



Brevard County Sheriff's Office  
Titusville, Florida

*D. Waller*  
*8/18/16*  
*with Fines.*  
*\*Cover*  
*PRE-TRENT*  
*HEADLINE*  
*PHOTO*

**DATE:** August 18, 2016  
**TO:** Chief Deputy Doug Waller  
**FROM:** Agent James J. Landen, Staff Services Unit  
**RE:** Command Inquiry 2016-CI-018  
Deputy Douglas Trent #0040

**I. Allegation:**

The basis of this Command Inquiry is an allegation of untruthfulness on the part of Deputy Douglas Trent. This investigation was initiated by a memorandum from Lieutenant Brad Thomas to Chief Deputy Doug Waller, dated July 1, 2016.

The memorandum outlined an incident that occurred on June 30, 2016, involving Deputy Trent. In March of 2016, Deputy Trent was ordered to have his vehicle moved to the BCSO shop or a precinct while he was on an extended light duty assignment, and later FMLA leave. On June 30, 2016, Lt. Thomas determined that the vehicle was still parked at the apartment complex where Deputy Trent lived. Lt. Thomas called Deputy Trent on the phone and Deputy Trent advised that his vehicle was parked at the precinct.

On May 20, 2015, Chief Deputy Doug Waller authorized an Administrative Investigation regarding the actions of Deputy Douglas Trent.

**II. Possible Policy Violations:**

- 200.10 Agency Owned Vehicles
- 400.68 Truthfulness

**III. Witnesses**

**Lieutenant Brad Thomas #0509**  
**Brevard County Sheriff's Office/Patrol Services**

*08/18/16*

On Thursday July 21, 2016, Agent LaRoche and I conducted a sworn interview with Lieutenant Thomas who advised on June 30, 2016, he was assigned to locate, and assure that the yearly vehicle/equipment inventory was completed on Deputy Douglas Trent's marked patrol vehicle. Lt. Thomas was being assisted by Lt. Ron Barker who responded to the South Precinct where the vehicle was alleged to be parked. Lt. Thomas stated that when Lt. Barker could not find Deputy Trent's vehicle in the parking lot at South Precinct he drove to Deputy Trent's apartment complex. Once in the complex Lt. Barker called Lt. Thomas on the phone and stated he located vehicle number 2502 in the area of Deputy Trent's apartment. After speaking with Lt. Barker, Lt. Thomas attempted to make contact with Sgt. Stafford (Deputy Trent's supervisor) to confirm the vehicle number, and that Deputy Trent had been ordered to leave his vehicle at the precinct. Lt. Thomas was unable to get Sgt. Stafford on the phone but learned that Corporal Chaston Williams was directed in March of 2016, to have the vehicle moved to the shop or a precinct.

Lt. Thomas then stated that he called and left Deputy Trent a voicemail. Deputy Trent called him back immediately and was asked by Lt. Thomas what his vehicle number was, and where his vehicle was located. Deputy Trent confirmed twice during the conversation with Lt. Thomas that his vehicle was parked at the South Precinct, and stated that his vehicle number was 2502. Lt. Thomas stated he then assumed that Lt. Barker was looking at another deputy's vehicle in the apartment parking lot. Lt. Thomas stated he called Lt. Barker and again he confirmed the vehicle number was 2502. Lt. Barker also sent a picture of the vehicle from his cell phone to Lt. Thomas.

Lt. Thomas called Deputy Trent back and confronted him with the information from Lt. Barker about the vehicle being in the parking lot. Deputy Trent then stated that the vehicle had a flat tire so he recently brought it back to his apartment. He also advised him the battery was dead and the vehicle would not start. Lt. Thomas then called BCSO Fleet Maintenance and had the wrecker respond to Deputy Trent's apartment complex and retrieve the vehicle.

Lt. Thomas also confirmed during the interview that the *Notice of Intent to Discipline* memorandum he had authored on July 1, 2016, was an accurate account of his involvement in this case.

