



SUNRISE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Daniel J. Ransone
Chief of Police

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



Internal Affairs Complaint Report Narrative

I. INTRODUCTION:

Subject Employee: Strategic Investigations Section

Complainant: Chief Daniel J. Ransone

Witnesses: N/A

Narrative:

During an unrelated unfolding Administrative Investigation and subsequent Criminal Investigation into the alleged misconduct of Sunrise Police Sergeant, herein referred to as Sergeant #2 – IA CASE 23-06-01, certain protective measures were deployed to ensure the overall safety and security of our Public Safety Building, specific to our IT vulnerability.

As such, members of the Broward County Sheriff's Office were utilized to provide recommendations on building security as it relates to IT Security. Members from the Broward Sheriff's Office conducted security checks in various high liability areas, to include [REDACTED]. During a safety sweep of this suite, a cellular phone was located on the overhead cable run ("L" shaped indentation running above the cubicles, approximately 1 foot below the ceiling tiles, on the west side of the suite). The phone was taken into the custody of Internal Affairs personnel.

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



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II. INVESTIGATIVE NARRATIVE:

During an unrelated unfolding Administrative Investigation and subsequent Criminal Investigation into the alleged misconduct of Sunrise Police Sergeant, herein referred to as Sergeant #2 – IA CASE 23-06-01, certain protective measures were deployed to ensure the overall safety and security of our Public Safety Building, specific to our IT vulnerability.

As such, members of the Broward County Sheriff's Office were utilized to provide recommendations on building security as it relates to IT Security. Members from the Broward Sheriff's Office conducted security checks in various high liability areas, to include [REDACTED]. During a safety sweep of this suite, a cellular phone was located on the overhead cable run ("L" shaped indentation running above the cubicles, approximately 1 foot below the ceiling tiles, on the west side of the suite). The phone was taken into the custody of Internal Affairs personnel.

Based upon the fact the cellular phone was located in a "common" area of the SIS Suite, care custody and control of the phone before it came to rest in the cable run was not immediately able to be determined. As such, all members of SIS – Civilians, Detectives, and Supervisors were issued 5 Day Notices.

Contemporaneous with the decision to issue 5 Day Notices, I enlisted the assistance of Detective [REDACTED] from our Digital Investigations Unit. I tasked Detective [REDACTED] with identifying the owner of the cellular phone, the phone number associated with the phone or any other information linking the cellular phone to its owner or any Sunrise PD case.

Detective [REDACTED] was able to provide a phone number for the cellular phone and documented his findings on a sworn written report. The phone number discovered was 727-227-0262.

While querying the phone number through our RMS Database, I was able to discover that the phone number was attached to Sunrise Police Department case number 42-2301-003550. The owner of the phone was listed as Danny Walker, who was the subject of a Burglary investigation conducted by Detective [REDACTED].

The following is a time line of the Burglary investigation(s) conducted by Detective [REDACTED] and members of SIS as it relates to the arrest of suspect Danny Walker.

December 6, 2022 – 21V at One Fitness Parking lot – SPD Case 42-2212-052972

- Assigned to Det. [REDACTED]

January 9, 2023 – Sergeant [REDACTED] begins new assignment as SIS Supervisor

January 22, 2023 – 21V at Markham Park – SPD Case 42-2301-003550

- Assigned to Det. [REDACTED]

February 9, 2023 – Det. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] members conduct take down of vehicle burglary suspects after on-viewing a 21V at 11 SW 24th Ave in the City of Deerfield Beach.

- BWC footage from Det. [REDACTED] revealed that during the take down of suspected vehicle burglar Danny Walker, his cellular phone fell to the ground. The phone was recovered by Det. [REDACTED]



- Danny Walker is arrested by [REDACTED] under BSO Case 10-2302-001578
- Inmate property receipt for Danny Walker does not reflect a cellular phone
- Sunrise Property and Evidence does not show any property associated with either of the aforementioned cases listed in their custody.
- No property receipt or chain of custody documentation for Danny Walker's phone attached to either report or listed in evidence.com

Continuing on February 9, 2023 – Det. [REDACTED] authors a search warrant for the T-Mobile historical cell site location (CSLI) of Danny Walker's above pictured cellular phone 772-227-0262. The warrant is signed by the Honorable Judge Barbara Duffy.

February 20, 2023 – Det. [REDACTED] receives results of the search warrant from T-Mobile and uses the results to link Danny Walker’s phone location to the two Sunrise vehicle burglaries listed above.

February 22, 2023 – Det. [REDACTED] authors an arrest warrant for Danny Walker which is granted by the Honorable Judge Michael Rothschild.

February 23, 2023 – [REDACTED] takes Danny Walker into custody for the outstanding warrant.

