

**VOLUSIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**

**REPORT NUMBER: IA 20-015**

**PERIOD COVERED:** October 17, 2019; August 21, 2020 and September 16, 2020

**DATE REPORTED:** September 09, 2020

**SUBJECT(S) NAME:** Tyler Lawrence #8553

**INVESTIGATING OFFICER:** Sergeant Brian Cobb #7550

**BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION:**

On August 21, 2020, Deputy Tyler Lawrence was involved in DeLand Police Department's arrest of juvenile Kenyonte Grimes for possession of a stolen firearm. On or about August 23, 2020, a Volusia Sheriff's Office Awards Nomination form was completed and forwarded to the Executive Officer, Captain Erik Eagan for review.

While reviewing the information presented, concerns were notated regarding the facts of the case versus the captured audio and video documentation on Deputy Lawrence's body worn camera [BWC] footage. The discrepancies between the authored report, body worn camera footage and the in car advanced vehicle location [AVL] program created a well-founded concern that portions of Deputy Lawrence's report were completely fabricated.

Due to the nature of the allegations, Chief Deputy J. Gallagher initiated an internal affairs investigation.

**OFFENSES:**

***Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations – Division 13 Disciplinary Actions 86-453  
Reasons for disciplinary action (9), (14) and (22):***

*Any of the following violations is cause for disciplinary action ranging from oral reprimand to dismissal, depending on the seriousness of the offense and other circumstances related to the situation*

*(9) Any conduct, on or off duty, which interferes with the effective job performance or has an adverse effect on the county.*

*(14) Any conduct, on or off duty that reflects unfavorably on the County as an employer.*

(22) *Any other conduct or action of such seriousness that disciplinary action is considered warranted.*

**26.2.106 Veracity- Untruthfulness** - Employees shall not knowingly make false or untrue statements except as authorized in the performance of duties and as necessary to maintain covert operations during investigation of criminal activities. *(Violation subject up to dismissal)*

**26.2.35 Submission of Reports and Documents** - Employees shall originate, complete, and submit all reports and documents required in the execution of their duties prior to concluding a tour of duty except as authorized by a supervisor. *(Violation subject up to a 1 day suspension.)*

**26.2.109 Falsification of Official Documents** - Employees shall not knowingly falsify or knowingly cause another to falsify any official record or document. *(Violation subject up to dismissal.)*

**26.2.42 Endangering Others Through Neglect** - Deputies shall take appropriate action in response to:

A. Emergency situations where there is a known danger to the lives of others. *(Violation subject up to dismissal.)*

**41.20 Body Worn Camera** - In accordance with general order 26.2 *Standards of Conduct*, **any violation of this policy/general order shall result in discipline up to and including termination** (Refer to Sections IV.H.1.c. – IV.H.2.d. and Sections IV.I.12.a. – IV.I.12.c.). Supervisors shall be held accountable and subject to disciplinary action for failure on a subordinate's part to adhere to this policy (Refer to general order 12.1 *Command and Control*, Section IV.C.1.):

## 8. END OF SHIFT

a. At the end of each shift, deputies shall place their assigned BWC device in a docking station. When properly docked, the device will recharge and all recordings shall be automatically offloaded from the device and placed into Short Term Storage. For those recordings tagged with a case number, an automated process transfers the recordings into Long Term Storage on the Digital Crime Scene (DCS) system. **\*\*AMENDED\*\***

## INVESTIGATION:

On August 21, 2020, at approximately 1422 hours, Deputy Tyler Lawrence was dispatched to the intersection of South Spring Garden Avenue and Euclid Avenue, DeLand, in reference to Volusia Sheriff's Office call P202341378 [man with a machete call]. The call for service was in reference to a suspicious person walking northbound, on South Spring Garden Avenue, carrying a machete. The caller described the weapon as machete with a blade of approximately 2 feet in length. This

observation generated enough concern to warrant a call to the Sheriff's Office to have an investigation conducted.

On the same date, at approximately 1436 hours, Deputy Lawrence pre-empted his response to the aforementioned suspicious person call, and logged out as an on-scene back-up unit to DeLand Police Department's call P202341400 [suspicious person with a gun call], which was a suspicious person, allegedly, waving around a handgun in the parking lot of the Sunoco gas station (901 South Woodland Boulevard, DeLand).

At 1438 hours, Deputy Lawrence advised he was unable to locate the suspect at the Sunoco and was going to search the nearby Walmart parking lot.

At 1454 hours, Deputy Lawrence manually clears himself from the call with no report.

At 1458 hours, Deputy Lawrence puts himself back on the call at South Spring Garden Avenue and Euclid Avenue [man with machete call].

At 1503:22 hours, Deputy Lawrence manually inputs the comment, "10-96"; meaning he was unable to locate the suspect. One second later, at 1503:23 hours, Deputy Lawrence manually places himself on scene; meaning he was in the area of South Spring Garden Avenue and Euclid Avenue, DeLand. Four seconds after that, at 1503:27 hours, Deputy Lawrence manually clears himself from the call with no report [man with machete call].

At 1503:55 hours, Deputy Lawrence manually puts himself back on the DeLand Police Department weapons call, and at 1503:59 hours, Deputy Lawrence manually pulls case number VP200015003 for the DeLand Police Department's call. Deputy Lawrence later authors an assist another agency report [suspicious person with gun call].

At 1505 hours, Deputy Lawrence manually changed his location to 120 West Taylor Road, DeLand.

From 1505 hours until 1704 hours, Deputy Lawrence remained logged on the DeLand Police Department's weapons complaint call.

On August 22, 2020, at 1435 hours, Deputy Lawrence completed and approved report number 200015003

On August 23, 2020, Sergeant Tucker authored a Volusia Sheriff's Office BlueTeam, recommending Deputy Tyler Lawrence be considered for a "Letter of Commendation." As with most nominations, supporting documents are routinely requested to review in order to determine if the actions meet the requirements for the nominated award.

In this instance, the report and body worn camera footage were attached to the BlueTeam nomination.

On or about August 26, 2020, the nomination, and the attachments, made their way through the chain of command, to the Executive Officer, Captain Erik Eagan.

Throughout the following days, Captain Eagan began to review the nomination and noted a number of concerns with the Deputy's report not coinciding with his body worn camera footage and his in car AVL.

Below is a synopsis of the notes taken by Captain Eagan:

*"1422 – Dispatched to a male with a machete at Spring Garden and Euclid (Lawrence is at D2).*

*1435 – Lawrence leaves D2 and heads NB on Woodland Blvd.*

*1436 – BACKOS Beresford Av/S. Woodland Blvd for a male waving a gun (Lawrence drove from D2 to Sunoco).*

*1438 – Lawrence radios Central – unable to locate at Sunoco – will check the Walmart parking lot.*

*1440 – Two males sitting at the skate park reported by 5A10 (Sergeant David Stimpson) [DLPD].*

*1444 – Lawrence stationary at the skate park.*

*Radio traffic/BWC footage shows the DPD sergeant calling out with seeing the suspects adjacent to the skate park (where he found the disposed of gun) walking to the skate park.*

*Lawrence is driving NB on Alabama when this radio traffic is made, before he uses his binoculars to view the suspects, while parked on NB Alabama.*

*1454 – Lawrence clears DPD gun call NR.*

*1458 – Back on original call of male with a machete at Spring Garden and Euclid.*

*1503:22 – Lawrence is at Taylor and Clara (next to D2) – \*comment: 10-96 (Never arrives on call).*

*1503:27 - \*On scene machete call*

*1503:27 - \*Clear machete call*

*1503:55 – \*BACKOS on DPD call of male waving a gun*

*1503:59 – \*CASE VP200015003*

*1505 – \*CLOS*

1509 – Drives NB on Amelia Ave

1512 – Drives back by Earl Brown Park (skate park)

1523 – Stationary at D2 until 1740 hours

1704 – \*CLEAR NR”

Captain Eagan documented this timeline after reviewing Deputy Lawrence’s body worn camera footage and noting that he did not travel along the path he says he did in report number 200015003 [suspicious person with a gun call].

It should be noted, Captain Eagan also recalled an incident where Deputy Lawrence was observed traveling with his lights and sirens activated, for no apparent reason, in late 2019. This incident is documented, in great detail, later in this narrative.

All of this information was brought to the attention of command staff and was ultimately assigned by Chief Deputy J. Gallagher, as Internal Affairs Investigation 20-015.

On September 09, 2020, Sergeant Cobb began to review the documents which were provided in their entirety.

On September 10, 2020, Deputy Tyler Lawrence was served with a Notice of Internal Investigation, along with a copy of his Officer Bill of Rights. *(See tab - B for official correspondence)*

**Volusia Sheriff’s Office Report Number 200015003**

On September 11, 2020, Sergeant Cobb analyzed Deputy Lawrence’s report, authored on August 21, 2020.

