



Brevard County Sheriff's Office
Titusville, Florida

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 18, 2016
TO: Chief Michael J. Lewis
FROM: Agent Kraig Hupfer, Staff Services Unit
RE: Command Inquiry 2016-CI-006

I. Summary

On April 02, 2016, officers from the Titusville Police Department initiated contact with Corrections Deputy Patrick Edwards, ID#1444, to investigate a domestic dispute he was having with his spouse. (Refer to TPD case#2016-00019288). At approximately 0138 hours, TPD Sergeant Wright observed Corrections Deputy Edwards running on South Hopkins Avenue in Titusville. He then observed a silver Mercedes circling in the same area as Corrections Deputy Edwards. Sergeant Wright had TPD Officer McGrory make contact with the silver Mercedes while he initiated contact with Corrections Deputy Edwards. Officer McGrory made contact with the driver of the vehicle, who he identified as [REDACTED] as it pulled into the parking lot of the ABC Liquor Store. [REDACTED] who is the spouse of Corrections Deputy Patrick Edwards, stated that she had been in a verbal dispute with her husband however at no time did it become physical. She advised that they were preparing to return from a party in Merritt Island when they got into an argument as to who should drive home. Initially, Corrections Deputy Edwards began to drive back to their residence in Titusville. They continued to argue as to who should be driving the vehicle when Corrections Deputy Edwards stopped the vehicle on SR-528 and he got out on foot. After approximately thirty minutes, Corrections Deputy Edwards got back into their vehicle and [REDACTED] began to drive back to Titusville. They continued to argue as they came into the city limits of Titusville and when she slowed the vehicle for a traffic light Corrections Deputy Edwards again exited the vehicle. Corrections Deputy Edwards began to run southbound on South Hopkins Avenue and [REDACTED] began to circle the area to attempt to locate him so that she could get him back to their residence. It was at this time that TPD Sergeant Wright observed Corrections Deputy Edwards running and the [REDACTED] vehicle circling in the area.

4/18/16 Per Chief Michael J. Lewis, schedule for a pre-deprivation
Hearing.
ht. Alex [Signature]
Concord w/
bindings
99 4/19/16

When Sergeant Wright made contact with Corrections Deputy Edwards, he immediately detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage emanating from his person and his breath as he spoke. Sergeant Wright explained to Corrections Deputy Edwards why he made contact with him and he requested to see a form of identification. Corrections Deputy Edwards initially denied having his identification and asked, "Is that a serious fucking question?" Corrections Deputy Edwards then produced his identification for Sergeant Wright and continued to be argumentative. Sergeant Wright followed up his question by asking if the address on his identification was current to which Corrections Deputy Edwards replied, "Obviously, that is my address right?" Due to his demeanor towards him, Sergeant Wright asked Corrections Deputy Edwards why he was being so hostile towards him to which Corrections Deputy Edwards stated he was being harassed and stopped for no reason. Sergeant Wright had to explain to Corrections Deputy Edwards multiple times why he was questioning him. Corrections Deputy Edwards continued to be very agitated and belligerent towards Sergeant Wright as he was attempting to investigate the domestic dispute with his wife. At one point during the questioning, Sergeant Wright had to direct Corrections Deputy Edwards to quit raising his voice at him. As TPD officers were speaking with Corrections Deputy Edwards and [REDACTED] their neighbor, Deshonte Battle, arrived on scene and he was able to calm Corrections Deputy Edwards down while TPD officers completed their investigation. After completing their investigation, TPD officers determined that probable cause had not been established for a domestic violence charge therefore an arrest was not made at the scene. Upon completion of the investigation, Corrections Deputy Edwards left the scene with Mr. Battle who agreed to let him spend the night at his residence.

On April 08, 2016, Chief Michael J. Lewis authorized an Administrative Investigation of this incident.

On April 09, 2016, the Staff Services Office received this case for further investigation.

On April 13, 2016, Corrections Deputy Edwards was served his notice of administrative investigation.