April 24, 2023 – Case filing recommendations are received from the Broward County SAO declining the case against Danny Walker.

Decline Comments - DECLINE BSO COUNT 2 & COUNT 5 NO SWORN STATEMENT FROM VICTIM. DECLINE BSO COUNTS 1, 3 & 4. INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE PRESENTED THAT THIS SUSPECT WAS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT TO OFFENSE. NO IDENTIFICATION. SUSPECT WAS OBSERVED USING VICTIM'S CREDIT CARD AT WALMART, NO SWORN STATEMENT (AFFIDAVIT FROM WALMART EMPLOYEE REGARDING USE OF CARD. NO SWORN STATEMENT /AFFIDAVIT IDENTIFYING SUSPECT IN WALMART VIDEO.

April 30, 2023 – Sergeant [REDACTED] reassigned to Road Patrol.

May 1, 2023 – Sergeant [REDACTED] is assigned to SIS.

July 9, 2023 – Detectives [REDACTED] are reassigned to Road Patrol.

August 6, 2023 – During an unrelated unfolding Administrative Investigation and subsequent Criminal Investigation into the alleged misconduct of Sunrise Police Sergeant, herein referred to as Sergeant #2 – IA CASE 23-06-01, certain protective measures were deployed to ensure the overall safety and security of the PSB, specific to our IT vulnerability.

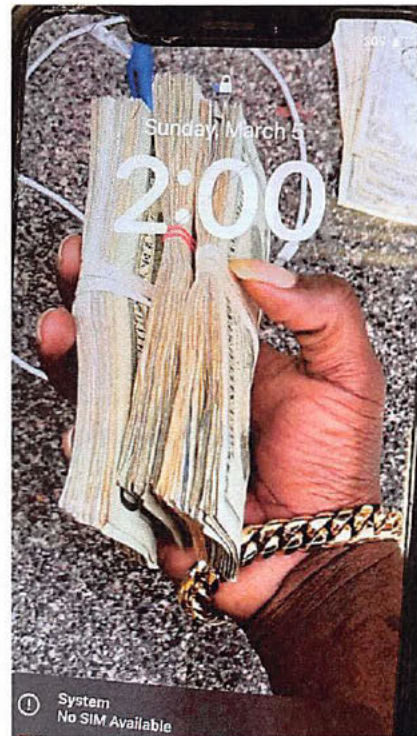
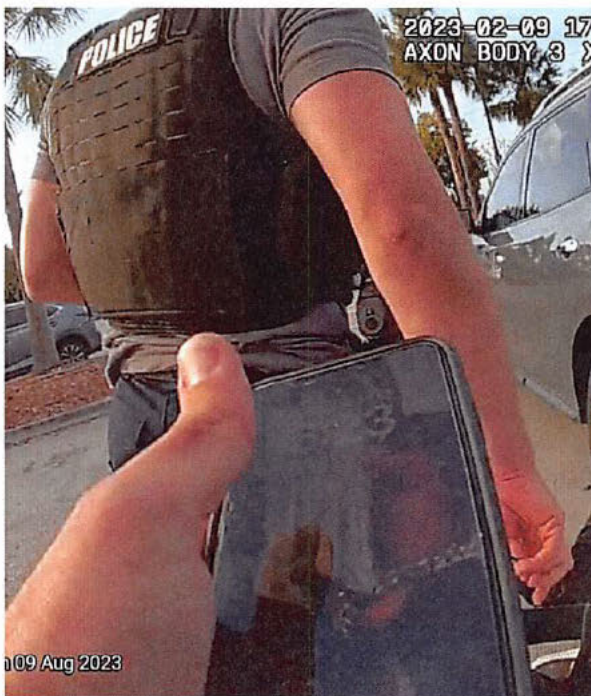
As such, members of the Broward County Sheriff’s Office were utilized to provide recommendations on building security as it relates to IT Security. Members from the Broward Sheriff’s Office conducted security checks in various high liability areas, to include [REDACTED] [REDACTED] During a safety sweep of this suite, a cellular phone was located on the overhead cable run (“L” shaped indentation running above the cubicles, approximately 1 foot below the ceiling tiles, on the west side of the suite). The phone was taken into the custody of Internal Affairs personnel.

August 7, 2023 – Command Staff briefed and investigation authorized.

- SIM Card from the phone revealed the last number registered was 772 227 0262. The number was found to be directly associated with Danny Walker.

August 8-9, 2023 – Report and information gathering revealed that the CSLI Search warrant was not memorialized in evidence.com, nor made part of the case filing packet sent to the SAO. Broward County Clerk of Court DOES NOT have record of the CSLI search warrant ever being clerked. I was able to obtain a copy of the CSLI warrant via a T-Mobile LEO representative.