Sergeant Cobb observed the following:

The case number was pulled on August 21, 2020. The report was authored as an “Assist other Agency” report for the DeLand Police Department’s suspicious person with a gun call. The report was possibly authored on the same day but was not submitted through Copperfire [Volusia Sheriff’s Office’s report writing software] until August 22, 2020, at 1435 hours. This was 24 hours after he initially responded to the call for service, and was not the same tour of duty as when the call was handled.

Deputy Lawrence indicates in the report’s header that the incident was reported on August 21, 2020, at 1432 hours, which is prior to the call being dispatched.

Deputy Lawrence inputs the time dispatched as 1433 hours, and that he arrived at 1436 hours, then cleared the call at 1600 hours. Deputy Lawrence’s computer aided dispatch [CAD] history shows he did not clear the call until 1704 hours.

In the “VICTIM/WITNESS” section of the Volusia County Sheriff’s Office Incident Report, Deputy Lawrence cites the offense as “1” indicating it was a felony crime. This reference has no statute associated with it in the “EVENT DATA” box at the top of the report. Deputy Lawrence inputs the “victim/witness” code as “O”, indicating “other”, and the victim type as “juvenile.” In the name box, Deputy Lawrence enters “(Last) Grimes (First) Kenyon (Middle) T.” Furthermore, the address box and date of birth box is left blank.

The proper, and more accurate, way to document this incident would be to input the defendant’s name in the “Subject / Missing Section,” and include the Defendant’s name spelled correctly; which is “Kenyonte Grimes.” Also, Grimes address, date of birth, identifying marks, nicknames and clothing description should have been included in this document. All of the aforementioned information was available to Deputy Lawrence at the time of he authored this report. The evidence supports a gross lack of motivation on Deputy Lawrence’s behalf in completing report number 200015003. This indolent behavior occurred after being ordered to complete a report by his immediate supervisor. Furthermore, at the bottom of pages three and four, Deputy Lawrence input his unit number as “1A24”, when in fact, he was “1C25”. Deputy Lawrence then signs both pages three and four and enters his Volusia Sheriff’s Office ID number of 8553.

It should be noted, on the Sheriff’s Office home page there is a link to “Manuals & Dept References.” If you click this link, there is an additional link to “Report Writing Manual – New Forms.” The content inside this link, provides explicit instruction on how to complete a report accurately and professionally.

This report was submitted to the Volusia Sheriff’s Office “Reports Management System” [RMS], as an official document.

In the narrative portion of the incident report, Deputy Lawrence articulates the following:

*“1 \*\*\*BWC RECORDING\*\*\**

*2*

*3 On 08/21/2020, at approximately 1432 hours, Deputy Lawrence responded to the intersection of Beresford Ave / Woodland Blvd, DeLand, and*

*4 assisted DeLand Police Department with a suspicious person call where the reporting party described a black male in all black approximately 16-19*

*5 years of age was waiving a firearm in the air. Prior to arrival, Deputy Lawrence was traveling north bound on south Amelia Ave passing the east*

*6 side of Earl Brown Park which is located at 750 S Alabama Ave, DeLand. Deputy Lawrence observed a black male in all black matching the*

*7 description walking quickly towards the pavilion just south of where the skate park is located at Earl Brown Park. Deputy Lawrence observed the*

*8 black male approach the trash can and disposed of a white plastic bag containing a dark heavy object within. Deputy Lawrence then continued*

*9 north on Amelia Ave and conducted a right hand turn to travel west bound and met with other DeLand PD units at the Sunoco gas station located at*

*10 901 S Woodland Blvd, Del. Deputy Lawrence relayed the information he observed to other responding DeLand PD units in which a tactical approach was conducted towards Earl Brown Park. Deputy Lawrence observed the black male that placed the bag with the dark heavy object in*  
*11*  
*12 the trash can sitting stationary on the bleachers within the skate park. Deputy Lawrence and DeLand PD units contacted the subject and identified*  
*13 the male as Kenyon Grimes (O1). Prior to Deputy Lawrence advising the DeLand PD units where the white bag was located, they had already*  
*14 located it within the trash can underneath the pavilion. Deputy Lawrence observed the white bag DeLand PD units recovered with a black Glock 43*  
*15 bearing serial number ZVZ122 within, and advised it was the bag Deputy Lawrence observed Grimes toss into the trash can prior to arrival. For*  
*16 further details reference DeLand PD investigation review case number DL200004893 for further details. I*  
*17*  
*18 It is to note the black Glock 43 handgun bearing serial number ZVZ122 that was recovered was a stolen firearm tied into DeLand PD case*  
*19 #DL200004853 which was confirmed a vehicle burglary. Deputy Lawrence completed an agency assist reference his involvement, and took no*  
*20 further action. Director Quann was notified of the incident from Volusia Sheriff's Office and DeLand Police Department.*  
*21*  
*22 Case Status: Closed.”*

It should be noted, Sergeant Cobb intentionally left the report format in the above state so as each line is easily identifiable by line number and will correlate perfectly with the Copperfire report.

Breaking the report down into small manageable pieces, Sergeant Cobb found the following discrepancies:

**Lines 3 through 6:** *On 08/21/2020, at approximately 1432 hours, Deputy Lawrence responded to the intersection of Beresford Ave / Woodland Blvd, DeLand, and assisted DeLand Police Department with a suspicious person call where the reporting party described a black male in all black approximately 16-19 years of age was waiving a firearm in the air. Prior to arrival, Deputy Lawrence was traveling north bound on south Amelia Ave passing the east side of Earl Brown Park which is located at 750 S Alabama Ave, DeLand*

Sergeant Cobb determined through watching Deputy Lawrence's body worn camera footage and searching his AVL history that he was not traveling northbound on South Amelia when he responded to this call. In fact, Deputy Lawrence was traveling northbound near the 900 block of South Woodland Boulevard when he responded to the call; likely because he was at District II and failed to respond to the machete call. Deputy Lawrence had his body camera activated while responding and at the 24 second mark in the footage, Sergeant Cobb can see Deputy Lawrence traveling northbound on South Woodland Boulevard near the roundabout, south of West Beresford Avenue. This location is not within eyesight of Earl Brown Park and cannot be confused with South Amelia Avenue.

**Lines 6 through 10:** *Deputy Lawrence observed a black male in all black matching the description walking quickly towards the pavilion just south of where the skate park is located at Earl Brown Park. Deputy Lawrence observed the black male approach the trash can and disposed of a white plastic bag containing a dark heavy object within. Deputy Lawrence then continued north on Amelia Ave and conducted a right hand turn to travel west bound and met with other DeLand PD units at the Sunoco gas station located at 901 S Woodland Blvd, Del. Deputy Lawrence relayed the information he observed to other responding DeLand PD units in which a tactical approach was conducted towards Earl Brown Park.*

As previously mentioned, Sergeant Cobb reviewed the body worn camera footage and AVL and determined Deputy Lawrence did not travel past the park, or even near the park, when responding to the call for service. Based on that information, there is no way Deputy Lawrence could have observed anything or anyone at Earl Brown Park or the nearby skate park, at that time. It would have been physically impossible for him to see the pavilion from East Beresford Avenue and South Alabama Avenue. Furthermore, Sergeant Cobb observed, at the 52 second mark of Deputy Lawrence's BWC footage, Deputy Lawrence turns eastbound on East Beresford Road and stops just past the Sunoco gas station. Deputy Lawrence exits his vehicle and meets DeLand Police Officers near the parking lot. While at the Sunoco, Deputy Lawrence does not say anything to any DeLand Police Officers nor does he have any verbal dialogue with anyone at the Sunoco gas station. At the 1 minute 58 second mark, Deputy Lawrence simply returns to his vehicle and advise dispatch he is unable to locate the suspect and will be searching the Walmart parking lot [Walmart Neighborhood Market, 955 South Woodland Boulevard, DeLand]. Deputy Lawrence then leaves the Walmart and follows a DeLand Police Officer northbound on South Alabama Avenue. This is in stark contrast to his authored lines 6 through 10.

**Line 10 through 14:** *Deputy Lawrence observed the black male that placed the bag with the dark heavy object in the trash can sitting stationary on the bleachers within the skate park. Deputy Lawrence and DeLand PD units contacted the subject and identified the male as Kenyon Grimes (O1). Prior to Deputy Lawrence advising the DeLand PD units where the white bag was located, they had already located it within the trash can underneath the pavilion.*

Deputy Lawrence notes he was able to see the male that dropped the gun in the trash can sitting on the bleachers within the skate park. However, at the 4 minute 13 second mark of his BWC footage, Deputy Lawrence had still not made it to the park for the first time. With that, there is no way he would know that the subjects sitting on the bleachers were in fact the same suspects who discarded the bag. At the 7 minute 30 second mark of his BWC footage, Deputy Lawrence walks up to the suspects in the skate park but by the time he gets there DeLand Police Officers already had them secured in handcuffs and cleared emergency traffic.