**Lieutenant Ron Barker #0248  
Brevard County Sheriff's Office**

On Thursday July 21, 2016, Agent LaRoche and I conducted a sworn interview with Lieutenant Ron Barker in reference to this investigation. During the interview Lt. Barker stated that he was assisting Lt. Thomas in locating and assuring the inventory of two department vehicles was completed. The vehicles were assigned to deputies that were out on extended leave and had missed the annual county inventory, one being Deputy Trent's vehicle number 2502. Lt. Barker stated that he responded to the South Precinct after

learning from the South Precinct PSA, that the vehicle was not in the parking lot. Lt. Barker drove to the precinct and could not locate vehicle number 2502. Lt. Barker stated he called the BCSO dispatch center and requested Deputy Trent's address, he then responded to the complex. He located the vehicle and called Lt. Thomas and provided the information that the vehicle was parked in the complex parking lot near Deputy Trent's apartment. Lt. Barker further advised he sent a picture of the vehicle to Lt. Thomas and waited for the shop wrecker to arrive and provided the driver with the keys to the vehicle. Lt. Barker did not have any contact with Deputy Trent while at the apartment complex, and was not involved when Deputy Trent was ordered to have the vehicle moved from his residence.

**Corporal Chaston Williams #0831  
Brevard County Sheriff's Office**

On Thursday July 21, 2016, Agent LaRoche and I conducted a sworn interview with Cpl. Chaston Williams who advised that in sometime in March of 2016, he was instructed by Lieutenant Joanna Seigel to assist Deputy Douglas Trent in getting his marked vehicle taken to a precinct or the shop. Deputy Trent at the time was assigned to the front desk at East Precinct, on light duty and was driving his personal vehicle to work.

Cpl. Williams told Deputy Trent that due to his light duty assignment he was not to drive his marked vehicle, and that he or the PSA would assist him in getting the vehicle to East Precinct. Deputy Trent requested that the vehicle be park at the South Precinct, as that was closer to his residence. Cpl. Williams then stated that would be fine, reminding Deputy Trent that the PSA would assist him. Cpl. Williams stated that he again instructed Deputy Trent not to drive the vehicle.

Cpl. Williams confirmed during the interview that he gave Deputy Trent a direct order to have the vehicle moved to the South Precinct, and that he was not drive it until he was released from light duty.

**IV. Subject Employee:**

**Deputy Douglas Trent #0040  
Brevard County Sheriff's Office**

On July 29, 2016, Agent LaRoche and I conducted a sworn recorded interview with Deputy Douglas Trent. Prior to the interview Deputy Trent was allowed to review the case file and listen to all the recorded interviews. Deputy Trent chose to not to listen to all of the recorded interviews. Deputy Trent was represented by Al Beottjer of "CJ Kristie Consultants." Deputy Trent was also advised he had the right to have only one investigator ask him questions during the recorded interview. Deputy Trent acknowledged that he understood and was waiving that right.

Deputy Trent was sworn in and was read the Administrative Investigative Warning, and signed a copy. He was allowed to review the Florida Statute related to Perjury and definitions related to the statute (F.S.S. 837.02, 837.011), and the Brevard County Sheriff's Office policy on Truthfulness (400.68). Deputy Trent indicated that he understood both and he acknowledged that this was an official proceeding, and that it was being recorded.

During the interview Deputy Trent was asked to describe the events of June 30, 2016, as it related to his marked patrol vehicle. Deputy Trent stated that he had been placed on light duty due to an off-duty injury that had occurred at his apartment complex. He received an order while he was assigned to a light duty assignment at the East Precinct desk from Cpl. Chaston Williams. The order was to have his vehicle moved from his residence to a precinct and to not drive the vehicle while he was on light duty. Deputy Trent stated that he never made arrangements to have his vehicle moved from his residence. Deputy Trent stated that Cpl. Williams' order was clear, and he understood the direction he was given, he just did not follow the order. Deputy Trent advised me that he was not in a security apartment and was not required by the complex management to have the car in the parking lot.

As it related to the events of June 30, 2016, he was contacted by Lt. Thomas by telephone and twice during the conversation he told Lt. Thomas that his vehicle was parked at the South Precinct, which he admitted during the interview that was not a truthful statement. When asked why he lied to Lt. Thomas he stated that he panicked and knew he was going to be in trouble for not having moved his vehicle from his apartment complex to a precinct.

He also stated during the interview that he told Lt. Thomas during a second phone call that there was a tire issue with the vehicle and he had inflated the tire and moved the vehicle to his apartment "the other day." Deputy Trent advised that his statement was not truthful, because he had never parked his vehicle at the South Precinct.