While searching for BWC footage from members of SIS on February 9, 2023 the only footage found was a 3-minute video recorded by Detective [REDACTED] during the takedown of Danny Walker mentioned above. After reviewing this video, I was able to positively confirm that the phone in his possession at the time of the take down is Danny Walker’s phone. The back case is a unique gold color with a unique black design. Furthermore, Detective [REDACTED] activates the screen of the phone and his BWC captures the unique home screen image, which is the exact same image as the phone found in SIS.



On October 16, 2023, I issued Lieutenant [REDACTED] an Official Notice of an Internal Affairs Investigation. Later that day, I spoke with Lieutenant [REDACTED] and he promptly responded to meet with me and provide a statement.

I interviewed Lieutenant [REDACTED] in the 5th Floor Administrative Conference Room and took a sworn, recorded Statement. Lieutenant [REDACTED] received the entire case file before he provided his statement, and he did not bring an attorney or representative to the interview. Lieutenant [REDACTED] is the Unit Commander for the Strategic Investigations Section and was in that role at the time of the incident in question. Lieutenant [REDACTED] stated that he was aware of the operation involving a burglary suspect and does recall the case involving Danny Walker, but not the specifics of the case. Lieutenant [REDACTED] stated that he was not present at the take down of Danny Walker on February 9, 2023 and he has had no contact with Danny Walker. Furthermore, Lieutenant [REDACTED] stated that he had no knowledge of any personal property taken from Danny Walker, and no knowledge specific to Danny Walker's cellular phone or the whereabouts of said phone after the take down.

Also on October 16, 2023, Sergeant [REDACTED] was issued an Official Notice of an Internal Affairs Investigation. Later that day, I spoke with Sergeant Wilds and on October 17, 2023, he met with me to provide a statement.

I interviewed Sergeant [REDACTED] in the 5th Floor Administrative Conference Room and took a sworn, recorded Statement. Sergeant [REDACTED] received the entire case file before he provided his statement, and he did not bring an attorney or representative to the interview. Sergeant [REDACTED] a 10-year veteran of the Sunrise Police Department is the current Sergeant within the Strategic Investigation Section. He has held this position since May 1, 2023. According to Sergeant [REDACTED] he had no prior knowledge or involvement with the case involving Danny Walker. The take down and subsequent investigation occurred prior to him assuming his current supervisory role in SIS. Sergeant [REDACTED] stated that he had no knowledge of the phone or the location of the phone within the SIS Suite.

On October 25, 2023, Detectives [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were all issued an Official Notice of an Internal Affairs Investigation. Later that day, I spoke with all three Detectives and each promptly responded to provide a statement.

I interviewed Detective [REDACTED] inside the Internal Affairs Office and took a sworn, recorded Statement. Detective [REDACTED] received the entire case file before he provided his statement, and he did not bring an attorney or representative to the interview. Detective [REDACTED] stated that he did have limited involvement in the Burglary Operation and take down of suspect Danny Walker on February 9, 2023. Detective [REDACTED] stated that he was on scene of the take down but arrived late and was only present for the post take down process and not directly involved at the moment of the take down. Detective [REDACTED] stated that he

did recall that the case was handled by Detective [REDACTED] and that Detective [REDACTED] was also present at the take down. Detective [REDACTED] stated that their immediate supervisor, Sergeant [REDACTED] was not present at the take down location.

Detective [REDACTED] stated that he did have knowledge that Danny Walker's cellular phone was taken for search warrant purposes, but he did not recall seeing the phone inside the SIS Suite, nor did he have any contact with the phone after February 9, 2023.

Detective [REDACTED] did recall that he had subsequent contact with Danny Walker in August of 2023 stemming from an arrest he effected on him for burglary. During this arrest, Detective [REDACTED] did take possession of Danny Walker's cellular phone and did place it into SPD Property and Evidence via the proper procedures (please refer to evidence submission printout). During this subsequent arrest and encounter, Detective [REDACTED] stated that at no time did Danny Walker inquire about his cellular phone taken during his arrest on February 9, 2023.

I then interviewed Detective [REDACTED] inside the Internal Affairs Office and took a sworn, recorded Statement. Detective [REDACTED] received the entire case file before he provided his statement, and he did not bring an attorney or representative to the interview. Detective [REDACTED] is currently assigned to the BSO Burglary Apprehension Team as a Task Force Officer. As such, he rarely conducts police business within the PSB, and he retains a separate primary workspace at an offsite location. As such he does not have an assigned work space or cubicle within the SIS Suite. However, he does have access to said suite. Detective [REDACTED] stated that he was not present during the arrest or take down of Danny Walker on February 9, 2023 and did not have any involvement in the case. Detective [REDACTED] stated that he did not see the phone in the SIS Suite and had no knowledge of anyone having possession of it.

