



N E W S F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

May 15, 2024

Media contacts:
Michael Ryan, 386-801-0188
Clayton Jackson, 386-473-5260

Volusia County Corrections Officer Detained on Felony and Misdemeanor Charges

VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA – The Volusia Sheriff's Office arrested Volusia County Corrections Lt. Jonathan Harding at approximately 1:00 p.m. today. He was detained on five charges, including felony Sexual Misconduct Employee/Inmate, felony Unlawful Use of a Two-way Communication Device, two Felony Introduction of Contraband to County Detention Facility charges, and a misdemeanor Introduction of Contraband to County Detention Facility charge.

Harding was secured without incident, immediately booked into the Volusia County Jail, and detained in Administrative segregation. Harding's first court appearance is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. tomorrow, May 16. Should he remain in or return to custody, he will be transferred to a correctional facility outside of Volusia County for the duration of his pretrial detainment or until a bond is posted.

Volusia County corrections officers became aware of suspicious activity involving Harding earlier this month and reported it to Internal Affairs, which immediately began an investigation. Once sufficient evidence was discovered, Harding was reassigned to duties outside the Corrections Division, and the investigation was transferred to the Volusia Sheriff's Office. He is now on unpaid administrative leave pending the outcome of a trial.

Harding began his career with Volusia County Corrections on Feb. 28, 2011, and had received no disciplinary actions prior to his arrest. Volusia County Corrections Administration and Internal Affairs cooperated fully with the Volusia Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office for the duration of the investigation and will continue to do so.

- 30 -

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VOLUSIA COUNTY COUNCIL

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COUNTY CHAIR

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DISTRICT 4, VICE CHAIR

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DISTRICT 1

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DAVID SANTIAGO
DISTRICT 5

2024-103458CFDB

Volusia Sheriff's Office
Non Arrest Affidavit (Adult) - PASS ALONG

Case No.: VP240009975

Agency OIS Number: FL0640000 Agency Name: Volusia Sheriff's Office Jurisdiction: No Domestic Violence Elderly's Law
Court Case Number: Arrested By: ID Number: Arrested Date: Arrested Time:

EVENT Reported Date/Time: 05/02/2024 09:00:00 Arrest Location: City: State: Zip Code: County: Zone: District: Location Description:

CHARGES Charge No. 1 Felony or Misdemeanor: Felony Statute: 944.47 1a6 Description: 944.47 1a6 SMUGGLE CONTRABAND INTO PRISON - EMPLOYEE CELL PHONE PORTABLE COMMUNICATION DEV UCR/NIBRS Code: 90Z Bond Type: Bond Amount: Charge No. 2 Felony or Misdemeanor: Felony Statute: 944.47 1a2 Description: 944.47 1a2 SMUGGLE CONTRABAND INTO PRISON - EMPLOYEE ARTICLE OF FOOD OR CLOTHING TO INMATE UCR/NIBRS Code: 90Z Bond Type: Bond Amount: Charge No. 3 Felony or Misdemeanor: Felony Statute: 944.35 3b Description: 944.35 3b SEX OFFENSE - DOC EMPL SEX MISCONDUCT W INMATE OR OFFENDER UCR/NIBRS Code: 11B Bond Type: Bond Amount:

DEFENDANT Last Name: HARDING First Name: JONATHAN Middle Name: Suffix: Sex: M Race: Black or African American Ethnicity: Date of Birth: Place of Birth: Wears Glasses: Age: 43 Height: 6'01" Weight: 250 lbs Eye Color: Brown Hair Color: Brown Religion: Boat/Mark: Driver's License Number / State: Social Security Number: MISC ID Number / Type / State: SPN: Last Known Address: City: Daytona Beach State: FL Zip Code: 32114 County: VOLUSIA Country: USA Description: Employer/School Code/Description: Employer/School Name: Employer/School Address: City: State: Zip Code: County: Employer/School Country: Employer/School Phone: Defendant Primary Phone Number: Defendant Secondary Phone Number: Residency: Speaks English?

The undersigned certifies and swears that there is probable cause to believe the above-named defendant, on the 17th day of April, 2024, at approximately 00:00 hours at 1300 RED JOHN DR - BRANCH JAIL, Daytona Beach, FL, violated the law and did then and there:

Narrative Title: Narrative

On May 2, 2024, Detective Teske was made aware of allegations of a sexual battery occurring at the Volusia County Correctional Facility, between a corrections officer and an inmate. Detective Teske and Detective Wheeler responded to the jail and met with Captain Smothers of the branch jail's internal affairs division.