In line 13 specifically, Deputy Lawrence states DeLand Police Officers located the gun prior to him being able to tell them where it was located. Sergeant Cobb's observation of Deputy Lawrence's BWC footage is that Deputy Lawrence never was in a location where he could have seen the gun be disposed of. Additionally, when he exits his car Deputy Lawrence does not appear to have any idea where the gun was potentially disposed of. This is made unequivocally clear at the 10 minute 56 second mark of Deputy Lawrence's BWC footage. This is when he is observed



walking towards DeLand Police Officers looking at an object near the trash can and says, “*What the fuck they do?*” A DeLand Police Detective respond with, “*...unintelligible... firearm, might be stolen and Blum’s.*” It should also be noted, Deputy Lawrence again spelled the suspects name incorrectly.

**Line 14 through 17:** *Deputy Lawrence observed the white bag DeLand PD units recovered with a black Glock 43 bearing serial number ZVZ122 within, and advised it was the bag Deputy Lawrence observed Grimes toss into the trash can prior to arrival. For further details reference DeLand PD investigation review case number DL200004893 for further details. I*

Sergeant Cobb reviewed and analyzed Deputy Lawrence’s body warn camera footage and never heard Deputy Lawrence convey to anyone he saw Grimes discard a firearm in the garbage can. DeLand Police’s report does notate that Deputy Lawrence told them he saw the gun get discarded by Grimes; however, the statement is not captured on Deputy Lawrence’s BWC footage.

**Line 20:** *Director Quann was notified of the incident from Volusia Sheriff’s Office and DeLand Police Department.*

Based on Sergeant Cobb’s prior work experience within the agency he is aware that Deputies do not typically call Director Quann on behalf of another agency for a juvenile arrest. Furthermore, Sergeant Cobb is also aware, from prior work experience, the DeLand Police Department does not utilize Director Quann as a juvenile resource. It would be an anomaly for this incident within the DeLand Police Department’s jurisdiction to have generated a call to Director Quann.

### **Automated Vehicle Locator (AVL)**

On September 14, 2020, Sergeant Cobb conducted an in depth review of Deputy Lawrence’s historical AVL data. This analysis yielded the following:

On August 21, 2020, at 1400 hours, Deputy Lawrence was stationary at the District II office. Deputy Lawrence was dispatched to call number P202341378 at 1422 hours. This is the call with the unknown suspect carrying a machete on State Road 15A and Euclid Avenue. Deputy Lawrence remains stationary, at his location, from the time he is dispatched until 1432 hours.

After waiting 10 minutes to respond to a call involving a subject with a weapon, Deputy Lawrence leaves the District II office and travels northbound on South Woodland Boulevard until 1436 hours.

At this time, Deputy Lawrence takes himself off call number P202341378 and puts himself on the DeLand Police Department’s call at East Beresford Avenue and South Woodland Boulevard, DeLand.

At 1440 hours, Deputy Lawrence travels eastbound on East Beresford Avenue, then travels northbound on South Alabama Avenue.

At 1440:16 hours, Deputy Lawrence is traveling northbound at 26 miles per hour. Deputy Lawrence is located just south of East Volusia Avenue.

By comparing this data to Deputy Lawrence's body worn camera footage, and the radio traffic during this incident, Sergeant Cobb observed the following:

At approximately 1440:15 hours, the comment, "2 males sitting at the skate park" is entered into CAD. At 1440:21 hours, Deputy Lawrence is still on East Beresford Avenue traveling east at 21 miles per hour. The 1440:15 hours data was gathered from CAD, and the 1440:21 hours data was gathered from Deputy Lawrence's historical AVL.

At 1440:58 hours, the comment, "walking west towards Alabama" is entered into CAD by dispatch and at 1441:02 hours, emergency traffic is requested by Deland Police Officers. At 1440:40 hours, Deputy Lawrence is just south of East Volusia Avenue, traveling north at 26 miles per hour. At this time, Deputy Lawrence turns into a small parking area, slightly north of East Volusia Avenue. He pulls behind two DeLand Police Officers who have already exited their vehicle and are walking on foot. As Deputy Lawrence exits the parking area, DeLand Police advised both subjects are walking into the Skate Park. This is sometime just prior to 1441:13 hours, Deputy Lawrence is turning north on Alabama from the parking area.

By 1441 hours, both subjects had already left the pavilion and entered the Skate Park. At this same time, Deputy Lawrence is located approximately half way between East Volusia Avenue and West Winnemissett Avenue, traveling north.

Using Google Maps, Sergeant Cobb was able to determine it was approximately 655.12 feet from where Deputy Lawrence's patrol vehicle was positioned to the pavilion where the two suspects were seated. It was also determined that Deputy Lawrence was looking, both north and south, so he could safely pull into the lane of travel on South Alabama Avenue. This was determined through Deputy Lawrence's body worn camera footage.

Based on all of the available information, Sergeant Cobb drove to the same location that has been described in this narrative. From the location on South Alabama Avenue, halfway between East Volusia Avenue and West Winnemissett Avenue, Sergeant Cobb observed it was nearly impossible to see the pavilion where the suspects were seated. Furthermore, Sergeant Cobb was stationary and solely focused on locating the pavilion. This, coupled with the fact the suspects had already exited the pavilion and began walking west by this time, means it would have been physically impossible for Deputy Lawrence to have seen the pavilion from his vantage point. At that time, Deputy Lawrence's would have been near the exit of the parking area closer to 700 feet away from the pavilion. From both vantage points, there are trees, buildings and playground equipment that either block or camouflage the pavilion, the seats within the pavilion and the trash can at the pavilion.

Sergeant Cobb then traveled north approximately 332.03 feet and parked in the second parking area. At 21 miles per hour, this action took 7.25 seconds. Once stationary in this location, Sergeant Cobb was able to see the pavilion where the suspects were seated. Sergeant Cobb was also able to see the garbage can the gun was thrown into. It was determined through body camera footage,

Deputy Lawrence did not make it to this location until after the suspects had disposed of the gun and DeLand Police Officer advised, they were in the skate park. This, coupled with the radio traffic, makes it unambiguously clear the suspects had already made it to the Skate Park bleachers prior to the trash can coming into Deputy Lawrence's line of sight.

To summarize all of the aforementioned analytical information, Sergeant Cobb observed through examination of all available evidence that it was impossible for Deputy Lawrence to have seen the suspects dispose of the firearm. This conclusion is solidified at the 10 minute, 56 second mark of Deputy Lawrence's body camera footage when he states, "*What the fuck they do?*" as he is seen walking up to the exact garbage can he allegedly witnessed the suspects dispose of a bag containing a "dark heavy object"

On September 15, 2020, Sergeant Cobb began to analyze Deputy Lawrence's AVL in reference to call number P202341378. This was dispatched to Deputy Lawrence as a suspicious person walking northbound on South Spring Garden Avenue; carrying a long bladed weapon.

Sergeant Cobb observed the following:

Deputy Lawrence was dispatched to the call at 1422 hours but remained stationary at the District II office for 10 minutes.

At 1432 hours, Deputy Lawrence leaves District II, traveling north on South Woodland Boulevard. This is not the direction of the call for service and it appears as though he is going to the DeLand Police Department's call.

From 1436 hours to 1458 hours, Deputy Lawrence assists DeLand Police Department.

At 1458:27 hours, Deputy Lawrence puts himself back on his call for service. This is 36 minutes after it was dispatched.

From 1458:27 to 1503:27 hours, Deputy Lawrence travels west on West Beresford Avenue until he reaches South Spring Garden Avenue. Deputy Lawrence then travels south on South Spring Garden Avenue to District II.

Deputy Lawrence never travels north to West Euclid Avenue to investigate the call for service. In fact, Deputy Lawrence never gets within a half of mile of the call for service. However, Deputy Lawrence inputs a CAD comment indicating he was unable to locate the suspect and cleared the call; all within 4 seconds.

Once back at the District, Deputy Lawrence put himself back on DeLand Police Department's call. Deputy Lawrence then travels back to the area of Earl Brown Park. Deputy Lawrence drives around the area for approximately 10 minutes. Deputy Lawrence then returns to the District II office, where he remains stationary until 1740 hours. Deputy Lawrence then travels east, towards the east side of the county.

It should also be noted, while reviewing Deputy Lawrence's BWC for evidentiary purposes, Sergeant Cobb watched Deputy Lawrence's last body worn camera video from August 21, 2020. This footage was recorded on August 21, 2020, at 1636 hours, behind District II. In reviewing this footage, Sergeant Cobb observed the following:

The video turns on in buffer mode with no audio. Deputy Lawrence is observed using his MDC and personal cell phone. It is raining outside and he is parked behind District II. At the 55 second mark, Deputy Lawrence appears to be typing a report. At the 1 minute, 10 second mark, the video still has no audio; however, you see Deputy Lawrence exit his vehicle. Upon exiting his vehicle, Deputy Lawrence steps over to, what appears to be, a sergeant's vehicle. The window rolls down slightly, then you see a lighting strike in the distance. Deputy Lawrence jumps, and walks under the awning of District II. At the 1 minute, 30 second mark, you hear the "tick, tick" sound and the audio is activated. Deputy Lawrence then points to the sky, then points to his camera, then says, "*It turned my camera on.*" The video then ends.