Detective [REDACTED] stated that he has not had any contact with Danny Walker prior to or after his arrest. Furthermore, Detective [REDACTED] had no knowledge of any property receipt being completed for Danny Walker's cellular phone. Although Detective [REDACTED] did not have any involvement in the investigation, he did recall that the investigation was being handled by Detective [REDACTED] with the assistance of Detective [REDACTED]

I then interviewed Detective [REDACTED] in the 5th Floor Administrative Conference Room and took a sworn, recorded Statement. Detective [REDACTED] received the entire case file before he provided his statement, and he did not bring an attorney or representative to the interview. Detective [REDACTED] has been a SIS Detective since 2019, and was part of a Task Force which operated outside of the PSB. Detective [REDACTED] returned from this assignment on or about July 10, 2023. As such, he stated that he did not have any involvement with the investigation involving Danny Walker culminating with his arrest on February 9, 2023. Detective [REDACTED] also stated that he

had no knowledge of the whereabouts of Danny Walker's cellular phone stemming from the February 9th case.

When asked if he had any contact with Danny Walker after February 9, 2023, Detective [REDACTED] stated that he did have contact with him in August of 2023, and took part in his arrest for burglary (the same burglary investigation Detective [REDACTED] referenced). According to Detective [REDACTED] he spent several hours with Danny Walker during his subsequent arrest in August of 2023, and Detective [REDACTED] did not believe that Danny Walker ever made any mention of his cellular phone or asked about his cellular phone stemming from the February 9th take down.

On November 7, 2023, Detectives [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] along with Criminal Intelligence Analyst [REDACTED] were all issued an Official Notice of an Internal Affairs Investigation. All three agreed to provide a statement the same day.

I interviewed Detective [REDACTED] in 5th Floor Administrative Conference Room and took a sworn, recorded Statement. Detective [REDACTED] received the entire case file before she provided her statement, and she did not bring an attorney or representative to the interview. Detective [REDACTED] holds a Task Force Officer position and as such, she is detached and does not frequently conduct police business at the PSB. Detective [REDACTED] does not retain a physical workspace within the SIS Suite, but does retain access to said suite. Detective [REDACTED] stated that she did not have any part in the take down of Danny Walker on February 9, 2023, nor did she ever have any contact with Danny Walker. Finally, Detective [REDACTED] stated that she had no knowledge of Danny Walker's cellular phone or the location of his phone inside the SIS Suite.

I then interviewed Criminal Intelligence Analyst [REDACTED] in the 5th Floor Administrative Conference Room and took a sworn, recorded Statement. Criminal Intelligence Analyst [REDACTED] received the entire case file before she provided her statement, and she did not bring an attorney or representative to the interview. Criminal Intelligence Analyst [REDACTED] holds a civilian position within the Investigations Division and as such, does not participate in any law enforcement actions or operations. Criminal Intelligence Analyst [REDACTED] stated that she conducted a vast and thorough background investigation into Danny Walker and provided her findings to SIS Detectives. Criminal Intelligence Analyst [REDACTED] stated that she did not have any knowledge of Danny Walker's cellular phone, nor any knowledge of the phone's location inside the SIS Suite. When asked about cubicle arrangements and what Detectives are assigned to the individual cubicles, Criminal Intelligence Analyst [REDACTED] stated that she believed the cubicle directly below where the phone was located was occupied by Detective [REDACTED]

I then interviewed Detective [REDACTED] in the 5th Floor Administrative Conference Room and took a sworn, recorded Statement. Detective [REDACTED] received the entire case file before he provided his statement, and he did not bring an attorney or representative to the interview. Detective [REDACTED] has been assigned to SIS for over 17 years and currently holds a Task Force Officer Position where he is detached with HIS. As such, Detective [REDACTED] does not frequently conduct police business at the PSB. Detective [REDACTED] does not retain a physical workspace within the SIS Suite, but does retain access to said suite. Detective [REDACTED] stated that he did not have any part in the take down of Danny Walker on February 9, 2023, nor did he ever have any contact with Danny Walker. Finally, Detective [REDACTED] stated that he has no knowledge of Danny Walker's cellular phone or the location of his phone inside the SIS Suite.

Also on November 7, 2023, Detectives [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were issued an Official Notice of an Internal Affairs Investigation. Later that day, I spoke with both Detectives and scheduled statements for the following day.

On November 8, 2023, I interviewed Detective [REDACTED] in the in the 5th Floor Administrative Conference Room and took a sworn, recorded Statement. Detective [REDACTED] received the entire case file before he provided his statement, and he did not bring an attorney or representative to the interview. Detective [REDACTED] is a recent addition to SIS and began his assignment in July 2023. Detective [REDACTED] stated that he did not have any involvement with the investigation involving Danny Walker culminating with his arrest on February 9, 2023. Detective [REDACTED] also stated that he had no knowledge of the whereabouts of Danny Walker's cellular phone stemming from the February 9th case.

