



Preliminary Complaint Form
Chief of Police – Anthony W. Rosa

Employee's Name: K-9 Unit Date: 01/30/2023

P.D. Case/Citation#: I.A. #: 23-01-02

Alleged Misconduct (Attach additional sheets if necessary):

Missing Training Agents (Narcotics)

Complainant (print): Chief Anthony W. Rosa Signature: [Signature] 01/30/23

Phone (home/Cell): on-file Phone (work): on-file

Address: 10440 W. Oakland Pk Blvd - Sunrise, FL 33351

Supervisor Receiving Complaint: Lt. Michael West

Investigation Authorized by: Chief Anthony W. Rosa

Investigation Conducted by: Lt. P. Brian Katz I.A. Investigation: Yes

Findings: [X] Unfounded [] Not Sustained [] Sustained [] Exonerated [] Training

Division Commander: [Signature] Date:

Deputy Chief: [Signature] Date: 6/28/2023

Recommended Discipline (on Notice of Intent): UNFOUNDED

Final Disposition: UNFOUNDED

Chief of Police: DANIEL J. RAUSOLE [Signature] Date: 6/29/2023

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



SUNRISE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Anthony Rosa
Chief of Police

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

Internal Affairs Complaint Report Narrative

I. INTRODUCTION:

Subject Employee: Sunrise Police K-9 Unit

Complainant: Chief Anthony W. Rosa

Witnesses: Jonathon McEvoy, Kim Parnofiello, Ryan Biro, Michelle Malave, Eric Plunske, Mitchell White, Troy Stanley, Amanda Schaefer, Michael West.

On January 23, 2023, Officer Amanda Schaefer (Administrative Services Division) conducted an annual audit of the Sunrise Police K-9 Unit's narcotics / training aids. Internal Affairs Sergeants Jessica Stewart and Ryan Reardon were present to monitor the audit process. The last audit of the K-9 Unit's narcotics / training aids was conducted by Officer Schaefer on January 20, 2022.

The K-9 Unit's narcotics / training aids are stored in a narcotic safe that is located inside a locked storage room. Entrance is gained via card access to the K-9 Office and the locked storage room. Command Staff and K-9 personnel are the only ones that should have access to the locked storage room. Only K-9 personnel should have access to the narcotic safe within that room.

The following was learned by researching the police reports and other documents of the K-9 Unit's narcotics / training aids: On February 28, 2022, the K-9 Unit received new narcotics / training aids from The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). See attached Case #42-2202-008680. These narcotics / training aids, along with some older ones are currently being utilized for K-9 detection training. On March 1, 2022, some of the older narcotics / training aids were submitted into Property and Evidence for destruction. See attached Case #42-1802-006805.

During Officer Schaefer's audit, the new narcotics / training aids that were received from the last inventory were cross-referenced back to Case #42-2202-008680 and confirmed. While comparing the older narcotics / training aids that were kept to last year's inventory, it was discovered that Sergeant McEvoy combined three (3) small bags of the following four (4)

narcotics / training aids to make one (1) larger bag of each narcotic / training aid. The following narcotics / training aids were combined:

1. Methamphetamine - The 01/20/22 inventory shows the three separate weights of Methamphetamine which were as follows: 9.83 grams, 14.86 grams, and 20.56 grams (total = 45.25 grams). Sergeant McEvoy advised that those three (3) smaller evidence bags were combined into one (1) larger evidence bag. The new total packaged weight is documented by Sergeant McEvoy as 32.2 grams and weighed 32.22 grams on the K-9 scale as of 01/23/23. The difference in weight between the 01/20/22 and 01/23/23 audit is 13.03 grams (45.25 grams - 32.22 grams= 13 .03 grams).

2. Heroin - The 01/20/22 inventory shows three (3) separate weights of Heroin which were as follows: 9.88 grams, 14.8 grams, and 20.87 grams (total = 45.55 grams). Sergeant McEvoy advised that those three (3) smaller evidence bags were combined into one (1) larger evidence bag. The new total packaged weight is documented by Sergeant McEvoy as 32.8 grams and weighed 32.67 grams on the K-9 scale as of 01/23/23. The difference in weight between the 01/20/22 and 01/23/23 audit is 12.88 grams (45.55 grams - 32.67 grams= 12.88 grams).

3. Cocaine HCl - The 01/20/22 inventory shows three (3) separate weights of Cocaine HCl which were as follows: 9.99 grams, 14.75 grams, and 20.79 grams (total= 45.53 grams). Sergeant McEvoy advised that those three (3) smaller evidence bags were combined into one (1) larger evidence bag. The new total packaged weight is documented by Sergeant McEvoy as 32 grams and weighed 31.84 grams on the K-9 scale as of 01/23/23. The difference in weight between the 01/20/22 and 01/23/23 audit is 13.69 grams (45.53 grams-31.84grams= 13.69 grams).

4. Cocaine Base - The 01/20/22 inventory shows three (3) separate weights of Cocaine Base which were as follows: 9.96 grams, 14.87 grams, and 20.92 grams (total = 45.75 grams). Sergeant McEvoy advised that those three (3) smaller evidence bags were combined into one (1) larger evidence bag. The new total packaged weight is documented by Sergeant McEvoy as 32.4 grams and weighed 32.13 grams on the K-9 scale as of 01/23/23. The difference in weight between the 01/20/22 and 01/23/23 audit is 13.62 grams (45 .75 grams - 32.13 grams = 13.62 grams).

