



Florida Department of
Law Enforcement

Gerald M. Bailey
Commissioner

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Rick Scott, *Governor*
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Adam Putnam, *Commissioner of Agriculture*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 18, 2013

TO: FILE

VIA: R. Stacy Lehman, Training and Research Manager *RS*
Bureau of Standards

FROM: Craig O'Connell, Case Specialist *CO*
Bureau of Standards, Professional Compliance Section

SUBJECT: Stephen M. Matthews
Case# 35908

The circumstances surrounding the separation/misconduct of the above-named subject were reviewed by staff. As a result of the review, it was found that either the subject's separation/misconduct does not meet the criteria established in Section 943.1395 for disciplinary action, or the misconduct cannot be proven. In light of this, it is recommended that the case be closed at this time.

Employing Agency: Holly Hill Police Department

Separation Date: 6/17/13

Reason for Separation: Terminated

Reason for No Cause: Matthews was terminated from the Holly Hill Police Department (HHPD) subsequent to his arrest for Battery – Domestic Violence. No internal investigation was conducted because he was on probationary status with the agency at the time. On June 15, 2013, Matthews and his estranged wife (victim) met to exchange their child and subsequently got into an argument regarding Matthews not answering his phone. The victim stated that the argument escalated when Matthews slapped her on the left side of her face and then attempted to snatch her glasses off of her face. The victim told Matthews she was calling the police, after which Matthews returned to his vehicle to await their arrival. The responding officer did not observe any marks or signs of injury on the victim, and the victim refused medical treatment. Matthews was arrested and transported to jail. The State Attorney's Office nolle prossed the charge against Matthews, citing lack of corroborating evidence and independent witnesses, along with the victim's unwillingness to prosecute. Likewise, Staff Counsel review of this case determined that this case should be no caused for the same reasons as stated above, and staff concurs.