When asked if he had any contact with Danny Walker after February 9, 2023, Detective [REDACTED] stated that he did have contact with him in August of 2023, and took part in his arrest for burglary (the same burglary investigation Detective [REDACTED] referenced). According to Detective [REDACTED] he did not recall Danny Walker ever making any mention of his cellular phone nor did he ask about his cellular phone stemming from the February 9th take down.

I then interviewed Detective [REDACTED] the in the 5th Floor Administrative Conference Room and took a sworn, recorded Statement. Detective [REDACTED] received the entire case file before he provided his statement, and he did not bring an attorney or representative to the interview. Detective [REDACTED] is also a recent addition to SIS and began his assignment in July 2023. Detective [REDACTED] stated that he did not have any involvement with the investigation involving Danny Walker culminating with his arrest on February 9, 2023. Detective [REDACTED] also stated that he had no knowledge of the whereabouts of Danny Walker's cellular phone stemming from the February 9th case.

When asked if he had any contact with Danny Walker after February 9, 2023, Detective [REDACTED] stated that he did have contact with him in August of 2023, and took part in his arrest for burglary (the same burglary investigation [REDACTED] referenced). According to Detective [REDACTED] he had a very brief face to face interaction with Danny Walker and at no time did he ever make any mention of his cellular phone nor did he ask about his cellular phone stemming from the February 9th take down.

On December 5, 2023, Sergeant [REDACTED] was issued an Official Notice of an Internal Affairs Investigation. Later that day, I spoke with Sergeant [REDACTED] and he promptly responded to meet with me and provide a statement.

I interviewed Sergeant [REDACTED] in the 5th Floor Administrative Conference Room and took a sworn, recorded Statement. Sergeant [REDACTED] received the entire case file before he provided his statement, and he did not bring an attorney or representative to the interview. Sergeant [REDACTED] was briefly assigned to the SIS Unit from January 2023 – April 2023. Regarding the investigation in question, he stated that he did not have any involvement with investigation on the day of the take-down on February 9, 2023. He did state that he was aware of the actions of his detectives but not present for any part of it. Sergeant [REDACTED] stated that he had no physical interaction with the cellular phone. and was unaware of its location inside the SIS suite. Sergeant [REDACTED] emphasized he had no knowledge regarding who placed the phone in the cable run or how it got there.

On December 12, 2023, Officer [REDACTED] was issued an Official Notice of an Internal Affairs Investigation. Later that day, I spoke with Officer [REDACTED] and he agreed to provide a statement on December 14, 2023.

On December 14, 2023, I interviewed Officer [REDACTED] in the 5th Floor Administrative Conference Room and took a sworn, recorded Statement. Officer [REDACTED] received the entire case file before he provided his statement, and he did not bring an attorney or representative to the interview. Officer [REDACTED] is currently assigned to Road Patrol, but at the time of this event, he was assigned as a Detective within SIS. According to Officer [REDACTED] he did recall his involvement in the burglary case centered around the suspected perpetrator, Danny Walker. Officer [REDACTED] stated that he was working on the day of February 9, 2023, and went on to detail his involvement in the mobile surveillance and eventual takedown of Danny Walker. Officer [REDACTED] stated that during the take down, or contemporaneous with the take down, he did take possession of Danny Walker's cellular phone. Officer [REDACTED] states that he and the lead detective, [REDACTED] were trying to establish a nexus to several other burglaries throughout Broward County and within Sunrise, and believed inculpatory evidence may be present on Danny Walker's phone. Officer [REDACTED] states that after taking possession, he transported Danny Walker's cellular phone back to the PSB for later application of a search warrant. Ultimately, the search warrant for the physical device was not approved by one of the

Assistant State Attorneys. The physical search warrant was the reason behind taking possession of the phone on scene. I then asked Officer [REDACTED] if he ever attempted to contact Danny Walker so that he could take possession of his phone. Officer [REDACTED] stated that he did look for an alternate contact number for Danny Walker, but could not find one, and the phone in our possession was attached to the only contact number he could locate. I also posited on Danny Walker still being incarcerated, to which Officer [REDACTED] thought that could be a possibility, thus unable to be contacted by regular means.