****Note*: The above listed weights were calculated by Officer Schaefer based on her audit from the previous year (2022). The highlighted calculations above are considered discrepancies by Officer Shaefer and are memorialized in her memorandum to Chief Anthony W. Rosa. (See attached Memo).

On January 30, 2023, Officer Schaefer sent Sergeant McEvoy a text message inquiring about the size of the evidence bags that the old narcotics / training aids were stored in. The following is an excerpt from that text conversation:

- **Officer Schaefer**: “Just to verify again the old drives were originally in 3 smaller bags and they were consolidated into one larger bag (6x9)?”
- **Sergeant McEvoy**: “No they were all in 6x9 bags”

- **Officer Schaefer:** *“The old drugs were all in 6x9 bags and transferred into one 6x9 bag?”*
- **Sergeant McEvoy:** *“I believe so. We always had the same sized bags which are the 6x9’s”*

On January 30, 2023, the Administrative Services Supervisors advised Chief Anthony W. Rosa of the possible discrepancies in the K-9 Unit’s audit. On this date, Chief Rosa authorized a formal investigation into this matter.

The *Investigative Narrative* section outlines the details of my investigation into this matter and my conclusions with respect to any violations are found in the *Investigative Findings and Disposition* section.



SUNRISE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Anthony Rosa
Chief of Police

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

Internal Affairs Complaint Report Narrative

II. INVESTIGATIVE NARRATIVE:

On January 23, 2023, Administrative Officer Amanda Schaefer conducted an annual audit of the Sunrise Police K-9 Unit's training agents (narcotics) and noted some discrepancies in the weights of four (4) of the narcotics / training agents that were kept in the K-9 safe for use. When she inquired about the difference in weights and bag counts, Sergeant McEvoy stated to Officer Schaefer that after last year's audit (January 2022), the K-9 Unit received new narcotics / training agents from the DEA (February 2022). Sergeant McEvoy advised that he combined those four (4) older narcotics / training agents together, into one (1) bag per narcotics / training aid type, to form a larger sample for training purposes. He further stated that K-9 Officer Kim Parnofiello was present for this and witnessed him combine these four (4) older narcotics / training agents. The empty evidence bags and any residue were discarded by Sergeant McEvoy and K-9 Officer Parnofiello after the narcotics / training agents were combined. Additional older narcotics / training agents were placed into Property and Evidence and marked for destruction. The Introduction Section of this report describes the exact type of four (4) narcotics / training agents and the exact weight discrepancies documented by Officer Schaefer.

On January 30, 2023, Administrative Officer Schaefer and Sergeant McEvoy had conversation via text message about the size of the evidence bags that the old narcotics / training aids were contained in (and are since now discarded).

On January 30, 2023, The Administrative Services Supervisors advised Chief Anthony W. Rosa of the possible discrepancies in the K-9 Unit's audit. Chief Rosa authorized a formal investigation into this matter. Chief Rosa also ordered all of the current K-9 Unit's training agents (narcotics) to be seized by Internal Affairs and put into Property & Evidence until the conclusion of this investigation.

During the Month of February 2023, I obtained and reviewed all of the related police reports and previous audits related to the K-9 Unit's narcotics / training aids and their time line of when Sunrise Police received them, to when they were set for destruction. Also, all of the old narcotics / training aids that had been placed into Property and Evidence were all re-weighted for accuracy. All of the narcotics / training aids' weights (located in Property and Evidence) were found to be accurate. However, it was noted at this time that both the calibrations of K-9 Unit's narcotics scale and the Property and Evidence Unit's narcotic scale were expired. Assuring the department's scales are all current on their calibrations is typically a function of

the Administrative Services Division and should be done annually. This was brought to the attention of Chief Rosa.

On March 20, 2023, I issued both Sergeant McEvoy and K-9 Officer Parnofiello a *5-Day Notice* to make an appointment to give this investigator a statement regarding this investigation.

On March 21, 2023, I obtained a sworn taped statement from Sergeant McEvoy regarding this investigation. Sergeant McEvoy advised that he has been the supervisor in the K-9 Unit since May of 2021. He further advised there has never been any issues with any of the previous K-9 Unit's audits since he has been the supervisor. Sergeant McEvoy explained the process of how the K-9 Unit receives the training aids (narcotics) from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). He also advised that the DEA sends the training aids in one (1) twenty-eight (28) gram bag, per each narcotic / training aid. Sergeant McEvoy and Officer Parnofiello then separate each narcotic / training aid into three (3) separate bags with weights of 4-grams, 9-grams, and 15-grams for training purposes. This information and process is documented in an official Sunrise Police Report every time narcotics / training aids are received from the DEA. The purpose of breaking up the narcotics / training aids into four (4), nine (9), and fifteen (15) grams is because the different size odors have different scent pictures for the dogs.

Sergeant McEvoy advised that shortly after the January 2022 audit, the K-9 Unit received new narcotics / training aids from the DEA (February 2022), which were repackaged into the four (4), nine (9), and fifteen (15) gram packages. The old four (4), nine (9) and fifteen (15) gram packages were then combined into one (1) 6x9 evidence bag and the old empty evidence bags were discarded.