Captain Smothers informed Detective Teske he was provided a jail report authored by Lieutenant Talamo, that expressed allegations of an inappropriate relationship between jail Lieutenant Jonathan Harding and inmate [REDACTED]

It was documented in the jail report that Lieutenant Harding was observed by other inmates bringing inmate [REDACTED] cough drops and other medications throughout his shift, as well as allowing her to use his personal cellular phone. The jail initiated an investigation into these claims, ultimately verifying the allegations were in fact correct. Lieutenant Talamo noted "there was a lot of suspicious/questionable activity that appears to be happening regarding Lt. Harding and IM [REDACTED]"

Captain Smothers requested a copy of Lieutenant Harding's text message history from his county issued phone through the Volusia County Information Technology (I.T.) Department. Lieutenant Harding was issued a black iPhone 12 with phone number [REDACTED] associated to it. Volusia County I.T. was able to remotely obtain the text history. The historical text data was narrowed down to specifically text correspondence between Lieutenant Harding's County issued (work) cell phone and his personal cell phone. Lieutenant Harding's personal cell phone number listed on his work employment profile is [REDACTED] associated to a Samsung device.

Upon reviewing the contents of the more than 1,000 text messages, Captain Smothers confirmed Lieutenant Harding was consistently texting with inmate [REDACTED] many of the texts being romantic in nature. Captain Smothers was able to review video surveillance from the jail, that lined up with things being discussed throughout the text dialogue, as well as reading in the text messages both Lieutenant Harding and inmate [REDACTED] referring to one another by first name. The text messages referenced, on more than one occasion, times when Lieutenant Harding would bring outside restricted items to inmate [REDACTED]. These items included his personal cell phone, Dayquil AM, Dayquil PM, and food from the Chipotle restaurant. Captain Smothers was then able to locate corresponding jail surveillance video, where Lieutenant Harding would walk these items into where inmate [REDACTED] was being housed and deliver them to her. Also in the text history, there were photographs and sexually explicit videos sent by inmate [REDACTED] to Lieutenant Harding. Captain Smothers was able to compare the photographs to inmate [REDACTED] inmate face sheet, confirming them to be the same person. As well as text messages between Lieutenant Harding and inmate [REDACTED] coordinating plans for the two of them to get together and have sex throughout Lieutenant Harding's work shift.

Other suspicious behavior noted by Captain Smothers was that Lieutenant Harding moved inmate [REDACTED] to "F" block, [REDACTED]. Lieutenant Harding then put notes in her inmate file stating that she was to only be housed in "F" block or "NW" block and not to move her.

On April 29, 2024, Lieutenant Harding was placed on official notice as being the subject of an internal affairs investigation by the jail administration. As a result of the investigation, Lieutenant Harding was temporarily reassigned from his position at the correctional facility, to the Volusia County Animal Control facility. Lieutenant Harding's County issued work cell phone was also confiscated. Upon reviewing the phone, after it being confiscated, it was learned the text messages, photos, and videos referenced above were all deleted by Lieutenant Harding.

Captain Smothers collected all this supporting documentation and provided it to Detective Teske. Detective Teske reviewed the historical text messages, verifying the conversation occurring between phone numbers [REDACTED] (belonging to a county issued Apple iPhone assigned to Lieutenant Jonathan Harding) and [REDACTED] (Lieutenant Jonathan Harding's personal cell phone). Upon reviewing the conversations, it was determined inmate [REDACTED] was in control of Lieutenant Harding's personal cell phone and was texting Lieutenant Harding on his county issued work phone. This texting relationship occurred during the dates of April 5, 2024, through April 26, 2024, and consisted of approximately 1159 text messages.

Detective Teske observed text messages between Lieutenant Harding and [REDACTED] on April 18, 2024, around 0300 hours. In these text messages [REDACTED] mentions how she thought she may have been too loud while they were having sex and was concerned someone may have heard the two of them. She also mentioned she "came so much" and hoped it wasn't "all over" Lieutenant Harding's pants. Lieutenant Harding responded by saying "it was on my shirt. I'm cleaning it now".

On May 3, 2024, Detective Teske and Detective Wheeler responded to the Volusia County Animal Services facility, located at 1250 Indian Lake Road, Daytona Beach. Detectives met with Lieutenant Harding and conducted a recorded interview with him. Detective Teske informed Lieutenant Harding it was believed evidence associated with the incident would be found on his personal cell phone and as a result, his phone was confiscated, in anticipation of a search warrant being obtained. Lieutenant Harding turned over his personal phone and freely and voluntarily provided Detectives with the phone's security passcode.

