



Department of Public Protection

Report of Incident

TO: Terry Sanders, Director
Department of Public Protection

FROM: David Vanis, Captain
Public Protection Administration
Internal Affairs

DATE: April 17, 2018

SUBJECT: IA 2016-06, Officer Joseph Coleman, Volusia County Division of Corrections

References:

1. Inmate Cecilia Ranero interview (Dated October 31, 2016).
2. Inmate Sunny Mason interview (Dated October 31, 2016).
3. Inmate Amanda Rasmussen interview (Date October 31, 2016).
4. Facebook messenger communication screenshots.
5. Securus phone calls made to phone number [REDACTED]
6. VCSO Case number VP160031058
7. Court records

Complaint:

On October 30, 2016, VCDC Acting Director Flowers was notified of staff involved sexual Misconduct by Ofc. Jessica Pryor. On the previous night shift (October 29, 2016-October 30, 2016) I/M Cecilia Ranero notified Ofc. Pryor that Ofc. Coleman had been receiving oral sex from I/M Amanda Rasmussen.

On October 31, 2016, Inv. Jennifer Raulerson and I conducted sworn interviews with the inmates involved in the allegations against Officer Coleman. The following is a summary of these interviews.

Cecilia Ranero:

I/M Ranero was assigned to work the laundry detail with Officer Pryor the night of October 29, 2016. During this work detail, I/M Ranero told Ofc. Jessica Pryor that Ofc. Coleman has been receiving oral sex from I/M Amanda Rasmussen inside the facility. I/M Ranero told me that she did not witness the oral sex but had heard this from other inmates in her dorm including Sunny Mason. I/M Ranero told us that she had been told that the oral sex had been occurring in the "1100 cell" during C-Shift while I/M Rasmussen was working the laundry detail. I/M Ranero also indicated that this may have occurred as recently as two weeks ago. I/M Ranero told me that she had no other information to provide regarding this incident.

Sunny Mason:

I/M Mason told me that I/M Ranero had approached her approximately a month and a half prior and gave explicit details of sexual intercourse between her and Ofc. Coleman. I/M Mason also told me that I/M Rasmussen had strong feelings for Ofc. Coleman but had not heard of them being involved sexually inside the facility. I/M Mason had not witnessed Ofc. Coleman involved in any sex act with any inmates but did advise me that Ofc. Coleman has a girlfriend named [REDACTED] (Unknown last name) who has been an inmate at VCDC several times.

Amanda Rasmussen:

I/M Rasmussen confirmed that she had heard the rumor that she had been sexually involved with Ofc. Coleman from I/M Ranero. She denied that she has ever been sexually involved with Ofc. Coleman. I/M Rasmussen told me that she and Ofc. Coleman are friendly with each other and speak frequently. She told me that she has cleaned the "1100 cell" several times but Ofc. Coleman always stood at the door. That would be the only times Ofc. Coleman had supervised her alone. I/M Rasmussen told me that I/M Ranero had a crush on Ofc. Coleman but he had refused her advances. I/M Rasmussen told me that she and Ofc. Coleman were facebook friends but had never spoken outside of the facility but had communicated through the facebook messenger application. I/M Rasmussen agreed to log into her facebook account and provided me screenshots of the messages she had exchanged with Ofc. Coleman. The facebook messages

indicate that Ofc. Coleman was trying to initiate some type of relationship with I/M Rasmussen while she was not incarcerated. I/M Rasmussen told me that she had not socialized with Ofc. Coleman outside of the facility. On February 12, 2016, during an exchange of facebook messages, I/M Rasmussen asked "What happened with [REDACTED]" Ofc. Coleman responded "We still hang out but she gets in these moods. She's cool but I don't know."

Information:

I reviewed video surveillance from the Correctional Facility from October 14-30, 2016 on Ofc. Coleman's assigned shifts. Ofc. Coleman and I/M Rasmussen interact several times but were never observed alone or entering the "1100 cell" as alleged.

I queried the Securus phone system for outgoing calls from the inmates involved in this allegation. None had contacted Ofc. Coleman. However, when I queried Ofc. Coleman's cell phone number in the entire system, 371 outgoing calls were made to his cell phone [REDACTED]. All located calls were made by I/M [REDACTED]. The initial call took place on March 31, 2016 at 1843 hours. The last was made on July 21, 2016 at 1709 hours. Corrections records indicate that Ofc. Coleman never notified his chain of command that he was involved in any type of relationship with an inmate as required by VCDC policy.

Inv. Raulerson reviewed the phone calls made by I/M [REDACTED] to Ofc. Coleman. The initial calls indicate that there was an existing relationship prior to her arrest and incarceration on March 31, 2016. Several phone calls indicate that they had kissed or "made out" in the "1100 cell" on the same date as the call. The phone call on June 5, 2016 at 1832 hours suggested that Ofc. Coleman and I/M [REDACTED] engaged in sexual intercourse on this date at VCCF. The following is a summary of that conversation:

[REDACTED] - *I just got out of the shower because I got sweaty and dirty today.*

Coleman - *It sounds like you got a penis put in you or something.*

[REDACTED] - *I may have, actually.*

Coleman - *It's crazy.*

[REDACTED] - *It was pretty fucking amazing, like scary. So you're an adrenaline junky now are ya?*

Coleman - *What?*

[REDACTED] - *What? Babe, are you fucking kidding me like oh my god. That's horrible. You can't do things like that. I liked it.*

Coleman - *Yeah?*

██████ - Yeah. So my boyfriend has turned into an adrenaline junky.