When asked about the process of discarding the empty bags, which used to contain the powder type narcotics / training aids, Sergeant McEvoy stated the following: *"Uh, I – I believe we – we enveloped 'em in our gloves, so we didn't get contamination everywhere or exposure, whatever, and – and discarded them"*.

I asked Sergeant McEvoy if he could recall specifically where he discarded the old bags, and he advised: *"Probably in the dumpster"*.

I asked Sergeant McEvoy if there may have been evidence tape left on the empty bags that were discarded, to which he replied: *"I don't specifically recall. There – there could have been"*.

I asked Sergeant McEvoy if it was possible that narcotic residue may still have been in the empty bags when they were discarded, and he stated: *"Yeah"*.

Sergeant McEvoy confirmed the text messages between himself and Officer Schaefer regarding the conversation about the exact size of the evidence bags that were discarded. This was an issue that needed to be figured out in order to determine the weights of the empty evidence bags that had since been discarded. Sergeant McEvoy recalled telling Officer Schaefer that he thought the empty evidence bags were all 6x9 (inches) in size. He recalled all the old narcotics / training aids that were combined into one (1) evidence bag as being in

separate 6x9 evidence bags, and then combining each of the four (4) different type of narcotics / training aids into one (1) 6x9 evidence bag. This would leave 4 (four) evidence bags, each with a different type of narcotic / training aid (Methamphetamine, Heroin, Cocaine HCl, and Cocaine Base). Each one (1) of these four (4) evidence bags would have been the combined four (4), nine (9), and fifteen (15) grams packages of each type of the four (4) listed old narcotics / training aids.

Sergeant McEvoy confirmed that everything else from the old narcotics / training aides were placed into Property and Evidence for destruction. They were not taken out of their individual packages. Sergeant McEvoy also advised that every Officer in the K-9 Unit currently has access to the narcotics / training aids, located in the K-9 Narcotics Safe. Sergeant McEvoy denied taking any narcotics / training aids for personal use or outside employment and believes that Officer Schaefer's discrepancies in the weights is because she assumed the old narcotics / training aids were in the smaller evidence bag size (6x4) and therefore used the wrong evidence bag weight for her calculations.

Sergeant McEvoy also advised this investigator, that he contacted Officer Schaefer when the K-9 Unit received the new narcotics / training aids just after the January 2022 K-9 audit in order to see if another inventory or audit was needed, to which Officer Schaefer told him it wasn't necessary.

Sergeant McEvoy allowed me to photograph the text message conversation between Officer Schaefer and himself regarding the size of the evidence bags and those photographs are contained within this case file. (See Sergeant McEvoy's transcripts for further information).

On March 21, 2023, I obtained a sworn taped statement from K-9 Officer Kim Parnofiello regarding this investigation. Officer Parnofiello has been in the K-9 Unit since September of 2014 and is considered the senior K-9 handler for the unit. She confirmed that when the K-9 Unit receives narcotics / training aids from the DEA, that it always comes in the amount of twenty-eight (28) grams of each particular narcotic / training aid. Officer Parnofiello further advised that both she and Sergeant McEvoy weigh the narcotics / training aids when they are received by the unit, and there has never been a discrepancy in the weight. After the original packages' weights from the DEA are confirmed to be twenty-eight (28) grams, she and Sergeant McEvoy break down the individual narcotic / training aid type into four (4), nine (9) and fifteen (15) grams packages.

I asked Officer Parnofiello to describe the process of breaking down the original twenty-eight (28) gram packages into the smaller packages and she advised: *"It usually is just the Sergeant and myself, which, um, one of the trainers. Uh, we weigh it on a scale. We put a piece of paper on the scale and we put the amount we're trying to lower the threshold too, so for 4 grams; once we reach that amount on the scale, we combine it into one of the 6x9 bags. And then we seal the bags using gloves. We conceal the, uh, old bag and discard it"*.

Officer Parnofiello also confirmed that shortly after the 2022 audit, the K-9 Unit received new narcotics / training aids from the DEA. Both her and Sergeant McEvoy submitted much of the old narcotics / training aids into Property and Evidence for destruction, since they were being replaced by the new narcotics / training aids. Officer Parnofiello also advised that they used the

new twenty-eight (28) gram packages of Methamphetamine, Heroin, Cocaine HCl, and Cocaine Base to make new four (4), nine (9), and fifteen (15) grams packages of each narcotic / training aid. However, they combined the old four (4), nine (9) and fifteen (15) gram packages of each of the above listed narcotics / training into one package per narcotic / training aid type.

Example:

Old Methamphetamine: (4) gm bag / (9) gm bag / (15) gm bag – all combined into one 6x9 evidence bag, now weighing 32.22 grams.

Old Heroin: (4) gm bag / (9) gm bag / (15) gm bag – all combined into one 6x9 evidence bag, now weighing 32.67 grams.

Old Cocaine HCl: (4) gm bag / (9) gm bag / (15) gm bag – all combined into one 6x9 evidence bag, now weighing 31.84 grams.

Old Cocaine Base: (4) gm bag / (9) gm bag / (15) gm bag – all combined into one 6x9 evidence bag, now weighing 32.13grams.