Sergeant Cobb obtained the "Evidence Audit Trail" for Deputy Lawrence's AXON Flex 2 camera. The audit indicates his camera was activated on August 21, 2020, at 1636 hours, due to a "camera event button press," not from an external source, such as lightning.

Sergeant Cobb contacted Dana Thomas, with the Volusia Sheriff's Office Information Systems, and asked if she ever had any complaints of a nearby lighting strike activating a body worn camera. Dana advised she has never had a complaint of that nature and does not know of anyone ever making a complaint of that nature. Dana Thomas has been working with AXON Flex body cameras since 2016.

Due to the investigation leading Sergeant Cobb to believe Deputy Lawrence fabricated the information in report number 200015003 [suspicious person with a gun call], coupled with the same amount of evidence he failed to respond to a call for service involving a weapon, Sergeant Cobb looked at Deputy Lawrence's AVL on the date Captain Eagan observed him operating his vehicle with his lights activated. This occurred on Spring Garden Avenue, near State Road 44, DeLand, on October 17, 2019 at 1742 hours.

With that information, Deputy Lawrence's AVL was compared to his body camera footage from call P192901832. This call was titled as a "warrant" and located at 3723 Loadholtz Road, DeLand. Units were in the area looking for a male suspect with an open warrant. It was advised the male may be armed and wishing to commit suicide by cop. Deputy Lawrence arrived in the area, then ultimately cleared the call at 1803 hours, prior to the subject being located by deputies.

At 1803 hours, Deputy Lawrence's vehicle was located on Saxon Boulevard at Enterprise Road, Orange City; traveling eastbound 42.8 miles per hour. This location is not even remotely close to the location of the call for service and Deputy Lawrence is traveling in the wrong direction. Furthermore, Deputy Lawrence puts himself on scene the call at 1800 hours. At 1801 hours, Deputy Lawrence is located on north Charles R. Beall Boulevard just north of Saxon Boulevard, DeBary; traveling southbound at 58.5 miles per hour. Again, this is not even in the same vicinity as where he logged out "on scene" for call number P192901832.

Based on this information, Sergeant Cobb observed that Deputy Lawrence was being untruthful of his location.

Outside of all the previously documented information, Sergeant Cobb determined that Deputy Lawrence was traveling southbound, on North Spring Garden Avenue, near State Road 44, when he passed Captain Eagan while operating his vehicle in emergency mode.

Deputy Lawrence's AVL indicates he was traveling 46.8 miles per hour approaching the intersection. Deputy Lawrence slows to 26.3 miles per hour at the intersection and then immediately increases his speeds to 65.6 miles per hour. The increase in speed from 26.3 miles per hour to 65.6 miles per hour took 20 seconds. The above AVL information corroborates Captain Eagan's recollection of events on this date. Furthermore, Deputy Lawrence did not have his body worn camera activated during his travels southbound.

Volusia Sheriff's Office General Order 41.20 H. 4. (a.) states:

***EMERGENCY RESPONSE:*** *When responding to calls that require the deputy to engage in emergency vehicle operations and the activation of emergency lights and siren (i.e. Code 3), the BWC shall be activated as safely as possible upon being dispatched.*

Deputy Lawrence was required to have his body worn camera activated while operating his vehicle in emergency mode.

Additionally, Deputy Lawrence failed to dock his body worn camera at the end of his shift. This is visible in this historical AVL data which does not show him stopping at the District II office, as well as in evidence.com, where it states all of his October 17, 2019 body worn camera footage was uploaded on October 18, 2019, at a the end of that particular shift.

As per Volusia Sheriff's Office General Order 41.20 8. (a.), which states:

***END OF SHIFT***

*a. At the end of each shift, deputies shall place their assigned BWC device in a docking station. When properly docked, the device will recharge and all recordings shall be automatically offloaded from the device and placed into Short Term Storage. For those recordings tagged with a case number, an automated process transfers the recordings into Long Term Storage on the Digital Crime Scene (DCS) system.*

Deputy Lawrence failed to dock his body worn camera in accordance with General Order 41.20 8. (a)

On September 15, 2020, Sergeant Cobb briefed Chief Deputy J. Gallagher on IA 20-015. At that time, Chief Deputy J. Gallagher made the determination to place Deputy Lawrence on administrative duties and temporarily reassign him to Records.

On September 16, 2020, at 1225 hours, Sergeant Cobb and Lieutenant Shivers served Deputy Lawrence with an amended Notice of Internal Investigation with a new policy violation allegation,

administrative duties direction and a temporary reassignment. The notice was signed and dated by Deputy Lawrence. The entire transaction was supervised by Lieutenant D. Shivers.

Prior to leaving, Sergeant Cobb collected Deputy Lawrence's firearm, gun belt, Sheriff's Office ID, 2 badges, a MDC, a body worn camera and his marked patrol vehicle.

It should be noted, Sergeant Cobb asked Deputy Lawrence if he had any other agency issued firearms, to which he replied, "No."

Sergeant Cobb also asked Deputy Lawrence if he had his body worn camera. Deputy Lawrence advised he did have it. Deputy Lawrence then voluntarily told Sergeant Cobb and Lieutenant Shivers that he did not dock his camera at District II at the end of his shift because he, "*did not have any recordings.*"

Sergeant Cobb conducted a check of Deputy Lawrence's CAD call history from September 15, 2020 to September 16, 2020.

Sergeant Cobb determined that Deputy Lawrence conducted a traffic stop on North Volusia Avenue, Orange City, at 2330 hours. Deputy Lawrence remained on this traffic stop until 2344 hours.

It should be noted, Deputy King responded as a back up to Deputy Lawrence's traffic stop. Deputy King did activate his body worn camera.

On September 17, 2020, Sergeant Cobb had Deputy Lawrence's body worn camera docked/uploaded at Information Technologies. Sergeant Cobb observed Deputy Lawrence activated and recorded two calls for service during his shift between September 15, 2020, and September 16, 2020. Sergeant Cobb observed Deputy Lawrence's unsolicited and spontaneous statements that he "*did not have any recordings*" were untruthful. These are documented in AXON video file numbers: AXON\_Flex\_2\_Video\_2020-09-15\_2143 and AXON\_Flex\_2\_Video\_2020-09-15\_2331

### **Sergeant Cameron Tucker**

On September 17, 2020, at 1308 hours, Sergeant Cobb conducted an interview with Sergeant Cameron Tucker at the Volusia Sheriff's Office administration building. Sergeant Tucker raised his right hand and was sworn in by Sergeant Cobb. Below is a synopsis of the interview:

Sergeant Tucker has been employed with the Volusia Sheriff's Office since November of 2011. Sergeant Tucker is currently assigned to the District II area of responsibility. Sergeant Tucker was working the week of August 21, 2020, in the capacity of a patrol sergeant.

Sergeant Cobb provided Sergeant Tucker with a copy of report number 200015003. This is the report Deputy Lawrence authored for the DeLand Police Department's incident involving two suspects waiving a gun around the Sunoco.

After reading the report, Sergeant Tucker advised he received a phone call from Deputy Lawrence after the incident had been concluded. Deputy Lawrence advised Sergeant Tucker that he witnessed the suspect throw a bag, which contained a stolen gun, into the garbage can at Earl Brown Park. Sergeant Tucker advised Deputy Lawrence seemed excited to tell this information to him because the recovered stolen gun belonged to Deputy Wesley Blum.

After Sergeant Tucker heard all of the information Deputy Lawrence had provided, Sergeant Tucker ordered Deputy Lawrence to write a report because it was pertinent information to DeLand Police Department's criminal case.

Sergeant Tucker then drove to the scene and contacted Sergeant Stinson, with DeLand Police Department. Sergeant Tucker relayed the information, in which Deputy Lawrence provided him, to Sergeant Stinson.

Sergeant Tucker returned to District II and advised Deputy Lawrence he needed the report completed expeditiously because he was making chain-of-command notifications.

Sergeant Tucker completed his supervisor responsibilities and then left for the night; as his tour of duty was concluded.

Sergeant Tucker advised he returned to work the following day, August 22, 2020, and observed the report he requested Deputy Lawrence to complete was still not submitted.

Sergeant Tucker contacted Deputy Lawrence and ordered him, for a second time, to submit the report. The report was then submitted by Deputy Lawrence through Copperfire later in the shift. At no point did Sergeant Tucker authorize Deputy Lawrence to submit report number 200015003 late, or provide Deputy Lawrence authorization to submit the report on a different tour of duty.