Coleman - Look. It's only jail. It's not we were on a beach or something you know

██████ - Right. It's not like it's not a criminal charge either way.

Coleman - I don't know what you're talking about.

██████ - Yeah ok. Just saying, you see how fucking easy it is for me to fucking give way to peer pressure. Fucking just turn around. Ok, whatever. Whatever you say boyfriend.

Coleman - Did you say you were easy?

██████ - I absolutely did not say I was easy.

Coleman - Oh

██████ Wow. Am I? Do you consider that easy? I've been like screwing you for almost two years now.

Coleman - Baby, I'm fucking with you. I love you.

██████ - I love you too. I miss you. I wanna be laying with you now

Coleman - I know

██████ - Yeah, I fucking hate this place.

Coleman - You can't be fucking me like that and just leaving you know. It's fucked up.

██████ - Right. Listen, you know what, now you'll be good for a couple days

Coleman - (Laughs)

██████ - (Laughs) I don't know when I'll ever see you again...At least I have the memories we have together.

The call continues with them talking about family issues until 6:27 into the call.

██████ - You probably knocked me up today. Did you come in me? A little bit?

Coleman - Yeah. I had nowhere else to put it.

██████ - I know baby. I was like yes there's a pregnancy happening right then and there

Several phone calls, after this call, refer to this sex act that supposedly occurred on June 5, 2016 at VCCF. Other phone calls indicate that Ofc. Coleman used his position to gain access to arrest reports and provided that information to I/M ██████. The information was regarding her cases and other inmates' arrests.

I met with Ofc. Coleman on November 17, 2016 to notify him of this investigation. After advising him of the recorded phone conversations, Ofc. Coleman resigned his position with Volusia County Corrections. He was advised that the investigation would continue regardless of his employment status due to the nature of the investigation.

Based on the information gathered in the phone calls between ██████ and Ofc. Coleman, I contacted VCSO and referred the criminal investigation to them. The allegation that Ofc. Coleman was engaged in a sexual relationship with I/M Rasmussen while she was an inmate cannot be substantiated due to a lack of evidence and corroborating victim and witnesses.

VCSO Detective Ruiz documents the details of his investigation under VCSO case number VP160031058 (Item 6). His investigation included interviews with Ofc. Coleman and ██████. Both confirmed they were involved in a romantic relationship while she was incarcerated but denied engaging in any sexual activity inside VCCF. Both described the sexual talk over the phone as innuendo and fantasy. Det. Ruiz submitted a complaint affidavit to the State Attorney's Office requesting the charge of Sexual misconduct between detention facility employees and inmates [FSS 951.221(1)] on January 13, 2017. On March 13, 2017, the State Attorney's Office filed "No Information" regarding the charge.

Findings:

This case was presented to Director Sanders, Deputy Director Bythwood, Deputy Director Swanson, and Director Flower. Director Sanders determined that the allegations listed below are **sustained**:

VCDC Policy 102.09. Correctional Officers shall conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times and remain cognizant of his/her responsibilities to the Division and the inmates in his/her charge.

VCDC Policy 102.09(TT). Employees shall refrain from any activity either on/off duty that would not be of good moral character. Examples of this are, but not limited to, any act constituting a criminal act, any principal, accessory, attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy of committing any criminal act.

VCDC Policy 102.09 (N) Showing partiality or favoritism toward an inmate or group of inmates shall not be tolerated. All prisoners with like classifications are to be treated the same.

VC Merit Rules and Regulations, Sec. 86-453. Reasons for disciplinary action.

(1) Willful neglect in the performance of the duties of the position to which the employee is assigned.

(8) Criminal, dishonest or other conduct which interferes with effective job performance or has an adverse effect on the efficiency of county service.

(13) Any conduct, on or off duty, that reflects unfavorably on the county as an employer.

Florida Administrative Code 11b-27.0011(4) (a) The perpetration by an officer of an act that would constitute any felony offense, whether criminally prosecuted or not.

Florida Administrative Code 11b-27.0011(3)(c)3 Having an unprofessional relationship with an inmate, detainee, probationer or parolee, or community controllee. An unprofessional relationship is defined as:

a. Having written or oral communication with an inmate, detainee, probationer or parolee, or community controllee that is intended to facilitate conduct prohibited by this rule section; or

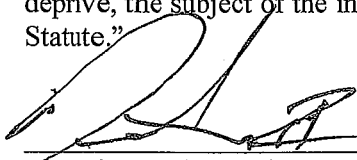
b. Engaging in physical contact not required in the performance of official duties, and is defined as kissing, fondling of the genital area, buttocks, or breasts, massaging or similar touching, holding hands, any other physical contact normally associated with the demonstration of affection or sexual misconduct as applied to all certifications, which is defined in Section 944.35(3), F.S.

c. Engaging in a romantic association with an inmate, detainee, probationer, parolee, or community controllee. "Romantic association" is defined as the exchange of telephone calls, pictures, letters, greeting cards, or any other form of oral or written communication, which expresses feelings or thoughts of affection or the desire to engage in a romantic relationship whether emotional or physical. This subsection shall not apply to an officer who is legally married to an inmate, detainee, probationer or parolee, or community controllee in the community, nor does it apply to any officer who has no knowledge, or reason to believe, that the person with whom the officer has engaged in a romantic association is an inmate, detainee, probationer or parolee, or community controllee.


Concluding Statement:

Unless otherwise directed, this investigation is considered closed, and is submitted for review and action as deemed appropriate. The original attachments of interviews and other documents pertaining to this investigation remain on file with the Internal Affairs Unit.

"I, the undersigned, 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 Statute."



Captain David Vanis Date 4/17/18



Approved