Officer Parnofiello stated that all of the old four (4), nine (9), and fifteen (15) gram packages of each different narcotic / training aid, were in 6x9 size evidence bags. She explained that she and Sergeant McEvoy combined them into one (1) 6x9 evidence bag and the old empty evidence bags. This process was repeated for each of the four (4) listed narcotics / training aids in the “Example” portion listed above.

I asked Officer Parnofiello how the empty evidence bags were discarded, to which she replied: *“I believe using my latex glove wrapped the – the bag that had the residue in it, and then we threw them all in the garbage”.*

I asked Officer Parnofiello if she used the garbage here at the Sunrise Police Department to dispose of the empty evidence bags, to which she advised: *“Probably here in – out into the dumpster”.*

I also inquired if she could recall if there was still evidence tape adhered to these empty evidence bags that were discarded, and Officer Parnofiello stated: *“Yes”.*

Since these four different narcotics / training agents were all of a powder form, I asked Officer Parnofiello if there was any narcotic residue left over in the empty evidence bags when they were discarded, and she advised: *“There was... yes”.*

Officer Parnofiello confirmed that only K-9 Unit Personnel have access to the K-9 narcotics safe, however the entire unit has access to it. It is currently not limited to a certain number of personnel from within the K-9 Unit. Officer Parnofiello also confirmed that there has never been an issue with any of the previous audits of the K-9 Unit’s narcotics / training aids since she has been in the unit. Officer Parnofiello did not believe anyone unlawfully removed any of

the narcotics / training aids and believes the discrepancies in Officer Schaefer's audit are due to her using the wrong evidence bag size (6x4 instead of 6x9) to calculate her audit weights.

I asked Officer Parnofiello if she took any of the narcotics / training aids out of the K-9 safe for personal reasons or any outside employment reasons, to which she replied: "*Absolutely not*". (See Officer Parnofiello's transcripts for further information).

On March 22, 2023, I obtained a sworn taped statement from K-9 Officer Ryan Biro regarding this investigation. Officer Biro has been in the K-9 Unit since March of 2019. Officer Biro has never participated in the receiving of narcotics / training aids from the DEA, nor did he participate in this year's or any of the previous years' audits of the K-9 Unit. Officer Biro further acknowledged that he does have access to the safe where the narcotics / training aids are kept. He also advised that he has checked narcotics / training aids out and used them for K-9 training purposes and returned them to the safe once training was completed.

I asked Officer Biro to explain the process of checking out narcotics / training aids from the safe, to which he stated: "*Sure. So, um, access the, uh, safe that's located in the canine office, um, where the training aids are held. Um, enter the code into the safe and then log out which, um, aids your checking out, whether it be, um, you know, whatever narcotic it is. Um, check it out. Um, you go conduct your training, come back, and check the narcotics back in. Um, weighing and verifying with check-out and check-in*".

I asked Officer Biro if he has ever removed any of the K-9 Unit's narcotics / training aids for personal reasons or outside employment, to which he replied: "*No*".

I also asked Officer Biro if he knew of anyone who has taken or stolen any of the K-9 Unit's narcotics / training aids, to which he stated: "*No*". (See Officer Biro's transcripts for further information).

On March 22, 2023, I obtained a sworn taped statement from K-9 Officer Michelle Malave regarding this investigation. Officer Malave has been in the K-9 Unit since March of 2018. Officer Malave has never participated in the receiving of narcotics / training aids from the DEA, nor did she participate in this year's or any of the previous years' audits of the K-9 Unit. Officer Malave further acknowledged that she does have access to the safe where the narcotics / training aids are kept. She also advised that she has checked narcotics / training aids out and used them for K-9 training purposes and returned them to the safe once training was completed.

I asked Officer Malave to explain the process of checking out narcotics / training aids from the safe, to which she stated: "*So you log in with the combination, take the whatever training narcotic aids are used for that particular training day. Uh, we have a log which each officer has to fill out, and that would be if it's kind of like, uh, categories, you could say, the type of narcotic, the weight of the narcotic, um, what is gonna be taken out. Uh, then we double, triple check, make sure everything is, uh, noted down correctly. After that we – whatever remaining narcotics are not being used, we put back into the safe. Um, and then whoever returns the narcotics, whether that be whoever checked out or another member of the K-9 Unit, you go*

through the same steps where you are now checking back in those same aids, double checking the weights, securing them back into the safe”.

I asked Officer Malave if she has ever removed any of the K-9 Unit’s narcotics / training aids for personal reasons or outside employment, to which she replied: “No”.

I also asked Officer Malave if she knew of anyone who has taken or stolen any of the K-9 Unit’s narcotics / training aids, to which she stated: “No”. (See Officer Malave transcripts for further information).

On March 23, 2023, I obtained a sworn taped statement from K-9 Officer Eric Plunske regarding this investigation. Officer Plunske has been in the K-9 Unit since November of 2021. Officer Plunske has never participated in the receiving of narcotics / training aids from the DEA, nor did he participate in this year’s or any of the previous years’ audits of the K-9 Unit. Officer Plunske further acknowledged that he does have access to the safe where the narcotics / training aids are kept. He also advised that he has checked narcotics / training aids out and used them for K-9 training purposes and returned them to the safe once training was completed.