After speaking with Captain Kammerer about the incident, Sergeant Tucker was given direction to author an awards nomination for Deputy Lawrence, based on outstanding police work.

Sergeant Tucker completed the awards nomination and BlueTeam entry without reviewing the body worn camera footage in its entirety.

Sergeant Cobb then played the body worn camera footage for Sergeant Tucker. Sergeant Cobb played the footage in increments and compared it to the report. At the conclusion of this, Sergeant Tucker provided the following statement:

*"I can't honestly I can't think of anything that would justify any of this and it would seem to me that for whatever reason he completely made this up. For what I don't know? I don't know if it was for show or to brag about it to me or whatever and..."*

Sergeant Cobb then played the body worn camera footage which depicted Deputy Lawrence telling an unknown supervisor that a lighting strike activated his body worn camera.

This video was 1 minute and 41 seconds. Sergeant Tucker positively identified the car as his and independently recalled the incident. Sergeant Tucker confirmed Deputy Lawrence did in fact say that lighting activated his camera. Sergeant Tucker stated he did not think much of this incident and they both moved on.

Sergeant Cobb showed Sergeant Tucker the “Axon Evidence Audit Trail” regarding the aforementioned body worn camera video. Upon reviewing the audit trail, Sergeant Tucker confirmed it appears Deputy Lawrence was untruthful in his statement that the camera was turned on due to a nearby lighting strike.

Sergeant Tucker advised Deputy Lawrence has significant, emotional, highs and lows. Sergeant Tucker advised, on an unknown date and time, Deputy Lawrence arrived to work wearing no vest, no gun belt and no shoes. Sergeant Tucker was infuriated by this behavior and asked him to get dressed. At a later time in the shift, Deputy Lawrence told Sergeant Tucker he had his shoes on in the car but took them off prior to entering the district. Sergeant Tucker advised this obviously did not make sense but he was so upset by the behavior he simply told him to get dressed and be ready to work.

Sergeant Tucker had nothing further to add to the interview and it was concluded. The interview was recorded in its entirety.

#### **Director Carla Quann**

On September 18, 2020, at 0925 hours, Sergeant Cobb conducted an interview with Director Carla Quann at the Volusia Sheriff’s Office administration building. Director Quann raised her right hand and was sworn in. Below is a synopsis of the interview:

Director Quann is familiar with Kenyonte Grimes due to her employment with the Volusia Sheriff’s Office. Director Quann was never contacted by any member of the Volusia Sheriff’s Office or the Deland Police Department, regarding the Kenyonte Grimes arrest. Director Quann specifically stated that Deputy Tyler Lawrence did not contact her regarding the incident. She knows this because she searched all of her work phones for his phone number and was unable to locate a call. Director Quann also has no independent recollection of any member of the Volusia Sheriff’s Office calling her regarding Kenyonte. Director Quann was certain if she had been contacted she would have remembered the phone call because it involved a juvenile with a gun. Director Quann verified it is not common practice for Deland Police to contact her in reference to juvenile arrest and this incident would not likely result in a call from our agency; unless very specific sergeants are working.

Director Quann had no further information to add and the interview was concluded. This interview was recorded in its entirety.

#### **Captain Erik Eagan**



On September 18, 2020, at 0943 hours, Sergeant Cobb conducted an interview with Captain Erik Eagan at the Volusia Sheriff's Office administration building. Captain Eagan raised his right hand and was sworn in. Below is a synopsis of the interview:

Captain Eagan received an awards nomination through BlueTeam in the day following August 21, 2020. Captain Eagan reviewed the report and body worn camera footage, and noted discrepancies in both. Captain Eagan then looked at Deputy Lawrence's AVL and determined it matched the body worn camera footage but the report did not match either the AVL or the body worn camera footage. Captain Eagan brought the discrepancies to the Chief Deputy, who requested he look into it further. Captain Eagan then reviewed the 911 audio and DeLand Police Department's body worn camera footage.

As Captain Eagan reviewed the aforementioned material, he authored chronological notes. The evidence supported a notion that Deputy Lawrence was untruthful in his authored report. Ultimately, Captain Eagan described Deputy Lawrence's report as, *"Yeah I mean it was, it was a complete falsehood of what transpired and what he was able to see I mean it was just... [not possible]"*

In review of this incident, Captain Eagan recalled Deputy Lawrence by name. Captain Eagan did not believe he had ever met Deputy Lawrence, but independently recalled an instance where Deputy Lawrence's name was brought to his attention.

Captain Eagan described the incident as follows:

He was stationary at the intersection of South State Road 15a and West State Road 44, DeLand. The traffic light was red and the traffic was backed up roughly one eighth of a mile. Captain Eagan observed a marked, Volusia Sheriff's Office, vehicle traveling southbound at a significant speed. Captain Eagan recalled the vehicle had the emergency lights and siren activated.

Captain Eagan, concerned that he did not hear an emergency call on his radio, checked his iPad for calls for service. Captain Eagan could not locate any calls for service that would constitute an emergency. Captain Eagan only noted one call, this incident was being worked in the DeLeon Springs area, which Deputy Lawrence was traveling away from. Captain Eagan checked Deputy Lawrence's AVL and determined he was traveling near 70 miles per hour and did not appear to be going to a call.

Captain Eagan called Sergeant Edgecomb and asked him if there was a reason Deputy Lawrence was traveling southbound with his lights and siren activated. Sergeant Edgecomb stated he did not know and that he would address the issue with Deputy Lawrence. Captain Eagan allowed Sergeant Edgecomb to contact Deputy Lawrence about the incident.

When asked, Captain Eagan described Deputy Lawrence's driving behavior as *"careless"*

Captain Eagan had nothing further to add and the interview was concluded. This interview was recorded in its entirety.

### **Sergeant Steve Edgecomb**

On September 18, 2020, at 1012 hours, Sergeant Cobb conducted an interview with Sergeant Steve Edgecomb at the Volusia Sheriff's Office administration building. Sergeant Edgecomb raised his right hand and was sworn in. Below is a synopsis of the interview:

Sergeant Edgecomb was working in a patrol sergeant capacity on the day of October 17, 2019. Sergeant Edgecomb recalled receiving a call from Captain Eagan about Deputy Tyler Lawrence's driving behavior on this date. The date was determined by Sergeant Edgecomb's independent recollection of the call for service in which this incident stemmed from. Sergeant Edgecomb stated that Captain Eagan told him he observed Deputy Lawrence traveling southbound, with his lights and sirens activated, at a high rate of speed. Sergeant Edgecomb called Deputy Lawrence and counseled him on his driving habits.

Sergeant Edgecomb had no further information to add and the interview was concluded. The interview was recorded in its entirety.

### **Officer Ryan Riedinger**

On September 22, 2020, at 0945 hours, Sergeant Cobb conducted an interview with Officer Ryan Riedinger [DLPD]. The interview was conducted over the phone and audio recorded. Officer Riedinger was requested he raise his right hand and was sworn in. Below is a synopsis of the interview:

Officer Riedinger was the arresting officer in the Kenyonte Grimes case with the stolen firearm. Officer Riedinger does not know Deputy Lawrence and did not talk to any deputies while on the aforementioned call.

Officer Riedinger advised, in part, he copied Sergeant Stinson's supplement report into his charging affidavit. This is how line 27 became a part of his arrest narrative.

With that, Sergeant Cobb concluded the interview. The interview was recorded in its entirety.

Based on the statements made, and the evidence presented, Sergeant Cobb determined the following:

On October 17, 2019, Deputy Tyler Lawrence was operating his marked, Volusia Sheriff's Office, patrol vehicle, southbound on State Road 15a, at an excessive speed. At the intersection of State Road 15a and State Road 44, Deland, Deputy Lawrence had his emergency lights and siren activated for no known reason. He continued to drive at excessive speeds, in a sporadic fashion, all the way to Saxon Boulevard and Enterprise Road, Orange City; before logging out of service. At the time his lights and siren were activated, Deputy Lawrence did not have his body worn camera activated. This data was gathered from Deputy Lawrence's historical AVL data.

On August 21, 2020, Deputy Lawrence was dispatched to a call at South Spring Garden Avenue and West Euclid Avenue, involving a man with a machete. Deputy Lawrence acknowledged the

call for service but never responded to the scene. Deputy Lawrence remained stationary at District II for 10 minutes, before ultimately handling a different call for service. Deputy Lawrence authored notes in CAD indicating he went to the scene and was unable to locate the subject; however, Deputy Lawrence's AVL proves otherwise. Deputy Lawrence never activated his body worn camera for this call.

Later on August 21, 2020, Deputy Lawrence responds to a Deland Police Departments call for service. Sometime between August 21<sup>st</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, Deputy Lawrence authors report number VP200015003. In this report, Deputy Lawrence's narrative does not match what is observed on his body worn camera footage, nor his historical AVL data. The discrepancies within the narrative of this report generate significant concern that Deputy Lawrence fabricated facts. Deputy Lawrence submitted the report on a different tour of duty, rather than the one the call was initiated on. Deputy Lawrence did not get authorization from his sergeant to hold this report until his next shift.