I then asked Officer [REDACTED] if he knew how the cellular phone ended up on the cable run and he stated in the affirmative that he did know how the phone ended up on the cable run and explained his knowledge and involvement. According to Officer [REDACTED] he and Officer [REDACTED] were experiencing an immense amount of stress stemming from issues with the SIS supervisor, Sergeant [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] states that they were operating in a "hostile work environment." To alleviate the stress, he and Officer [REDACTED] would use humor as an outlet. Officer [REDACTED] then recalls a specific humorous instance where Sergeant [REDACTED] would "yawn excessively loud and then throw his phone onto his desk" in an exaggerated manner. So much so that it would cause the phone to make a loud crashing sound as it hit his desk. Finding this amusing, he and Officer [REDACTED] would mimic the yawn and phone throw. and on one specific occasion. Officer [REDACTED] utilized Danny Walker's cellular phone, since it was accessible on the desk area of his work space (normally inside a faraday bag – charging. Officer [REDACTED] describes how he picked up Danny Walker's phone, executed a loud yawn, and tossed the phone in the air, higher than he anticipated. Officer [REDACTED] then explains how his cubicle is located directly below the cable run (in line with where the phone was discovered) and unfortunately, the forceful toss in the air took a trajectory in which the phone came to rest on the cable run. Officer [REDACTED] then explains how his short stature (5'6") made it impossible for him to retrieve the phone. He also explained how they did not have a ladder or step stool or any means in which to retrieve the phone from the cable run. Officer [REDACTED] sums up the incident by stating that he had intentions to retrieve the phone but got pulled to start handling a multitude of other job-related duties and cases. He then states "...And honestly, I just forgot about it..." Officer [REDACTED] was emphatic in his conviction that this act was in no way malicious, and he had every intention to retrieve it but "things just spiraled and just forgot about it."

The final point I touch on is access within the SIS Suite. Officer [REDACTED] confirms that at the time of his assignment to SIS, access to the suite was limited to SIS members and supervisors only (access is now granted to all Investigations Personnel).

On December 18, 2023, Officer [REDACTED] was issued an Official Notice of an Internal Affairs Investigation. Later that day, I spoke with Officer [REDACTED] and he agreed to provide a statement on December 20, 2023.

On December 20, 2023, I interviewed Officer [REDACTED] in the in the 5th Floor Administrative Conference Room and took a sworn, recorded Statement. Officer [REDACTED] received the entire case file before he provided his statement, and he did not bring an attorney or representative to the interview.

Officer [REDACTED] is currently assigned to Road Patrol, but at the time of the event he was assigned as a Detective within SIS. Officer [REDACTED] specifically recalled the date in question, February 9, 2023, and went on to summarize his involvement as the Lead Detective in the burglary investigation centered around the suspect, Danny Walker. Officer [REDACTED] stated that he was not present for the take down of Danny Walker, but was present directly afterward, and did have knowledge that Officer [REDACTED] had possession of his phone and that the phone was going to be taken back to the PSB for further investigation. Officer [REDACTED] went on to explain how the application for a search warrant for the physical device was declined by an ASA, but that he still was granted a warrant for the CSLI on Danny Walkers cellular phone. Officer [REDACTED] explains how the phone was placed in a Faraday bag upon returning to the PSB and stored on "one of our desks" inside the SIS Suite.

Officer [REDACTED] then begins to explain about his stressful working environment and how he and Officer [REDACTED] would relieve said stress by way of humor. Officer [REDACTED] explains how his supervisor would yawn extremely loud and then throw his phone onto this desk, causing a loud crashing sound.

Officer [REDACTED] then recalls a specific time when he witnessed Officer [REDACTED] mimic the yawn and phone throwing action utilizing Danny Walker's cellular phone. As the result of a harder than expected toss by Officer [REDACTED] the phone came to rest on the cable run.

Officer [REDACTED] expressed much the same sentiment as Officer [REDACTED] in the fact that they needed to retrieve the phone, but neither had the means or height required to reach. Officer [REDACTED] stated that he intended to procure a ladder from "Arnie or one of the building guys...but ultimately we forgot. We - you know, we were just inundated with cases and stress and (we) were doing a lot of work, like we were swamped one case to the next."

Officer [REDACTED] then laments on the fact that his forgetfulness nor his witnessing the act was at all intentional or malicious in nature. He codifies this statement by reiterating the following, "I mean, 'cause even when it happened, we looked at each other like, alright, you need to stop messin' around and get it down, 'cause at the end of the day, it's still somebody's property."

I then proceeded to go over the proper evidence submission procedure with Officer [REDACTED] which he is knowledgeable in and knew the correct procedure.

I then asked Officer [REDACTED] if he ever tried to contact Danny Walker after the case was completed, to which he stated that he did try to locate an alternate contact number for him, but was unsuccessful in his searches.

The final point I touch on is access within the SIS Suite. Officer [REDACTED] confirms that at the time of his assignment to SIS, access to the suite was limited to SIS members and supervisors only (access is now granted to all Investigations Personnel).