Lieutenant Harding was then informed of his Miranda Warnings by Detective Wheeler, which he acknowledged he understood and confirmed he was willing to speak with Detectives. Detective Teske asked Lieutenant Harding if he knew what this investigation was stemming from. Lieutenant Harding said yes, he heard rumors about an inappropriate relationship. Lieutenant Harding confirmed he was aware of the jail's policies and procedures and still brought items into the jail to give to [REDACTED]. Lieutenant Harding confirmed he brought her cold medicine and a burrito from Chipotle. Lieutenant Harding then confirmed he would provide his personal cell phone to [REDACTED] at the beginning of his shift, then retrieve it at some point before he went home. Detective Teske asked Lieutenant Harding about having sexual intercourse with [REDACTED]. Lieutenant Harding confirmed he and [REDACTED] did have vaginal intercourse, one time. He further confirmed the one time they had vaginal intercourse was when she spoke about leaving "a mess" on his pants during their text conversation, this was April 18, 2024, at 2:42 UTC (April 17, 2024, at 2242 hours EST).

The night they had sex, Lieutenant Harding wanted to "cover his tracks" and be able to have an alibi as to why he was in [REDACTED] cell, so he created a work order stating her sink was clogged. This was also spoken about in detail, via text messages, between Lieutenant Harding and inmate [REDACTED]. Lieutenant Harding verified this to be accurate during the recorded interview.

Lieutenant Harding informed Detectives he was having troubles with his home life and as a result began flirting with inmate [REDACTED] to bridge the gap from what he was missing at home. This relationship escalated to Lieutenant Harding providing inmate [REDACTED] his personal cell phone so the two could further communicate and would bring her outside food and cold medication.

The following is an excerpt from the text conversation between Lieutenant Harding and inmate [REDACTED]. These messages are from April 18, 2024, at 2:36 UTC, this is April 17, 2024, at 2236 hours EST. Below shows the date, time (in UTC), phone number the message was sent from, then the text message. Phone number [REDACTED] is Lieutenant Harding speaking and phone number [REDACTED] is [REDACTED].

4/18/2024	2:36 (Harding)	[REDACTED]	"She saw us. We can't do that again"
4/18/2024	2:37 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	"Who saw us?"
4/18/2024	2:37 (Harding)	[REDACTED]	"Cell 1"
4/18/2024	2:38 (Harding)	[REDACTED]	"She was at the door"
4/18/2024	2:39 (Harding)	[REDACTED]	"She is crazy but she saw"
4/18/2024	2:39 (Harding)	[REDACTED]	"We gotta be more careful "
4/18/2024	2:39 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	"She didn't see anything tho. That bitch say crazy shit all the time. "
4/18/2024	2:39 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	"She can't see from her angle babe. "
4/18/2024	2:39 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	"You are trippin. "
4/18/2024	2:39 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	"That was amazing!"
4/18/2024	2:39 (Harding)	[REDACTED]	"No she did. She saw me come out of there"
4/18/2024	2:40 (Harding)	[REDACTED]	"It was tho "
4/18/2024	2:40 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	"Yeah but she ain't see you fucking me. "
4/18/2024	2:40 (Harding)	[REDACTED]	"I hope not"
4/18/2024	2:40 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	"She didn't. "
4/18/2024	2:41 (Harding)	[REDACTED]	"Talk to her tomorrow. Make up a story about why I was in there."
4/18/2024	2:41 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	"Why didn't you nut?"
4/18/2024	2:42 (Harding)	[REDACTED]	"I'm glad I didn't. It would have been messy"

Volusia Sheriff's Office
Non Arrest Affidavit (Adult) - PASS ALONG

Case No.: VP240009975

4/18/2024 2:42 (Harding) [REDACTED] "Did you?"
4/18/2024 2:42 [REDACTED] "Fuck yeah! "
4/18/2024 2:43 [REDACTED] "I felt every stroke "
4/18/2024 2:43 (Harding) [REDACTED] "I want it again "
4/18/2024 2:44 (Harding) [REDACTED] "Use that bleach and get rid of that cup please"
4/18/2024 2:47 (Harding) [REDACTED] "Tell her to chill nothing happened. Say I was looking at your toilet leak or something"
4/18/2024 2:47 [REDACTED] "Now you can't. "
4/18/2024 2:48 [REDACTED] "I will. "
4/18/2024 2:48 [REDACTED] "My sink is clogged so ima tell her you were trying to fix it. "
4/18/2024 2:49 [REDACTED] "Just chill. I got this. "
4/18/2024 2:49 [REDACTED] "I need more of you. You got me open. "
4/18/2024 2:49 (Harding) [REDACTED] "OK good ima put a work order in to cover my track"
4/18/2024 2:49 (Harding) [REDACTED] "I want more. You were so tight and wet"
4/18/2024 3:15 [REDACTED] "This is forever now. Especially now that I've gotten a taste of you inside me. "
4/18/2024 3:41 [REDACTED] "When you adjusted your self to my left shoulder I knew you were gonna push in deeper.
My breathing became more intense so I hope she didn't hear that. I came so much. I hope it's not all over your pants"
4/18/2024 3:42 (Harding) [REDACTED] "It was and on my shirt. I'm cleaning it now lol"

