpired.

The reason I took Mr. Hodge's statement, was because of the text message Sgt. Pullease sent to Officer Thomas which read: "Hodges" "The leak."

In his statement, Mr. Hodge told me the first time he heard of the incident between Sgt. Pullease and Officer [REDACTED] was when it was reported on the news. Mr. Hodge stated he was not called or provided information related to this incident at any point. He made it clear that he was not involved in any media leak.

On July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 I provided Sgt. Steven Negron with a five-day notice form to schedule an interview with the Internal Affairs Office. Sgt. Negron signed the form and scheduled his interview for the following day.

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Lt. Katz provided Sgt. Negron his Garrity Rights and Non-Criminal Rights, then conducted the interview with me present in the room. In his statement, Sgt. Negron stated he is the current Fraternal Order of Police President as he was on the date of the original incident. Sgt. Negron denied knowing who may have leaked the information to the media. He also denied being made aware that any member of the union leaked the information or being asked by a member on how to leak information.



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### III. INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS AND DISPOSITION:

If Chief Rosa's allegations are true, the anonymous employee would have violated the following policies:

*Policy & Procedure: 19.6.5.1 – Members will treat Sunrise Police Department business as confidential, and shall not give information to any person or agency regarding Department business, the content of Department records or files, without lawful purpose.*

*Policy & Procedure: 19.6.6.6.1 – Department employees shall obtain the approval of the Chief of Police prior to making any formal public appearance or publishing any article, or releasing any official information which is not within their official duties when such speech, appearance or publication has, or is likely to have, an adverse effect upon the department.*

### IV. CONCLUSION:

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Chief Rosa spoke to me about a possible leak of information from within the department to a news agency regarding an incident that occurred between Sgt. Christopher Pullease and Ofc. [REDACTED] (case number 42-2201-002615). He stated the news agency, WSVN, reached out to him through our Public Information Office for an interview on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. When he met with them in January 2022, he learned that the news agency had intimate knowledge about the incident which was not previously released to the public. Therefore, Chief Rosa authorized me to investigate the matter.

I reviewed any and all relevant material related to this case before speaking with involved officers. One of the materials of evidentiary value was a text conversation between Sgt. Pullease and Officer Mark Thomas. That text conversation took place on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Sgt. Pullease wrote to Officer Mark Thomas that "Hodges" was "The leak." The other relevant



material was a phone call between Sgt. Pullease and Officer Evan Huggard that occurred just prior to Sgt. Pullease sending that text to Officer Mark Thomas.

Between March 17<sup>th</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, I spoke with officers who had intimate knowledge of what occurred on the original incident date. None of those officers admitted to leaking the information or having knowledge of who did.

Between April 12<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, I spoke with Officers Huggard, Thomas, Hodgers and Yarborough. I also spoke directly with the new media representative that had the information. None of the officers I spoke with admitted to leaking the information or knowing or leaked the information, and the news media representative refused to confirm who their source was or how the information was provided to them.

**In summary:**

**I find the following concerning the allegations of:**

*Policy & Procedure: 19.6.5.1 – Members will treat Sunrise Police Department business as confidential, and shall not give information to any person or agency regarding Department business, the content of Department records or files, without lawful purpose.*

*Policy & Procedure: 19.6.6.6.1 – Department employees shall obtain the approval of the Chief of Police prior to making any formal public appearance or publishing any article, or releasing any official information which is not within their official duties when such speech, appearance or publication has, or is likely to have, an adverse effect upon the department.*

It is clear based on the information WSVN had prior to any official release made by the department, that a person with knowledge of the original incident provided them with the information.

Specifically, WSVN knew:

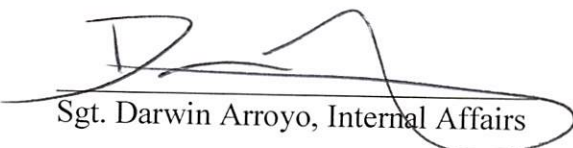
- Officer [REDACTED] name
- Where and when the incident occurred
- That Chief Rosa attended roll-call briefings after the incident

Typically, news of incidents within the department travels fast among the rank and file, however, hardly ever does that information get to a news outlet with the specificity that this incident did. Also, it would not be uncommon for an employee who was not on the scene of an incident to have information about an incident because of texts and calls that occurs within. And, it would not be uncommon for employees to discuss these matters with their loved ones, relatives or friends. Moreover, WSVN producer Daniel Cohen, clearly said that he did in fact receive information from a “source.” His only omission was *who* gave him the information and *how* they gave him the information.

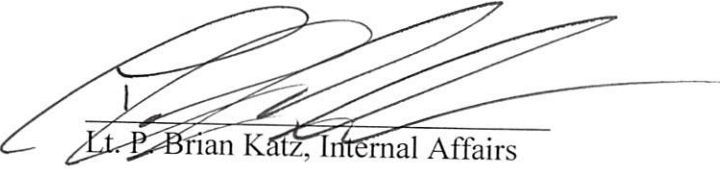
Based on the specific information WSVN had, I believe that sensitive department information was provided to them. However, it is nearly impossible AT THIS TIME to determine whether or not the person who spoke with them is an employee of this department and/or subject to discipline. IF, the person who spoke with the news media is an employee of this department, THEN based on the totality of the circumstances, I find the listed policy violations to be:

## SUSTAINED.

Under *Policy & Procedure 33.6.6.3 and 33.6.6.3.1*, this investigation could be reopened once new evidence that is likely to affect its outcome, is discovered.

  
Sgt. Darwin Arroyo, Internal Affairs

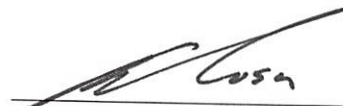
7/14/22  
Date

  
Lt. P. Brian Katz, Internal Affairs

7/15/22  
Date

  
Sean Visners, Deputy Chief

7/15/22  
Date

  
Anthony W. Rosa, Chief of Police

07/15/22  
Date