II. Possible Policy Violations:

- *400.00 General Professional Responsibilities*
- *400.38 Intoxication On & Off Duty*

III. Subject Interview

Corrections Deputy Patrick Edwards
Detention Center
Subject Interview

On April 13, 2016, Agent Geweniger and I met with Corrections Deputy Edwards at the Brevard County Sheriff's Office Detention Center to serve him the "Notice of Administrative Investigation." After doing so, Corrections Deputy Edwards advised he wanted to have his interview conducted right then. After Corrections Deputy Edwards reviewed the case file to his satisfaction, I conducted a sworn audio-recorded interview with him. Prior to asking Corrections Deputy Edwards any questions, he was read the "Administrative Investigation Warnings," which he acknowledged he understood and signed. Corrections Deputy Edwards also acknowledged he understood he could have a representative with him during the interview but chose not to. I explained to Corrections Deputy Edwards the nature of this investigation and asked him to explain what occurred with his spouse on April 02, 2016. The following is a summary of the interview:

Corrections Deputy Edwards advised that, on April 02, 2016, he was at a party in Merritt Island with his wife, [REDACTED]. When they decided to leave, neither of them wanted to drive and they began to argue as to who should drive their vehicle home. Corrections Deputy Edwards estimated he had consumed approximately five or six beers. Although he believed that he was not overly intoxicated, he did not want to drive the vehicle if it was not necessary. He advised his wife had only consumed "a little bit" but she was not intoxicated stating that she actually fell asleep at the party. Initially, he began to drive away from the party however as they were driving they continued to argue over who should be driving the vehicle. After driving only a short distance, Corrections Deputy Edwards decided to stop the vehicle and get out so that he could separate himself from his wife. Corrections Deputy Edwards stated he was angry and agitated with his wife so he felt it would be best to exit the vehicle to prevent the situation from escalating any further. After a short period of time, he returned to their vehicle at which time his wife began to drive back to their residence in [REDACTED]. Corrections Deputy Edwards advised they continued to argue as they drove back to their residence. When they came into the Titusville area, Corrections Deputy Edwards again decided to exit the vehicle so that he could separate himself from the situation with his wife. As he began to jog alongside South Hopkins Avenue, Sergeant Wright made contact with him to check on his wellbeing. Sergeant Wright initially told Corrections Deputy Edwards that he stopped him for jaywalking. Corrections Deputy Edwards stated that he was already extremely agitated with his wife and when he was stopped for such a minor offense as jaywalking it exasperated his situation to the point he became confrontational with Sergeant Wright.

Although he believed he was not excessively intoxicated, Corrections Deputy Edwards admitted that alcohol was one of the contributing factors for his behavior that evening. The stress of arguing with his wife and the timing of being stopped by Sergeant Wright made his situation worse and he responded in a very negative manner. After reflecting back on the situation, Corrections Deputy Edwards admitted that he responded inappropriately to Sergeant Wright and that he felt extremely embarrassed by his actions that evening. As a Sheriff's Office employee, Corrections Deputy Edwards stated that he is held to a higher standard of expectations and that his behavior did not represent the Sheriff's Office in a positive manner. Corrections Deputy Edwards stated that he saw

Sergeant Wright a couple of days later and he was able to apologize for his behavior towards him.

IV. Other Investigative Efforts

I obtained a copy of Titusville Police Department's case report package (TPD case#2016-00019288) which included a case report and audio recorded interviews. A review of the TPD case package revealed that Corrections Deputy Edwards had been involved in a verbal domestic dispute with his wife, [REDACTED]. I reviewed the audio recorded interview with Corrections Deputy Edwards and he can be heard being argumentative and confrontational. Sergeant Wright initially stated he stopped him for crossing the road on an angle and then explained there had been several recent burglaries in the area. Corrections Deputy Edwards became argumentative in an elevated voice and then sarcastically stated, "You all ain't caught no burglars lately." A second TPD officer can be heard attempting to explain the purpose of Sergeant Wright's questioning at which point Corrections Deputy Edwards can be heard being argumentative with him also. As the second TPD officer was explaining the reason for the stop, Corrections Deputy Edwards can be heard belligerently responding, "Whatever Bro", several times. At the conclusion of their investigation, the TPD officers determined that the domestic dispute was only verbal and probable cause was not established for a domestic violence offense. Corrections Deputy Edwards was allowed to leave the scene with his neighbor for the evening.

V. Recommendation

On April 02, 2016, officers from the Titusville Police Department initiated contact with Corrections Deputy Edwards and his wife, [REDACTED] as they were returning from a party in Merritt Island to their residence in Titusville. Sergeant Wright made contact with Corrections Deputy Edwards as he was jogging alongside South Hopkins Avenue in Titusville. Sergeant Wright determined that he had been involved in a domestic dispute with his wife, [REDACTED]. As Sergeant Wright was conducting his investigation, Corrections Deputy Edwards became very agitated and confrontational towards him. Sergeant Wright stated in his case report that he detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage emanating from his person and his breath as Corrections Deputy Edwards spoke to him. As the Titusville Police investigated the domestic dispute, Corrections Deputy Edwards continued to display confrontational behavior and it was only after his neighbor arrived on scene that he began to calm down. After completing their investigation, the TPD officers determined that probable cause had not been established for a domestic violence charge and to resolve the situation Corrections Deputy Edwards was allowed to leave the scene with a neighbor for the evening.

