



Brevard County Sheriff's Office  
Titusville, Florida

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sheriff Wayne Ivey

FROM: Major Alex Fischback *ajf*

DATE: July 25, 2016

RE: Administrative Investigation 2016-I-002  
Deputy Yousef Hafza

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*7/25/16*  
*X Carol Worth*  
*F.A.D. 65*

Summary:

On June 19, 2016, Deputy Yousef Hafza (ID 3855) was involved in an off-duty disturbance while driving his personally owned motor vehicle in the area of the St. Johns Heritage Parkway and Emerson Road in the City of Palm Bay. The disturbance was with the two occupants of another vehicle that had been involved in a traffic related dispute with Hafza. During this encounter Hafza discharged his agency issued firearm at the other participants. As a result of this firearms discharge, one of the other participants was struck and killed.

Consistent with established BCSO policy, on June 19, 2016, Yousef Hafza was placed on Administrative Leave with pay while an investigation into this incident was conducted.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement assumed responsibility for the investigation into this incident. Special Agent Ryan Bliss was assigned to be the lead investigator. During the course of their investigation, the FDLE Agents processed the crime scene, and conducted interviews with the surviving occupant of the other vehicle as well with Yousef Hafza. Based on his investigative efforts, Agent Bliss determined that he had developed probable cause for the arrest of Yousef Hafza. Based on his investigative determinations, Special Agent Bliss composed a sworn "**AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST WARRANT**" alleging that Yousef Hafza had committed the following offenses:

- **Second degree murder with a firearm**, contrary to sections 782.04(2), 775.087(1) Florida Statutes, a life felony.
- **Attempted second degree murder with a firearm**, contrary to sections 782.04(2), 777.04(1) and 775.087(1), Florida Statutes, a first degree felony.

July 25, 2016

Page 2

After completing this affidavit, Special Agent Bliss had it reviewed by FDLE's internal Staff Attorney(s), they determined that probable cause had been established for the arrest of Hafza.

Special Agent Bliss then had State Attorney Phil Archer and members of his staff from the Brevard / Seminole State Attorney's Office review the document. Mr. Archer and his staff also determined that probable cause had been established for the arrest of Hafza.

On June 27, 2016, the affidavit was presented to the Honorable James H. Earp, a Judge of the Circuit Court of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Brevard County, Florida. Judge Earp reviewed the affidavit and determined that Special Agent Bliss had established probable cause for the arrest of Yousef Hafza for the above listed offenses. Judge Earp issued an arrest warrant for Yousef Hafza on June 27, 2016. Consistent with **Administrative Order NO: 16-02-B AMENDED** (Bond Schedule), Judge Earp set the bond for each of the two enumerated offenses as "**No Bond.**" The Arrest Warrant was assigned a docket number of **05-2016-CF-31552-AXXX-XX**.

On June 28, 2016, Agents from the FDLE arrested Hafza for the outstanding warrant. Subsequent to his arrest on June 28, 2016, Hafza was placed on suspension without pay.

On July 25, 2016, Yousef Hafza resigned his position at the Brevard County Sheriff's Office.

#### **Recommendations:**

As of the writing of this report, the FDLE criminal investigation has not yet been fully completed. The investigation has progressed to the point that they have established probable cause for the arrest of Yousef Hafza.

Prior to completing this report, I reviewed the Arrest Warrant obtained by Special Agent Ryan Bliss, as well as the sworn affidavit used to obtain the arrest warrant on Yousef Hafza. This probable cause had already passed a legal review by Brevard Seminole State Attorney Phil Archer and senior members of his staff. This probable cause affidavit had also undergone judicial scrutiny as the Honorable Judge James H. Earp has reviewed Special Agent Bliss' affidavit for the arrest warrant and has determined that probable cause existed for Yousef Hafza's arrest.

Although Yousef Hafza provided a sworn statement to the FDLE Agents for the criminal investigation, through his attorney (Martin G. White) he declined to be interviewed for this administrative investigation.

Yousef Hafza tendered his resignation from the Brevard County Sheriff's Office on Monday, July 25, 2016.

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7/25/16

July 25, 2016

Page 3

Based on the consensus determination that Yousef Hafza's actions on June 19, 2016 were in violation of Florida Statutes, he is therefore in violation of the established policies and procedures of the Brevard County Sheriff's Office.

It is my recommendation that the following administrative violations be sustained:

- **400.00 General Professional Responsibilities**
- **400.06 Compliance with Law and Regulation**

**Exhibits:**

- A. Copy of the "AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST WARRANT" completed by Special Agent Ryan Bliss.
- B. Copy of the "WARRANT FOR ARREST" issued by the Honorable Judge James H. Earp on June 27, 2016. Docket #05-2016-CF-31552-AXXX-XX.
- C. Copy of miscellaneous BCDC booking paperwork (923.01 Charging Document and a Victim Notification Card).

**Official Records:**

1. Notice of Administrative Leave, dated June 19, 2016.
2. Authorization for Administrative Investigation, dated June 27, 2016.
3. Notice of Administrative Leave (suspension W/O pay), dated June 28, 2016.

**Oath:**

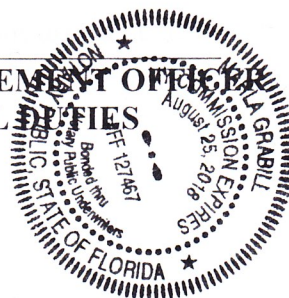
I, Major Alex Fischback, do hereby swear, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of my personal knowledge, information, and belief, I have not knowingly or willfully deprived, or allowed another to deprive, the subject of the investigation of any of the rights contained in ss. 112.532 and 112.533,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

Signed *Alex Fischback* 125  
Major Alex Fischback, ID#125

Sworn to and subscribed before me, the undersigned authority, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 2016.

Signature *Maria Grabbill*

NOTARY PUBLIC/LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER  
IN PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL DUTIES



*244*  
*7/25/16*