[REDACTED]. There are cameras at the officer station, which do show Lieutenant Harding entering the pod where inmate [REDACTED] was housed at. On 4/17/2024 at 2230 hours, Lieutenant Harding grabs the bleach he previously prepared in a Styrofoam cup, then goes over and opens inmate [REDACTED] cell door. Lieutenant Harding then goes into inmate [REDACTED] block, [REDACTED] and has vaginal intercourse with her. He then provides her with the cup of bleach to eliminate any DNA or other evidence that was left behind and leaves the block, seen on camera exiting at 2234:50 hours. Lieutenant Harding then closes inmate [REDACTED] cell door and is observed sending the text message and starting the conversation referenced above, "She saw us. We can't do that again."

Lieutenant Harding verbally swore to his statements being truthful and accurate. This interview was captured on audio recording.

On May 3, 2024, at 1300 hours, Detective Teske and Detective Wheeler responded to the Volusia County Correctional Facility and attempted an interview with inmate [REDACTED] inmate [REDACTED] refused to cooperate and would not comment on anything related to this investigation or Lieutenant Harding.

On May 6, 2024, Detective Teske drafted a search warrant for Jonathan Harding's personal phone. Jonathan's work phone and personal phone were then delivered to the Volusia Sheriff's Office Digital Forensics Unit for a forensic data extraction. On May 7, 2024, Detective Teske was provided with the contents of both phones in accordance with the parameters of the search warrant.

Upon reviewing the contents of Lieutenant Harding's phones, Detective Teske located multiple nude images and videos of inmate [REDACTED] that were taken from within in her jail cell. These images appeared to all have been taken by inmate [REDACTED] and clearly show the jail cell in the background. Along with the nude photos, Detective Teske located two sexually explicit videos of inmate [REDACTED] masturbating. In these videos, inmate [REDACTED] does not show her face, however her unique "heart" tattoo on her middle finger is clearly visible. Also, inmate [REDACTED] mentions in the text messages she took these videos and was "excited" for Lieutenant Harding to see them.

Lieutenant Harding is the nighttime supervisor of the Volusia County Correctional Facility located at 1354 Indian Lake Road, Daytona Beach. According to Captain Smothers, the typical responsibilities of a lieutenant in his position on nightshift would be to get pass on information from the dayshift lieutenant for any noteworthy events, adjust shift rosters to fit the needs of the building, brief his oncoming shift sergeants, review facility reports, and review employee timecards. The nightshift lieutenant position is essentially a desk job. There would be no work-related reason to spend an abundance of time in the pods where inmates are housed, or to have any one-on-one interactions with inmates alone in their cell.

Lieutenant Harding informed Detectives he was having troubles with his home life and as a result began flirting with inmate [REDACTED] to bridge the gap from what he was missing at home. This relationship escalated to Lieutenant Harding providing inmate [REDACTED] his personal cell phone so the two could further communicate and would bring her outside food and cold medication. This is a violation of Florida State Statute 944.47, which is enhanced to a second-degree felony as outlined in Florida State Statute 944.47 (2) (b). Lieutenant Harding continued to have sexually driven conversations with inmate [REDACTED] which culminated to the two having sexual intercourse while Jonathan Harding was working at the jail as a Lieutenant with the Volusia County Department of Corrections, a violation of Florida State Statute 944.35 (3) (b).