He also informed Lt. Thomas that now the battery was dead and the vehicle would not start. Deputy Trent further stated that he was aware that his vehicle was not clean when it was towed to the shop, and that he was "not the cleanest person."

Deputy Trent stated that he never planned to move the vehicle from his residence, because seeing it made him feel as though he still had a connection to the sheriff's office. Deputy Trent also advised that he has been depressed due to his injury not healing, and not being able to return to work.

**V. Official Records:**

- A. Authorization for Command Inquiry from Chief Deputy Doug Waller.
- B. Memorandum from Lieutenant Brad Thomas dated July 1, 2016.

- C. Notice of Administrative Investigation.
- D. Administrative Investigation Warning.

**VI. Exhibits:**

- A. Email from Tracy Jeffries confirming Deputy Trent's light duty and FMLA status.
- B. Deputy Trent's time sheet records provided by BCSO Finance.

**VII. Recommendations:**

Based on the facts determined during this Administrative Investigation it was found that Deputy Trent disobeyed a direct order from Cpl. Chaston Williams to have his vehicle brought to either South or East Precinct as designated by BCSO policy (200.10 Agency Owned Vehicles). The policy clearly states the following: *Any employee assigned a Sheriff's Office vehicle who is using any form of leave exceeding ten working days is required to notify their supervisor who will direct the employee to park their vehicle at the closest precinct for the duration of the leave.*

Deputy Trent also provided false information to Lt. Thomas during two telephone calls while being asked for the location of his assigned vehicle. Lt. Thomas was attempting to make the vehicle available for the annual county inventory that was missed.

During the sworn interview Deputy Trent admitted to not following policy as it related to his department issued vehicle, while he was on light duty and later an extended medical leave. He also advised that he lied to Lt. Thomas about the location of his vehicle, and that he never made arrangements to have his vehicle moved from his apartment complex.

Based upon the findings of this Administrative Investigation, I recommend the allegations against Deputy Douglas Trent be closed as follows:

- The allegation that Deputy Douglas Trent violated **200.10 Agency Owned Vehicles** be closed as "**Sustained.**"
- The allegation that Deputy Douglas Trent violated **400.05 Insubordination** be closed as "**Sustained.**"
- The allegation that Deputy Douglas Trent violated **400.68 Truthfulness** be closed as "**Sustained.**"

**VIII. Oath**

I, Agent James J. Landen, 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

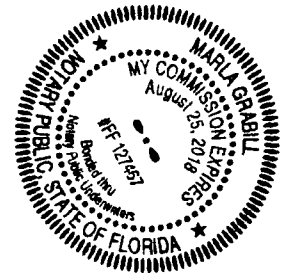
*James J. Landen*  
Agent James J. Landen ID 048

Sworn to and subscribed before me, the undersigned authority, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

Signature

*Marla Grubill*

NOTARY PUBLIC/LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER  
IN PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL DUTIES



*Rec'd*



Brevard County Sheriff's Office  
Titusville, Florida

**Date:** September 8, 2016  
**To:** Chief Deputy Doug Waller  
**From:** Major Alex Fischback, Staff Services Unit  
**Re:** Case Closure, Command Inquiry 2016-CI-018

D. H. 159  
9/8/16  
\*Covered with  
Fischer

**Command Inquiry 2016-CI-018** was initiated over concerns that Deputy Douglas Trent was in violation of the established policies and procedures of the Brevard County Sheriff's Office. Investigation established that he was in violation of agency policy and it was recommended that the following violations be sustained: **200.10 Agency Owned Vehicles, 400.05 Insubordination** and **400.68 Truthfulness**.

On August 25, 2016, you conducted a Pre-Termination hearing with Deputy Trent so that he could respond to the investigative findings.

Prior to any final determinations being made in this matter, Deputy Douglas Trent submitted his resignation from the Brevard County Sheriff's Office. At this time there is no disciplinary action to take as Douglas Trent is no longer an employee of the Brevard County Sheriff's Office.

The final step in this process is to make a final determination on the investigative conclusions and close the investigation. My recommendation is to close the violations as follows:

- **200.10 Agency Owned Vehicles**, to be closed as "**Sustained**"
- **400.05 Insubordination**, to be closed as "**Sustained**"
- **400.68 Truthfulness**, to be consolidated into the **Insubordination** violation and closed as "**Not Sustained**"

As stated above, no disciplinary action is needed as the employee has tendered their resignation.

c: Staff Services