SUNRISE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Daniel J. Ransone
Chief of Police

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Sunrise, Florida 33351
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Internal Affairs Complaint Report Narrative

III. INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS and DISPOSITION:

If the allegation is true, Police Officer [REDACTED] and Police Officer [REDACTED] would have violated the following Sunrise Police Policy and Procedure:

Chapter 39 – Evidence Procedures:

- *39.6.5.1. Members are prohibited from storing evidence or any other property that comes into their possession within personal desks, vehicles, homes or any other non-designated locations not authorized by the Department.*

Based on a preponderance of evidence standard, I have concluded that Officer [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED] did violate the Sunrise Police Department’s Evidence Procedures, specifically, 39.6.5.1. I was able to come to this conclusion based upon the fact that both officers were extremely upfront and honest during their respective interviews. I found no ambiguity or uncertainty from either officer, and both took responsibility for their actions / inactions. The facts and circumstances that led me to my conclusion are as follows:

The established timeline of events, connected cases, and the CSLI Search Warrant cultivated a clear nexus to Officer [REDACTED] and his role as the lead investigator. The connected BWC footage formed a clear nexus to Officer [REDACTED] in taking possession Danny Walker’s cellular phone on February 9, 2023.

While interviewing Officer [REDACTED] he immediately and without hesitation stated that he did have knowledge of the location of the cellular phone within the SIS Suite and he was extremely forthcoming with not only his culpability, but his remorse and regret for the mistake he made. Below is an excerpt from Officer [REDACTED]’s interview as he outlines how the cellular phone ended up in the cable run:

Q: Um, do you know how the phone ended up in the cable run?

A: I do. Yeah.

Q: All right. Do you wanna just kinda detail that out for me?

A: Sure. Uh, so, during that time period, without getting into too many details, whatever, um, Detective [REDACTED] and I, uh, were dealing with quite a lot of stress and just interesting, um, hostile work environment. So, our way of dealing with that was through humor. All right.

We were trying to joke as much as possible, just get our minds off it and whatever. So, we would make fun of or poke fun at, I should say, um, the fact that when our sergeant, our then sergeant, which was Sergeant, uh, [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] when he was in his office, uh, he would yawn excessively loud and then throw his phone on the desk, um, which sounded like he was shot putting it from a mountaintop. Um, and his yawn sounded like a lion's roar. So, me joking around after a stressful day dealing with, um, people that were in the unit, I started to screw around and make the yawning noises and lean back like he would and then throw a phone in the air and hit the desk or hit the floor or whatever. Um, so I did it a few times. And then during - while doing it, (Danny Walker)'s phone was there on the desk. And I leaned back, did a loud yawning noise, and ahhh. And then threw the phone up. And my cubicle was right across from [REDACTED]'s. And well, right above me is the cable run. And unfortunately, it went up there. Um, and I'm 5'6" on a great day. And trying to get up there to retrieve it was a little impossible, um, from a chair. And, uh, yeah. Shortly after that I tried to figure out how to get it whatever. We didn't have a ladder at the time. And, um, you know, shortly after that whether it was the next day whatever, uh, we get pulled to start handling a bunch of other cases and everything. And honestly, I just forgot about it. So, yeah.

Q: Okay. Um, so from what it sounds like...you had no malicious intent to...

A: Correct.

Q: ...put the phone up there. Is that...

A: Yeah.

Q: ...that's correct?

A: No malicious intent to - to take the phone from - from (Danny Walker) or to hide the phone. There's literally no reason to, so, um.

Q: It was, uh, it sounds like more like you - you guys were incredibly busy. And then...

A: Yeah.

Q: ...got pulled and...

A: Yeah.

Q: ...simply forgot. Is that it...?

A: ...very accurate. Yeah.

Officer [REDACTED] confirms that Officer [REDACTED] was present and witness to him throwing the cellular phone into the air and it landing on the ledge of the cable run.

Officer [REDACTED] states that he and Officer [REDACTED] did plan to seek out the building maintenance personnel (PSA [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]) but with the immense workload they both had, this was overlooked and the phone was never retrieved.

Officer [REDACTED] does state that he is aware of the proper procedures regarding the placement of evidence and states that he has always followed the established evidence submission procedures. He states that this instance is a lapse in judgement and gives the impression that this is not his normal practice, this was an oversight that he truly regrets.

While Interviewing Officer [REDACTED] I found that he was equally as forthcoming and open about the entire situation. Below is an excerpt from Officer [REDACTED] interview regarding the events leading up to, during, and after the cellular phone came into his investigative purview:

Q: ...Do you remember, uh, who took the phone from the scene of the takedown back to the police department?

A: Yeah, Detective [REDACTED] Um, as it was explained to me by him, he took it from (Danny Walker's) person and he was gonna take it back to the PD for me and I would complete the warrant...and this is common practice in our unit. We - we took it back to one of our desks, put it in a Faraday bag with a power supply, that way, as you know, no one can, uh, remotely access it or remotely dump all the information in there. Um, but as far as where it ultimately ended up, uh, yeah, I do know where it ended up and how.