On August 21, 2020, at the end of Deputy Lawrence's shift, there is body worn camera footage of Deputy Lawrence telling Sergeant Tucker that lighting activated Deputy Lawrence's body camera. The AXON evidence trail states the activation was from a double tap of the activation button. Evidence indicates this is another example of fabrication of facts.

On September 16, 2020, Deputy Lawrence told Lieutenant Shivers and Sergeant Cobb he did not dock his body camera at the end of his September 15<sup>th</sup> shift because he did not have any recordings on it. Sergeant Cobb determined there were two recordings on his camera from his September 15<sup>th</sup> shift in District II.

On September 18, 2020, Deputy Wiles advised Sergeant Cobb that Deputy Lawrence had a less lethal shotgun assigned to him. Sergeant Cobb responded to the Volusia County barn and located Deputy Lawrence assigned patrol vehicle. Sergeant Cobb entered the trunk of the vehicle and removed an agency issue less lethal shotgun. While doing this, Sergeant Cobb located a bolt action 30-06, scoped rifle, laying on the driver's side of the trunk area. The rifle was removed from the trunk, as it should have been prior to the patrol car being dropped off for repair, and later returned to Deputy Lawrence. Deputy Lawrence is not authorized to carry this particular weapon while in service.

On September 23, 2020, Sergeant Cobb presented the facts of the case to Assistant State Attorney Mike Willard, FDLE Agent Jason Kriegsman, Division Chief Henderson and Chief Deputy Gallagher.

At that time, it was determined that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement would initiate a criminal investigation in to the authoring of Volusia Sheriff's Office Incident Report number 200015003. Sergeant Cobb was also advised that due to the administrative investigation indicating the incident involves a policy violation so evident, and egregious, that it may require immediate dismissal; the Internal Affairs investigation would run concurrently with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's investigation.

**Deputy Tyler Lawrence**

On October 13, 2020, at 1030 hours, Sergeant Cobb conducted an interview with Deputy Tyler Lawrence at the Volusia Sheriff's Office Administration Building. Present for the interview was, Lieutenant Shivers, Sergeant Cobb, Attorney Gary Wilson, IUPA Vice President Sean Gowan and Deputy Lawrence. Deputy Lawrence signed a copy of his Garrity Warning, acknowledging his understanding of the document. This was done in front of all of the previously mentioned personnel. Deputy Lawrence was read a Volusia Sheriff's Office Administration of Oath / Perjury Warning. This document was signed by Sergeant Cobb in the presence of the same previously mentioned personnel. Deputy Lawrence raised his right hand and was sworn in prior to the interview commencing. Below is a synopsis of audio recorded interview:

Deputy Lawrence has been employed with the Volusia Sheriff's Office for approximately one year and eight months. Deputy Lawrence has worked in law enforcement for approximately three and a half or four years. Deputy Lawrence worked for the Daytona Beach Police Department prior to being employed with the Volusia Sheriff's Office.

#### **October 17, 2019 Incident:**

Deputy Lawrence vaguely recalled the call for service on Loadholtz Road, Deland, where a suspect was fleeing from law enforcement, but did still acknowledge he remembered the call for service. Deputy Lawrence also acknowledge he had a recollection of Sergeant Edgecomb calling him on that day in regards to his speed, or driving pattern. However, Deputy Lawrence was unable to remember any portion of time between him leaving the call and receiving a call from Sergeant Edgecomb. The only information Deputy Lawrence could provide regarding his driving behavior was, *"I mean if the AVL says I was going 82 then I was going 82"*. Sergeant Cobb took this as an indication that Deputy Lawrence was not disputing the fact that he was speeding but was unwilling or unable to recall the manner in which he was operating his Volusia Sheriff's Office patrol vehicle on that day.

It should be noted, Deputy Lawrence was not traveling 82 miles per hour through the intersection, but had been traveling at 82 miles per hour at a location farther north of State Road 44 and State Road 15a. When Deputy Lawrence approached the intersection, he was traveling at 46.8 miles per hour, and immediately upon clearing the intersection his speed increases to 62.3 miles per hour.

Furthermore, Deputy Lawrence had no memory of docking his body worn camera on the date of this incident. Below is Deputy Lawrence's response to Sergeant Cobb's question:

BC *"Ok. If you don't remember that I doubt you're gonna remember the answer to this but on that day when you were heading home do you remember if you stopped by district 2 to dock your body worn camera?"*

TL *"I don't recall."*

BC *“Ok so if I told you that you did not dock it that day and all your video was uploaded at the end of your second shift for your, that rotation you just would have to assume that’s accurate based on this...”*

TL *“Yes sir.”*

BC *“...evidence.com document?”*

TL *“Yes sir.”*

**August 21, 2020 Police Event #P202341378:**

Deputy Lawrence admitted to being dispatched to a suspicious incident, involving a male suspect carrying a machete, in the area of South Spring Garden and West Euclid Avenue, Deland.

Deputy Lawrence admitted to not responding to the call for service and did not dispute the fact that he was stationary at the District II office for 10 minutes after being dispatched. It should be noted, it only takes approximately 3 minutes to travel from the District II office to the scene. Base Deputy Lawrence’s AVL and call history, he had more than enough time to handle his call for service and as evidenced, chose not to.

Sergeant Cobb asked Deputy Lawrence why he authored a CAD comment that said he was unable to locate the suspect [10-96] if he never responded to the call. Deputy Lawrence responded with, *“We only received the one call on it so I just I just blew it off”*. Sergeant Cobb clarified Deputy Lawrence’s statements by asking, *“But it, but that’s not true right? That was completely, that single comment was a completely false comment you never went up there and looked for the guy with the machete?”* Deputy Lawrence’s response was, *“I never went and looked for him.”* Sergeant Cobb asked Deputy Lawrence if he was aware there is a child care facility at that intersection with an outdoor play area? Deputy Lawrence indicated he was not familiar with the child care facility being located at the intersection. Furthermore, when asked why 10 minutes had lapsed after being dispatched, Deputy Lawrence’s response was, *“I couldn’t tell you.”* Deputy Lawrence was not able to recall any other information regarding this particular call for service.

**Volusia Sheriff’s Office case number 200015003:**

Deputy Lawrence admits the report he wrote is not factual. Deputy Lawrence blamed his inaccuracies on working too much overtime and personal issues. Deputy Lawrence admitted the overtime he worked is on a voluntary basis and not mandated by the agency. Throughout the interview Deputy Lawrence used the term “I don’t recall” as a response a significant amount of times; to the point, Sergeant Cobb felt as though Deputy Lawrence was being deceptive. A particular example of this behavior is in this line of questioning:

BC *“Why’d you write, why’d you write that down? Like I’m just gonna ask you straight forward this is an administrative interview, I just wanna know why you wrote that down.”*

TL *“That’s just, the next day I wrote it and that’s just how I remembered it.”*

- BC** *“Ok. So in less than 24 hours or right at 24 hours you forgot where you were dispatched from, what road you traveled on, what you saw a guy do and not do, where you ultimately contacted him and you forgot everything.”*
- TL** *“Yes sir.”*
- BC** *“And you didn’t take the opportunity to review all the technology we give you to try to write an accurate report?”*
- TL** *“No and I should have.”*
- BC** *“Alright were you given permission to write that report the next day?”*
- TL** *“No sir.”*
- BC** *“No, ok. Were you actually encouraged, did you call a sergeant did you call Sgt. Tucker first and tell him what all took place and then he told you to write a report? Did you have any intentions on writing a report for this call I guess is my question.”*
- TL** *“Not at first.”*
- BC** *“Ok so essentially you were ordered to write a report by your sergeant.”*
- TL** *“Yes he told me to.”*
- BC** *“Based on what you told him.”*
- TL** *“Right.”*
- BC** *“Is this the series of events that you told him?”*
- TL** *“I don’t recall I’d have to go back.”*
- BC** *“You don’t remember what you told him over the phone?”*
- TL** *“I’d have to go back and look.”*
- BC** *“This is the pavilion where they were sitting, that’s the bag they ultimately recovered the gun from and you walk up and you ask him what the fuck they do? You’ve already told me you didn’t see what you wrote down, you didn’t do an see what you wrote down so this is probably highly redundant but was that question posed because you weren’t sure what the sergeant and that detective were doing?”*
- TL** *“I don’t recall. I didn’t know if they saw them before they got to that or if they saw them waving the gun by the intersection I didn’t...”*

Deputy Lawrence appeared to have difficulty remembering the answers to the questions that pertained to his inability to see what he says he observed in his report.