I asked Officer Plunske to explain the process of checking out narcotics / training aids from the safe, to which he stated: *“Whenever we sign out there’s a, uh, binder that has a, uh, a log of the sign-out – sign-out time – sign-out weight. And when again when we, uh, return it, sign-in time sign-in weight”.* Officer Plunske confirmed that the narcotics / training aids are weighed on the K-9 scale whenever they are taken out of the safe, and again upon their return back to the safe, and these weights are documented in a binder specifically for the logging of the narcotics / training aids in and out of the safe.

I asked Officer Plunske if he has ever removed any of the K-9 Unit’s narcotics / training aids for personal reasons or outside employment, to which he replied: “No”.

I also asked Officer Plunske if he knew of anyone who has taken or stolen any of the K-9 Unit’s narcotics / training aids, to which he stated: “No”. (See Officer Plunske’s transcripts for further information).

On March 23, 2023, I obtained a sworn taped statement from K-9 Officer Mitchell White regarding this investigation. Officer White has been in the K-9 Unit from February of 2015. Officer White has never participated in the receiving of narcotics / training aids from the DEA, nor did he participate in this year’s or any of the previous years’ audits of the K-9 Unit. Officer White further acknowledged that he does have access to the safe where the narcotics / training aids are kept. He also advised that he has checked narcotics / training aids out and used them for K-9 training purposes and returned them to the safe once training was completed.

I asked Officer White to explain the process of checking out narcotics / training aids from the safe, to which he stated: *“So when – if I’m checking ‘em out, I will take whatever narcotics aids we’re using for that training event. Uh, we’ll weigh them individually, uh, log the weights in with the, um, with the log sheet that we have, put ‘em back in the canvas, um, bag that we use. I’ll put ‘em back in our pelican case. I will then transport ‘em to our specified training location for that night. Um, if I’m the one checking out, I’ll normally handle it, get it back at*

the end of the night, repeat the process, weigh 'em back in, log it, and put 'em back in the safe”.

I asked Officer White if he has ever removed any of the K-9 Unit’s narcotics / training aids for personal reasons or outside employment, to which he replied: *“No sir”*.

I also asked Officer White if he knew of anyone who has taken or stolen any of the K-9 Unit’s narcotics / training aids, to which he stated: *“No sir”*. (See Officer White’s transcripts for further information).

On March 27, 2023, I obtained s sworn taped statement from K-9 Officer Troy Stanley regarding this investigation. Officer Stanley has been in the K-9 Unit since April of 2015. Officer Stanley has never participated in the receiving of narcotics / training aids from the DEA, nor did he participate in this year’s or any of the previous years’ audits of the K-9 Unit. Officer Stanley further acknowledged that he does have access to the safe where the narcotics / training aids are kept. However, he couldn’t recall the last time he actually checked narcotics / training aids out for training purposes.

Officer Stanley confirmed that the narcotics / training aids are weighed on the K-9 scale whenever they are taken out of the safe, and again upon their return back to the safe, and these weights are documented in a binder specifically for the logging of the narcotics / training aids in and out of the safe.

I asked Officer Stanley if he has ever removed any of the K-9 Unit’s narcotics / training aids for personal reasons or outside employment, to which he replied: *“No sir”*.

I also asked Officer Stanley if he knew of anyone who has taken or stolen any of the K-9 Unit’s narcotics / training aids, to which he stated: *“No sir”*. (See Officer Stanley’s transcripts for further information).

On March 27, 2023, I obtained a sworn taped statement from Administrative Officer Amanda Schaefer regarding this investigation. Officer Schaefer has been in the Administrative Services Division since February of 2011. Officer Schaefer confirmed that she normally conducts the K-9 Unit audit on an annual basis, and whenever there is a change in the supervisor’s position in the unit. I asked Officer Schaefer to explain the typical process of the annual audit of the K-9 Unit, to which she stated: *“So each year, I bring down the previous year’s inventory to Canine – to the Canine Unit. They pull out their narcotics. And they put it on a scale. Each narcotic that’s listed they put it on a scale and weigh it. I – I mark down the new weights and compare to the previous year’s inventory”*.

I asked Officer Schaefer if there has ever been a discrepancy in the weights of the narcotics / training aids in any of the previous audits of the K-9 Unit, to which she advised: *“No”*.

Officer Schafer confirmed that the word document contained within her memorandum to the Chief of Police regarding this year’s K-9 Unit audit, was completed by Lieutenant West based upon numbers or calculations provided by her (Officer Schaefer). These calculations included the weights of whatever evidence bags the narcotics / training agents were contained in. In this

case, the weight of the 6x4 evidence bags were used by Officer Schaefer, not the weights of the 6x9 evidence bags, which Sergeant McEvoy stated the narcotics / training aids were in. Officer Schaefer described how she came up with those numbers and weights was by comparing last year's audit, to this year's audit and adding together the previous weights of the narcotics / training aids that Sergeant McEvoy advised were combined during the time between the two (2) audits (2022 & 2023).

Officer Schaefer allowed me to photograph the text message conversation between Sergeant McEvoy and herself regarding the size of the evidence bags and those photographs are contained within this case file. Officer Schaefer confirmed that Sgt. McEvoy stated that the evidence bags used were the 6x9 bags.