Q: All right, do you wanna, um, just kind of elaborate on...

A: Yeah.

Q: ...how it ended - the phone ended up in the cable run?

A: So, um, on occasion, or I guess more than on occasion, several times a day, our - our supervisor at the time would yawn extremely loudly, and you would hear a phone hitting the desk, uh, while we're trying to work, so it was distracting. So, uh, [REDACTED] and I did a lot together in the unit. We were basically - I mean, I guess you could consider us partners. And we were - we were stressed out by the - the workload, the supervisors, e- you know, all the above. And to relieve some of that we would mess around in the office. We'd - we would joke around. And due to the fact that it sounded like the supervisor would drop his phone from like 10 feet above the table, uh, [REDACTED] was making fun of him and he mockingly yawned loudly and then, like, threw the phone up in the air to make it land on the table loudly. Um, as a result, he threw it like a - a little higher than he planned, I think, and it landed in the - what's it called?

Q: Cable run?

A: Yeah, the cable run, which is above his cubicle. Um, and we obviously said, "Hey, we need to get that down because it's still a piece of evidence." Um, but we didn't have a means to do so that day, and that was the end of the day. That was - I - I think it was like 5 or 6 o'clock. We were gettin' ready to go home for the day. So we decided when we come in tomorrow, or whenever our next workday was -- I don't know what day of the week it was -- uh, we'll get a ladder from ([REDACTED] or one of the building guys and we'll get it down and throw it in evidence 'cause there's nothing else to do with it. So, um, ultimately, we forgot. We - you know, we were just inundated with cases and stress and - I don't want to throw dirt on anyone else that was in the unit, but [REDACTED] and I were doing a lot of work, like we were swamped one case to the next.

Q: Um, all right, so, o- obviously, what I'm getting is it was in a joking manner, uh, to relieve stress. Was, um, throwing the phone up there and - or forgetting that it was up there, was that intentional on your - on your guys' part?

A: No.

Q: Can't speak for - for, uh, [REDACTED]

A: Right.

Q: It's just for yourself.

A: No, it wasn't intentional. I mean, 'cause even when it happened, we looked at each other like, "All right, you need to stop messin' around and get it down, 'cause at the end of the day, it's still somebody's property."

IV: CONCLUSION

Based upon my investigation and the statements provided, I have concluded that Officer [redacted] and Officer [redacted] did violate Sunrise Police Department Policy and Procedure Chapter 39, specifically 39.6.5.1.

Officer [redacted] did admit to throwing the phone into the air and on to the ledge of the cable run inside the SIS Suite. Officer [redacted] then confirmed the actions of Officer [redacted] as he was witness to them. In witnessing the actions of Officer [redacted] Officer [redacted] did not remedy or correct the situation as the lead investigator.

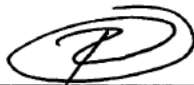
Officer [redacted] and Officer [redacted] were both very open and straightforward in their respective statements, with each independently taking ownership and responsibility for their actions and / or inactions. Both officers expressed that there was no malicious intent behind their actions and both noted that their behavior was borne out of a hostile and or poor working environment created by their supervisor.

Despite their direct and honest ownership of their behavior, this does not negate the fact that both are equally culpable for mishandling the cellular phone.

In order to provide full and unyielding context to the entire situation, I feel it is important to mention that, at the time of this incident, the SIS Suite did have restricted card access, limited to only SIS personnel and supervisors. As such, one may view this area as a quasi-secure area. It is important to note that there is no evidence to support that the cellular phone ever left the SIS Suite after it was brought back to the PSB by Officer [redacted]. All evidence suggests that it remained in the SIS Suite, which at that time was a restricted access area. This fact in no way negates the policy violation, but does provide some compurgation to the overall situation.

This investigation is classified as:

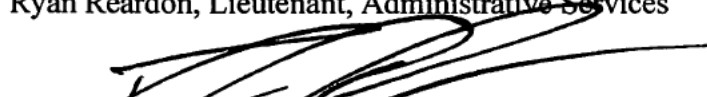
SUSTAINED



Ryan Reardon, Lieutenant, Administrative Services

1/17/24


Date



P. Brian Katz, Lieutenant, Internal Affairs

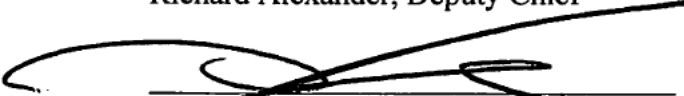
1/17/24

Date



Richard Alexander, Deputy Chief

Date



Daniel J. Ransone, Chief of Police

1/24/24
Date