Sergeant Cobb concluded this portion of the interview with the below questions:

BC *“Do you know what that is, ok. Do you feel as though you exaggerated the facts to your sergeant over the phone?”*

TL *“Yes.”*

BC *“Ok is there a particular reason why you did that or did it just happen?”*

TL *“It just, it just happened there was no reason why it did it just, I wasn’t trying to make myself look good I wasn’t trying to make Deland look bad I wasn’t trying to make our agency look better or anything like that I just I thought I remembered observing him carrying a bag that was consistent with what was going on so I just that’s why I relayed that to him that I saw him with the bag near the trashcan and.”*

**August 21, 2020 Body Worn Camera footage “AXON Flex 2 Video 2020-08-21 1636”:**

Deputy Lawrence was then shown a short body worn camera video from the end of his August 21, 2020 shift. In the video, you can see Deputy Lawrence in his patrol car working on a report. He exits his patrol vehicle and walks to the Sergeant’s car next to his. A flash of lightening is seen, and Deputy Lawrence walks under the overhang of the District II Office. Deputy Lawrence’s audio then activates and he can be heard saying, *“it turned my camera on”*, while he points to the sky with his finger.

When Sergeant Cobb questions Deputy Lawrence on what was said, Deputy Lawrence stated that he turned his camera on because he was nearly struck with lighting. Sergeant Cobb told Deputy Lawrence that it sounded like he told Sergeant Tucker the lighting turned on his camera. Deputy Lawrence replied, *“No I turned it on because I almost got hit by lightning.”* This statement by Deputy Lawrence is only partially truthful. Deputy Lawrence did intentionally activate his body worn camera, but it was not for the purposes of capturing the lighting strike. Sergeant Cobb cannot say what Deputy Lawrence’s intentions were in doing this, but he lied to Sergeant Tucker about the circumstances surrounding the body worn camera activation. Deputy Lawrence also lied to Sergeant Cobb by stating that the audio on the body worn camera footage is of him telling Sergeant Tucker he turned his camera on.

**September 16, 2020:**

Deputy Lawrence was again deceptive about not docking his body worn camera and what he said to Lieutenant Shivers and Sergeant Cobb. The discrepancies are documented in the below dialog:

BC *“When you were gathering your duty gear do you remember me asking you if your body camera was docked at district 2?”*

TL *“Yes”*

BC *“And do you remember what your answer was to Lt. Shivers and myself?”*

TL *“I might have said it should be or something along that which I don’t remember.”*

BC *“You said something to the effect of I have it because, I didn’t dock it because I didn’t have any videos on it.”*

TL *“Right.”*

BC *“Does that sound accurate?”*

TL *“Uh huh.”*

BC *“Ok. Is that true? Did you not have any videos on it?”*

TL *“I don’t recall.”*

Ultimately, your statements to Lieutenant Shivers and Sergeant Cobb on the day of September 16, 2020, were untruthful. Furthermore, you again, failed to dock your body worn camera at the end of your shift.

Prior to the conclusion of the interview, Deputy Lawrence was asked if he violated the following Sheriff’s Office Directives and Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations:

<b>86-453 Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations 86-453 (9)</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>86-453 Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations 86-453 (14)</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>86-453 Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations 86-453 (22)</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>26.2.106 Veracity- Untruthfulness</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>26.2.35 Submission of Reports and Documents</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>26.2.109 Falsification of Official Documents</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>26.2.42 Endangering Others through Neglect A. Emergency situations</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>41.20 Body Worn Camera 8. End of Shift</b>	<b>Yes</b>

On October 14, 2020, this investigation was present to the Sheriff and his staff. After careful review, the Sheriff determined the violations of the below listed departmental and county policies to be:

<b>86-453 Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations 86-453 (9)</b>	<b>Sustained</b>
<b>86-453 Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations 86-453 (14)</b>	<b>Sustained</b>
<b>86-453 Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations 86-453 (22)</b>	<b>Sustained</b>
<b>26.2.106 Veracity- Untruthfulness</b>	<b>Sustained</b>
<b>26.2.35 Submission of Reports and Documents</b>	<b>Sustained</b>



<b>26.2.109 Falsification of Official Documents</b>	<b>Sustained</b>
<b>26.2.42 Endangering Others through Neglect A. Emergency situations</b>	<b>Sustained</b>
<b>41.20 Body Worn Camera 8. End of Shift</b>	<b>Sustained</b>

**EXHIBITS:**

- A. Report of Investigation
- B. Official Correspondence
- C. Official Transcripts – Sergeant Tucker
- D. Official Transcripts – Director Carla Quann
- E. Official Transcripts – Captain Erik Eagan
- F. Official Transcripts – Sergeant Steve Edgecomb
- G. Official Transcripts – Deland Police Officer Reidinger
- H. Official Transcripts – Deputy Tyler Lawrence
- I. Agency Report 200015003
- J. CAD history call P202341378
- K. CAD history for October 17, 2019
- L. Axon device audit trail
- M. Axon docking history for September 17, 2020
- N. Director Carla Quann’s call history
- O. Deputy Tyler Lawrence’s VSO arrest
- P. Digital media

**WITNESSES:**

Captain Erik Eagan  
Volusia Sheriff’s Office

386-736-5961

Director Carla Quann  
Volusia Sheriff's Office  
386-736-5961

Sergeant Cameron Tucker  
Volusia Sheriff's Office  
386-736-5961

Sergeant Steve Edgecomb  
Volusia Sheriff's Office  
386-736-5961

Officer Ryan Reidinger  
Deland Police Department  
(386) 626-7400

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing document and that the facts stated in it are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

AND

I, the undersigned, do hereby swear, under the 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 suspect of the investigation of any rights contained in ss. 112.532 and 112.533, Florida Statutes.

DETECTIVE: \_\_\_\_\_

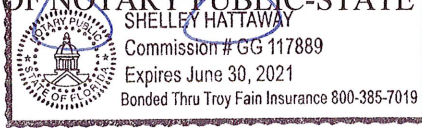
DATE: 10/16/2020

**Sergeant Brian Cobb  
Internal Affairs Sergeant**

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA**

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me by means of  physical presence or  online Notarization this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020 by Sergeant Brian Cobb

SIGNATURE OF NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF FLORIDA



PRINT, TYPE, OR STAMP COMMISSIONED NAME OF NOTARY PUBLIC

PERSONALLY KNOWN OR  PRODUCED IDENTIFICATION

TYPE OF IDENTIFICATION PRODUCED

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: 10/16/2020

**ACTING CHIEF DEPUTY BRIAN HENDERSON  
VOLUSIA COUNTY FLORIDA**

# Sheriff

MICHAEL J. CHITWOOD

OFFICE  
(386) 736-5961



VOLUSIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

128 WEST INDIANA AVE • P.O. BOX 589 • DELAND, FLORIDA 32721-0589  
(386) 822-5071 (FAX) • WWW.VOLUSIASHERIFF.ORG

November 06, 2020

Deputy Tyler Lawrence #8553  
Volusia Sheriff's Office  
LES / District II Patrol

## **Final Termination**

Deputy Tyler Lawrence:

Volusia County Sheriff's Office Directive 26.2.34 requires that all "Employees shall adhere to all official Directives and/or orders, and shall faithfully execute all the duties and responsibilities of their assigned position." As a result of your actions documented in IA-20-015, I have determined you violated the following Volusia County Merit Rules and Regulations, and Volusia Sheriff's Office Standards Directives:

**Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations 86-453.** *Any violation is cause for disciplinary action ranging from oral reprimand to dismissal, depending on the seriousness of the offense and other circumstances related to the situation.*

*(9) Any conduct, on or off duty, which interferes with the effective job performance or has an adverse effect on the county.*

*(14) Any conduct, on or off duty that reflects unfavorably on the County as an employer.*

*(22) Any other conduct or action of such seriousness that disciplinary action is considered warranted.*

## **Sheriff's Office Standards Directives:**

**26.2.106 Veracity- Untruthfulness -** Employees shall not knowingly make false or untrue statements except as authorized in the performance of duties and as necessary to maintain covert operations during investigation of criminal activities. *(Violation subject up to dismissal)*

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**26.2.35 Submission of Reports and Documents** - Employees shall originate, complete, and submit all reports and documents required in the execution of their duties prior to concluding a tour of duty except as authorized by a supervisor. *(Violation subject up to a 1 day suspension.)*

**26.2.109 Falsification of Official Documents** - Employees shall not knowingly falsify or knowingly cause another to falsify any official record or document. *(Violation subject up to dismissal.)*

**26.2.42 Endangering Others Through Neglect** - Deputies shall take appropriate action in response to:

A. Emergency situations where there is a known danger to the lives of others. *(Violation subject up to dismissal.)*

**41.20 Body Worn Camera** - In accordance with general order *26.2 Standards of Conduct*, any violation of this policy/general order shall result in discipline up to and including termination (Refer to Sections IV.H.1.c. – IV.H.2.d. and Sections IV.I.12.a. - IV.I.12.c.). Supervisors shall be held accountable and subject to disciplinary action for failure on a subordinate's part to adhere to this policy (Refer to general order *12.1 Command and Control*, Section IV.C.1.):

#### 8. END OF SHIFT

- a. At the end of each shift, deputies shall place their assigned BWC device in a docking station. When properly docked, the device will recharge and all recordings shall be automatically offloaded from the device and placed into Short Term Storage. For those recordings tagged with a case number, an automated process transfers the recordings into Long Term Storage on the Digital Crime Scene (DCS) system.