Officer Schaefer confirmed that she checked in Property and Evidence for the old discarded (empty) evidence bags to confirm their size and they were not with the rest of the old narcotics / training aids that were set for destruction. I asked her if, as part of her audit, she ever asked Sergeant McEvoy what he did with the old empty evidence bags, and she stated: "No".

I asked Officer Schaefer if taking photographs of the narcotics / training aids, or the evidence bags they were contained in, was ever of part of the audit process, to which she advised: "No".

Officer Schaefer also confirmed that at the time of notifying the Chief of Police about the weight discrepancies in this audit, no one in the Administrative Services Division knew with 100% certainty what size evidence bags the old narcotics / training aids were stored in.

Since this investigator found both the K-9 Unit's scale calibration and the Property and Evidence scale calibration to be expired, I asked Officer Schaefer if she knew when was the last time the K-9 scale was calibrated, to which she stated: "*I do not know off hand. I know it's been a while*".

I asked Officer Schaefer if an uncalibrated scale could have an effect on the weights of narcotics / training aids, to which she replied: "*Possibly*".

I asked Officer Schaefer if Sergeant McEvoy ever contacted her when the K-9 Unit received the new narcotics / training aids from the DEA in February 2022, after her audit was conducted one month prior in January 2022. This is when Sergeant McEvoy would have been preparing to put some of the old narcotics / training aids into Property and Evidence for destruction and combine some of the other ones for future training purposes. Officer Schaefer confirmed that Sergeant McEvoy did contact her to see if she wanted to do another audit or inventory of the K-9 Unit shortly after receiving the new narcotics / training aids from the DEA. Officer Schaefer advised that she checked with her Lieutenant (Lieutenant West) who instructed her to just take that information into account during her next audit in January of 2023.

Prior to going on tape with Officer Schaefer, we reviewed the police reports, which documented when the new narcotics / training aids were received by the K-9 Unit from the DEA and her old 2022 K-9 Unit audit paperwork. After reviewing her documented weights from the previous 2022 K-9 audit, we were able to conclude the only possible evidence bags that the old narcotics / training aids were stored in (that have since been discarded), could only

have been the 6x9 evidence bags and not the 6x4 evidence bags, based on her own 2022 audit numbers and the difference in weights between the 6x4 evidence bags and the 6x9 evidence bags. Therefore, the appearance of a weight discrepancy was due to using the weight of the wrong size evidence bag (6x4) and not the correct size evidence bag (6x9) when both she and Lieutenant West did their calculations. (This will be explained in greater detail in the Findings and Dispositions Section of this report) (See Officer Schaefer's transcripts for further information).

On March 28, 2023, I obtained a sworn taped statement from Administrative Lieutenant Michael West regarding this investigation. Lieutenant West has been the Lieutenant in the Administrative Services Division since January of 2020, and he is currently the direct supervisor of Administrative Officer Amanda Schaefer. Lieutenant West confirmed that he was not present for the January 2023 audit of the K-9 Unit's narcotics / training aids and that he delegated that responsibility to Officer Schaefer.

Lieutenant West confirmed that he had done other past audits of the K-9 Unit's narcotics / training aids and is therefore very familiar with the process. I asked him to explain the process of the audit, to which he advised: *"Yes, so when I was a Sergeant in the Research and Planning, uh, Unit, I used to conduct these, um, audits, uh, per CFA standards and policy and procedure. And we would also annually, uh, audit the, uh, stored narcotics, uh, by the Canine Unit. Um, what we would do is we would, uh, refer – using the last – the previous year's audit, look at the, uh, open the safe, make sure – make sure that the safe has, uh, proper security standards and integrity's there. Um, get their sign out sheets of the, uh, drugs, get the packages of the drugs, inspect the packages, make sure that there's no puncture holes, make sure everything's good, make sure that the tape is sealed, um, and everything is, uh, looking good with those. Then we would weigh those drugs and compare 'em to last year's weights. And, uh, we would record those, uh, weights on a, uh, spreadsheet and we would write a memorandum to the Chief of Police explaining our findings and recommendations if there were any"*.

I asked Lieutenant West if, prior to this year, he knew of any other K-9 Unit inventory where there were discrepancies, to which he stated: *"No"*.

Lieutenant West also confirmed that he used the information provided by Officer Schaefer for his word document and calculations of what the weights should be. Also, he advised that he used the weights of the 6x4 evidence bags (not the 6x9 evidence bags), which was also provided to him by Officer Schaefer.

I asked Lieutenant West if he knew for sure what size evidence bags were used to store the old narcotics / training aids in, to which he advised: *"No"*.

Since the calibration of all of the Sunrise Police Department scales is typically a function of the Administrative Services Division, I asked Lieutenant West if he knew the last time the K-9 Unit scale was calibrated, and he stated: *"No"*.

I asked Lieutenant West if an uncalibrated scale could also cause a fluctuation in weight and he advised: *"Uh, it could"*.