Officer No. 1

Officer Name
Teske, David 8160

Involvement Type
Issuer

Involvement Date
05/14/2024 15:18:00

Signature Type
A Digital Signature

Officer Signature

 8160

Volusia Sheriff's Office
Non Arrest Affidavit (Adult) - PASS ALONG

Case No.: VP240009975

NOTARIZING OFFICER

Notarizing Officer No. 1

Notary Public

Law Enforcement or Corrections Officer

Personally Known

Produced Identification

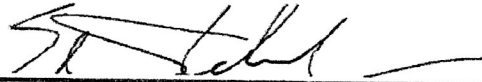
Type of Identification
7960

Officer Name
Wheeler, Steven 7960

Invoicement Date
05/14/2024 15:18:00

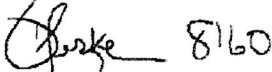
Signature Type
A Digital Signature

Officer Signature



Others Involved/Evidence

Court Case Number:

DEF.	Last Name HARDING		First Name JONATHAN				Middle Name				
OTHER INVOLVED	Other Involved Person No. 1 - OTHER										
	Last Name		First Name		Middle Name		Suffix	Sex	Race		Ethnicity
	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]			F	White		Hispanic
	Date of Birth	Place of Birth			Age	Height	Weight	Eye Color	Hair Color	Hair Length	
	[REDACTED]	Florida			29	5' 07"	200 lbs	Brown	Brown		
	Driver's License Number / State				Social Security Number			Mec ID Number / Type / State			SPK
	[REDACTED]				[REDACTED]			-- / -- / --			
	- Contact information -										
	Last Known Address				City		State	Zip Code	County		Country
	[REDACTED]				Daytona Beach		FL	32117	Volusia		USA
Employer/School Code/Description		Employer/School Name			Employer/School Address			City	State	Zip Code	County
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]			[REDACTED]			[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Employer/School Country		Employer/School Phone		Residency		Primary Phone Number					
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]		Resident		[REDACTED]					
ORGANIZATION	Organization No. 1										
	Organization Name						Involvement Type			Organization Phone	
Address						Apt	City	State	Zip Code	Country	
[REDACTED]						[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
OFFICER	Officer No. 1										
	Officer Name				Involvement Type			Involvement Date		Signature Type	
	Teske, David 8160				Issuer			05/14/2024 15:18:00		A Digital Signature	
Officer Signature											

**Volusia Sheriff's Office
Non Arrest Supplement (Adult)**

Case No.: **VP240009975**

Agency ORI Number: **FL0640000**

Agency Name: **Volusia Sheriff's Office**

Arrested: **No**

CHARGES	Charge No. 1	Felony or Misdemeanor:	Statute	Description:	UCR/NIBRS Code	Bond Type	Bond Amount
		Misdemeanor	951.22 1c	951.22 1c SMUGGLE CONTRABAND - ANY ARTICLE FOOD CLOTHING COUNTY DETENT FACIL	90Z		
CHARGES	Charge No. 2	Felony or Misdemeanor:	Statute	Description:	UCR/NIBRS Code	Bond Type	Bond Amount
		Felony	951.22 1h	951.22 1h SMUGGLE CONTRABAND - OTHER DRUG 951.22(1)(h) CO DETENTION FACILITY	35A		
CHARGES	Charge No. 3	Felony or Misdemeanor:	Statute	Description:	UCR/NIBRS Code	Bond Type	Bond Amount
		Felony	951.22 1k	951.22 1k SMUGGLE CONTRABAND - CELL PHONE PORTABLE COMM DEVICE CO DETN FACIL	90Z		
CHARGES	Charge No. 4	Felony or Misdemeanor:	Statute	Description:	UCR/NIBRS Code	Bond Type	Bond Amount
		Felony	934.215	934.215 PUBLIC ORDER CRIMES - USE 2 WAY COMM DEVICE TO FACIL FELONY	90Z		

DEF	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
	HARDING	JONATHAN	

NARRATIVE

Narrative Title: Narrative

This 707 Supplemental Report is to amend the charges on the original charging affidavit to reflect the following:

The two counts of FSS 944.47 1a6 (cell phone) and FSS 944.47 1a2 (food) are to be replaced with:


FSS 951.22 (c) - one count
FSS 951.22 (k) - one count

with the addition of the following charges:

FSS 951.22 (h) - one count
FSS 934.215 - one count.

In total the charging affidavit is to reflect five counts, which are as follows:

FSS 951.22 (c) (misdemeanor)
FSS 951.22 (k) (felony)
FSS 951.22 (h) (felony)
FSS 934.215 (felony)
FSS 934.35 (3)(b) (felony)

OFFICER	Officer No. 1	Officer Name	Involvement Type	Involvement Date	Signature Type
			Teske, David 8160	Issuer	05/15/2024 09:57:00
		Officer Signature			

NOTARIZING OFFICER	Notarizing Officer No. 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Notary Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement or Corrections Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personally Known	<input type="checkbox"/> Produced Identification	Type of Identification
		Officer Name	Involvement Date	Signature Type		
		Vento, Vincenzo 7429	05/15/2024 10:19:00	A Digital Signature		
		Officer Signature	