During his interview with Staff Services, Corrections Deputy Edwards stated he consumed approximately five to six beers. Although he did not feel as though he was

overly intoxicated, he did admit that the consumption of alcohol along with his on-going argument with his wife were contributing factors in his confrontational behavior with Sergeant Wright. After having time to reflect on the situation, Corrections Deputy Edwards did acknowledge that his behavior was unprofessional and that he was extremely embarrassed by the events of that evening. During a subsequent interaction with Sergeant Wright a few days later, Corrections Deputy Edwards apologized for his unprofessional behavior towards him.

Based on the facts set forth in this administrative investigation, I recommend the following:

That the allegation against Corrections Deputy Edwards that he violated **400.00 General Professional Responsibilities** be closed as **"Sustained."**

That the allegation against Corrections Deputy Edwards that he violated **400.38 Intoxication On & Off Duty** be closed as **"Sustained."**

VI. Enclosures


- Copy of Titusville P.D. case report with audio interviews (C/R#2016-00019288)
- Memorandum from Chief Lewis to Commander Donn titled "Authorization for Administrative Investigation 2016-CI-001."
- Notice of Administrative Investigation
- Administrative Investigation Warning

VII. Oath

I, Agent Kraig Hupfer, do hereby swear, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of my personal knowledge, information, and belief, I have not knowingly or willfully deprived, or allowed another to deprive, the subject of the investigation of any of the rights contained in ss. 112.532 and 112.533, Florida Statutes.

Signed 
Agent Kraig Hupfer, ID 210

Sworn to and subscribed before me, the undersigned authority, this 18th day of April, 2016.

Signature 
NOTARY PUBLIC/LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
IN PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL DUTIES





Brevard County Sheriff's Office
Titusville, Florida

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 20, 2016
TO: Corrections Deputy Patrick Edwards
FROM: Chief Michael J. Lewis
RE: Final Action
 Administrative Investigation 2016-CI-006

A TRUE COPY	
TIME	2:30 P.M.
DATE	4-22-2016
BREVARD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	
Received By:	Edwards #1144
Signature of Employee Served	
Served by:	MAJ J. DODSON 373
Signature of Agent/Deputy	

Administrative Investigation 2016-CI-006 is now closed. The final action regarding this inquiry is the determination of sustained charges and the application of appropriate corrective action.

After a review of the administrative investigation, and in consideration of your input at your pre-deprivation hearing, I have determined that your actions on the morning of April 2, 2016 were in violation of the established policies and standards of the agency. Specifically, during your interaction with officers from the Titusville Police Department you acted in a manner which has been described as "argumentative" and "confrontational" as they were trying to conduct their investigation. As you acknowledged during your hearing, you recognized that your actions were inappropriate and embarrassing to you and you apologized to the officer you had been engaged with. During your hearing on April 19, 2016, you accepted accountability for your actions and assured me that this type of behavior would not occur again in the future. As a result of my review, I am sustaining the following policy violations:

- **400.00 General Professional Responsibilities**
- **400.38 Intoxication On & Off Duty**

Your willingness to accept responsibility has mitigated my intended corrective action in this matter. The corrective action for this incident will be a **twelve hour (12) suspension without pay**. Barring a Civil Service Appeal or Collective Bargaining Grievance of the proposed disciplinary action, the unpaid suspension will be served at the discretion of Major James Dodson.

If you file a Civil Service Appeal or Collective Bargaining Agreement grievance in regards to the proposed disciplinary action, the period of unpaid suspension will be postponed until the appeal or grievance process is completed.

As provided by the Civil Service Act, Chapter 83-373, Laws of Florida and the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Coastal Florida Police Benevolent Association, and the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, you may appeal to the Civil Service Board or file a disciplinary grievance to this action. To appeal or grieve this discipline, you must file a petition for review within ten (10) days of receipt of this memorandum. The petition for review shall be filed by United States Mail, registered, return receipt requested, or in person with Manager Lisa Gillis, Human Resources, 700 S. Park Avenue, Titusville, FL 32780. A copy of any petition should also be directed to my attention at the same address.

You are forewarned that any subsequent violations could lead to progressive discipline up to, and including, termination of your employment.

C: Major James Dodson
Major Ronald R. Tomblin
H.R. Manager Lisa Gillis
Copy to file 2016-CI-006