Since both Sergeant McEvoy and Officer Schaefer advised this investigator that Sergeant McEvoy contacted her and asked Officer Schaefer if another inventory was needed after the K-9 Unit received new narcotics / training aids, shortly after the January 2022 audit, I asked Lieutenant West if Sergeant McEvoy contacted Officer Schaefer when the new narcotics / training aids were received, and when Sergeant McEvoy subsequently combined the old narcotics / training aids, to which Lieutenant West stated: "*I don't know*". (See Lieutenant West's transcripts for further information.)



SUNRISE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Anthony Rosa
Chief of Police

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Internal Affairs Complaint Report Narrative

III. INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS and DISPOSITION:

If Chief Anthony W. Rosa's preliminary complaint report is true, a member of the K-9 Unit may have caused narcotics / training aids to go missing – or may have unlawfully appropriated them for their own use.

Based on a preponderance of evidence standard, I conclude that there are no missing K-9 narcotics / training aids. There are however, some suggestions for improvements of the K-9 Unit's process of handling narcotics / training aids that will be brought to the attention of Acting Chief Daniel J. Ransone for consideration. The following is a list of factors that led me to this decision:

This investigation has shown that Administrative Services Division did not know with 100% certainty what size evidence bags the old narcotics / training aids were stored in. These would have been the empty evidence bags that were discarded by Sergeant McEvoy and Officer Parnofiello once they combined the old 4-gram, 9-gram, 15-gram packages of Methamphetamine, Heroin, Cocaine HCl, and Cocaine Base. The fact that these bags were discarded prior to the 2023 audit, left the exact size and weight of the evidence bags to be undetermined and open to speculation by the Administrative Services Division during the most recent audit of the K-9 Unit.

The text message thread turned over to this investigator between Sergeant McEvoy and Officer Schaefer confirms the confusion of which size evidence bags were used and ultimately discarded. Officer Schaefer mistakenly interpreted Sergeant McEvoy's description of "small bag" as a 6x4 evidence bag and not a 6x9 evidence bag. In both Sergeant McEvoy and Officer Parnofiello's sworn statement, they were adamant that the evidence bags size in question were the 6x9 bags.

During the course of this investigation, Sergeant Jessica Stewart and I obtained the two size evidence bags (6x4 and 6x9) in question from the Property and Evidence Unit. Both of the empty evidence bags were weighted (twice) to determine the weights of the empty bags with the following results:

- **6x4 evidence bags** – weighed between **3.35gms – 3.49gms**. (See actual bag in case file)
- **6x9 evidence bags** – weighed between **5.7gms – 6.05gms**. (See actual bag in case file)

After reviewing all of the paperwork / reports and the time line of the 4 (four) narcotics / training aids in question of having discrepancies, (Methamphetamine, Heroin, Cocaine HCl, and Cocaine Base) it was documented that Sunrise Police Department's K-9 Unit always receives twenty-eight (28) grams of raw narcotic / training aid per each type from the DEA. It was also documented that the K-9 Unit broke each of the four (4) narcotics / training aids down from the single twenty-eight (28) gram package into four (4), nine (9), and fifteen (15) gram packages:

- **4-gram + 9-gram + 15-gram = 28 GRAMS**

Using the twenty-eight (28) grams for each type, as well as Officer Schaefer's numbers / weights from the 2022 K-9 audit, this investigator was able to calculate what size evidence bag was used to store the old narcotics / training aids by taking out the weight of the narcotics / training aids, leaving the weight of the three (3) evidence bags that the four (4), nine (9), and fifteen (15) gram packages were stored in. The following calculation was used to determine the evidence bag size:

- **Total weight of each of the four narcotics / training aids – minus the 28 raw narcotics / training aids = (the total weight of the 3 evidence bags) – divide this total weight of 3 evidence bags by 3 = the average weight of each evidence bag.**

Below are the calculations for each narcotic / training aid type obtained from Officer Schaefer's 2022 K-9 Unit audit:

2022 Methamphetamine:

- 3 (three) separate weights of 9.83 grams, 14.86 grams, and 20.56 grams (Total weight: 45.25 grams).
- 45.25 grams – 28 grams of raw Methamphetamine = 17.25 grams of evidence bags.
- 17.25 grams divided by 3 = 5.75 grams per bag.
- 5.75 grams = weight consistent with the **6x9 evidence bags**.

2022 Heroin:

- 3 (three) separate weights of 9.88 grams, 14.8 grams, and 20.87 grams (Total weight: 45.55 grams).
- 45.55 grams – 28 grams of raw Heroin = 17.55 grams of evidence bags.
- 17.55 grams divided by 3 = 5.85 grams per bag.
- 5.85 grams = weight consistent with the **6x9 evidence bags**.

2022 Cocaine HCl:

- 3 (three) separate weights of 9.99 grams, 14.75 grams, and 20.79 grams. (Total weight: 45.53 grams).
- 45.53 grams – 28 grams of raw Cocaine HCl = 17.53 grams of evidence bags.
- 17.53 grams divided by 3 = 5.84 grams per bag.
- 5.84 grams = weight consistent with the **6x9 evidence bags**.

2022 Cocaine Base:

- 3 (three) separate weights of 9.96 grams, 14.87 grams, and 20.92 grams. (Total weight: 45.75 grams)
- 45.75 grams – 28 grams of raw Cocaine Base = 17.75 grams of evidence bags.
- 17.75 grams divided by 3 = 5.91 grams per bag.
- 5.91 grams = weight consistent with the **6x9 evidence bags**.

The above calculations indicate that all of the evidence bags that were discarded by Sergeant McEvoy and Officer Parnofiello when they combined each of the four (4) narcotics / training aids were in fact, 6x9 in size. Using the average weights of each individual evidence bags, this investigator recalculated Officer Schaefer's discrepancy weights for each of for (4) narcotics / training aids (Methamphetamine, Heroin, Cocaine HCl, and Cocaine Base). It should be noted that Officer Schaefer's discrepancy weights did not account for any weights for the evidence bags:

Methamphetamine:

- Officer Schaefer's calculations: Total 2022 weight of 45.25 grams – Total 2023 weight of 32.22 grams = **Old discrepancy total of 13.03 grams.**
- New calculations: accounting for two (2) 6x9 evidence bags being discarded: Total 2022 weight of 45.25 grams – 11.5 grams of discarded evidence bags (two 6x9 evidence bags @ 5.75grams each = 11.5 grams) = 33.75 grams.
- 33.75 grams – Total 2023 weight of 32.22 grams = **New discrepancy total of 1.53 grams.**

Heroin:

- Officer Schaefer's calculations: Total 2022 weight of 45.55 grams – Total 2023 weight of 32.67 grams = **Old discrepancy total of 12.88 grams.**
- New calculations: accounting for two (2) 6x9 evidence bags being discarded: Total 2022 weight of 45.55 grams – 11.7 grams of discarded evidence bags (two 6x9 evidence bags @ 5.85grams each = 11.7 grams) = 33.85 grams.
- 33.85 grams – Total 2023 weight of 32.67 grams = **New discrepancy total of 1.18 grams.**

Cocaine HCl:

- Officer Schaefer's calculations: Total 2022 weight of 45.53 grams – Total 2023 weight of 31.84 grams = **Old discrepancy total of 13.69 grams.**
- New calculations: accounting for two (2) 6x9 evidence bags being discarded: Total 2022 weight of 45.53 grams – 11.68 grams of discarded evidence bags (two 6x9 evidence bags @ 5.84 grams each = 11.68 grams) = 33.85 grams.
- 33.85 grams – Total 2023 weight of 31.84 grams = **New discrepancy total of 2.01 grams.**

Cocaine Base:

- Officer Schaefer's calculations: Total 2022 weight of 45.75 grams – Total 2023 weight of 32.13 grams = **Old discrepancy total of 13.62 grams.**
- New calculations: accounting for two (2) 6x9 evidence bags being discarded: Total 2022 weight of 45.75 grams – 11.82 grams of discarded evidence bags (two 6x9 evidence bags @ 5.91 grams each = 11.82 grams) = 33.93 grams.
- 33.93 grams – Total 2023 weight of 32.13 grams = **New discrepancy total of 1.80 grams.**

IV: CONCLUSION:

All of the new discrepancies are between 1.18 grams and 2.01 grams. This very minute amount is most likely due to the left over narcotic / training aid residue that was inside each of the empty 6x9 evidence bags when they were discarded. In addition to the residue, there would have been evidence tape as well as a label on each of the empty evidence bags. Therefore, this investigator can reasonably conclude that there are no missing or unaccounted for narcotics / training aids as

originally reported in Officer Schaefer's memorandum to Chief Anthony W. Rosa concerning the 2023 K-9 Unit audit.

There are several factors which could have provided better clarity during the K-9 audit, which will be listed below and recommended for Acting Chief Daniel J. Ransone's approval moving forward:

- All scales throughout the Sunrise Police Department (6 in total) should be calibrated annually by the Administrative Services Division.
- A member of either the Administrative Services Division or the Internal Affairs Unit should be present as a witness whenever new narcotics / training aids are received from the DEA and they are broken down into smaller scent packages for training.
- All old narcotics / training aids that are no longer needed for training purposes and the empty evidence bags (with residue) should be placed into the Property and Evidence and scheduled for destruction together. Empty evidence bags that once contained narcotics should not be disposed of in the dumpster.
- Whenever narcotics are going to be combined into larger amounts or broke down into smaller amounts by the K-9 Unit, a member of the Administrative Services Division or the Internal Affairs Unit should be present as a witness.
- All K-9 Unit narcotics / training aids should be in their respective packages and labeled by type, weight, as well as the year so it is clear which ones are old and which ones are new or current. (ex: Heroin – 9 grams – 2023)
- Only two (2) members of the K-9 Unit should have access to the K-9 safe where the narcotics / training aids are stored. It is recommended that the K-9 Sergeant and a senior K-9 Officer should be designated as the personnel who have access.

This investigation will be classified as: **UNFOUNDED**



Lt. P. Brian Katz, Internal Affairs

6/28/2023

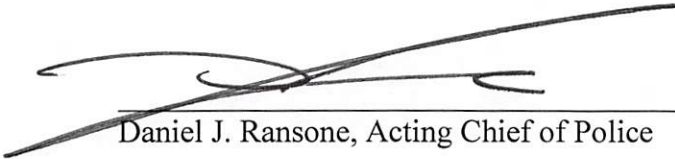
Date



Richard Alexander, Deputy Chief

6/29/23

Date



Daniel J. Ransone, Acting Chief of Police

6/29/2023

Date