#### To Wit:

On August 21, 2020, you were involved in DeLand Police Department's arrest of juvenile, Kenyonte Grimes, for possession of a stolen firearm. On or about August 23, 2020, a Volusia Sheriff's Office Awards Nomination form was completed and forwarded to the Executive Officer, Captain Erik Eagan, for review.

While reviewing the information presented, concerns were noted regarding the facts of the case, versus the captured audio and video documentation on your body worn camera [BWC] footage. The discrepancies between the authored report, body worn camera footage and the in car advanced vehicle location [AVL] program created a well-founded concern that portions of your report were completely fabricated.

Due to the nature of the allegations, Chief Deputy J. Gallagher initiated an internal affairs investigation.



This investigation encompassed incidents which occurred on the following dates: October 17, 2019, August 21, 2020 and September 16, 2020.

October 17, 2019:

On October 17, 2019, you were dispatched to a call for service at 3723 Loadholtz Road, Deland. You deactivated your body worn camera and cleared this call for service at approximately 1732 hours. You began to travel southbound on US Highway 17, Deland, in excess of 75 miles per hour, in a posted 55 miles per hour section. You ultimately approach the intersection of State Road 44 and State Road 15a, where you are observed by Captain Eagan, operating you marked, Volusia Sheriff's Office patrol vehicle, in emergency mode. Captain Eagan checked the computer aided dispatch and noted there were no emergency calls being dispatched at that time. In fact, you were still showing a status of "en route" to the warrant call in North Deland; however, you were traveling in the wrong direction. It was determined you failed to activate your body worn camera while operating your patrol vehicle with the lights and siren engaged. You also failed to dock your body worn camera at the District II Office at the conclusion of your shift. Additionally, by staying logged on the call, with a status of "en route", you created a false perception of your intentions. The computer aided dispatch [CAD] system is utilized by supervisors to manage calls for service in their area of responsibility and your misrepresentation of your intentions to respond to the call for service was unprofessional and deceitful.

August 21, 2020 Police Event #P202341378:

On August 21, 2020, 1422 hours, you were dispatched to the intersection of South Spring Garden Avenue and West Euclid Avenue, Deland, in reference to a subject walking northbound with a machete. It was determined that you sat stationary at the District II Office for ten minutes after being dispatched to a suspicious person call with a weapon. It was determined that it only takes approximately three minutes to travel from the District II Office to the scene; yet, you failed to make any effort to respond to the call for service. Instead, you chose to assist another agency on a call outside of your area of responsibility. Furthermore, at approximately 1503:22 hours, you place yourself back on the call in CAD and authored a comment of "10-96". One second later, you also manually logged yourself "on scene", and four seconds after that, "clear". After reviewing your in car advanced vehicle location system [AVL], it was determined you never responded to the scene. By authoring the comment, "10-96", you were stating you went to the scene, checked the area and were unable to locate the suspect. This comment was untruthful and your actions were negligent. The Volusia Sheriff's Office is empowered to protect the community from threats, among many other responsibilities, and your failure to respond to a call involving a suspect with a "long bladed weapon", in very close proximity to a child care facility, placed the community in potential danger. When asked why you failed to respond to the call for service your answer was, "We only received the one call on it so I just I just blew it off". There is no need for the community to have to call the Sheriff's Office more than once to get a response, your behavior was indolent and unprofessional.

August 21, 2020 Volusia Sheriff's Office case number 200015003:

*Lines 3 through 6: On 08/21/2020, at approximately 1432 hours, Deputy Lawrence responded to the intersection of Beresford Ave / Woodland Blvd, DeLand, and assisted DeLand Police*

*Department with a suspicious person call where the reporting party described a black male in all black approximately 16-19 years of age was waiving a firearm in the air. Prior to arrival, Deputy Lawrence was traveling north bound on south Amelia Ave passing the east side of Earl Brown Park which is located at 750 S Alabama Ave, DeLand*

It was determined through watching your body worn camera footage and searching your AVL history that you were not traveling northbound on South Amelia when you responded to this call. In fact, you were traveling northbound near the 900 block of South Woodland Boulevard when you responded to the call; likely because you were at the District II office and failed to respond to the machete call. You had your body worn camera activated while responding and at the 24 second mark in the footage, it can be seen that you are traveling northbound on South Woodland Boulevard, near the roundabout, south of West Beresford Avenue. This location is nowhere near Earl Brown Park and cannot be confused with South Amelia Avenue.

*Lines 6 through 10: Deputy Lawrence observed a black male in all black matching the description walking quickly towards the pavilion just south of where the skate park is located at Earl Brown Park. Deputy Lawrence observed the black male approach the trash can and disposed of a white plastic bag containing a dark heavy object within. Deputy Lawrence then continued north on Amelia Ave and conducted a right hand turn to travel west bound and met with other DeLand PD units at the Sunoco gas station located at 901 S Woodland Blvd, Del. Deputy Lawrence relayed the information he observed to other responding DeLand PD units in which a tactical approach was conducted towards Earl Brown Park.*

As previously mentioned, it was determined you did not travel past the park, or even near the park, when responding to the call for service. Based on that information, there is no way you could have observed anything or anyone at Earl Brown Park or the nearby skate park, at that time. It would have been physically impossible for you to see the pavilion from East Beresford Avenue and South Alabama Avenue. Furthermore, it was observed, at the 52 second mark of your body worn camera footage, you turn eastbound on East Beresford Road and stop just past the Sunoco gas station. You exit your vehicle and meet DeLand Police Officers near the parking lot. While at the Sunoco, You do not say anything to any DeLand Police Officers nor do you have any verbal dialogue with anyone at the Sunoco gas station. At the 1 minute 58 second mark, you simply returns to you vehicle and advise dispatch you were unable to locate the suspect and will be searching the Walmart parking lot [Walmart Neighborhood Market, 955 South Woodland Boulevard, DeLand]. You then leave the Walmart parking lot and follow a DeLand Police Officer northbound on South Alabama Avenue. This is in stark contrast to your authored lines 6 through 10.

*Line 10 through 14: Deputy Lawrence observed the black male that placed the bag with the dark heavy object in the trash can sitting stationary on the bleachers within the skate park. Deputy Lawrence and DeLand PD units contacted the subject and identified the male as Kenyon Grimes (O1). Prior to Deputy Lawrence advising the DeLand PD units where the white bag was located, they had already located it within the trash can underneath the pavilion.*

You note you were able to see the male that dropped the gun in the trash can sitting on the bleachers within the skate park. However, at the 4 minute 13 second mark of your body worn

camera footage, you had still not made it to the park for the first time. With that, there is no way you would know that the subjects sitting on the bleachers were, in fact, the same suspects who discarded the bag. At the 7 minute 30 second mark of your body worn camera footage, you walk up to the suspects in the skate park but DeLand Police Officers already had them secured in handcuffs.

In line 13 specifically, you state DeLand Police Officers located the gun prior to you being able to tell them where it was located. It was observed on your body worn camera footage that you never were in a location where you could have seen the gun be disposed of. Additionally, when you exit your patrol car you do not appear to have any idea where the gun was potentially disposed of. This is made unequivocally clear at the 10 minute 56 second mark of your body worn camera footage. This is when you are observed walking towards DeLand Police Officers looking at an object near the trash can and say, "*What the fuck they do?*" A DeLand Police Detective respond with, "*...unintelligible... firearm, might be stolen and Blum's.*"

*Line 14 through 17: Deputy Lawrence observed the white bag DeLand PD units recovered with a black Glock 43 bearing serial number ZVZ122 within, and advised it was the bag Deputy Lawrence observed Grimes toss into the trash can prior to arrival. For further details reference DeLand PD investigation review case number DL200004893 for further details. I*

Upon review of your body worn camera footage, you were never heard conveying to anyone that you saw Grimes discard a firearm in the garbage can.

*Line 20: Director Quann was notified of the incident from Volusia Sheriff's Office and DeLand Police Department.*

Director Quann was never notified of this call by either DeLand Police Department or by you.

When asked about the discrepancies in your authored report, you stated the following:

*"I didn't intentionally write the report to be untruthful or to knowingly falsify anything in that report. I came in and I finished it the next day and I wrote it off what I could remember and I fucked the whole thing up. It's a train wreck. The report's an absolute train wreck"*

However, earlier in the interview, you indicated that in less than 24 hours after the call, you forgot where you were dispatched from, what road you traveled on, what you saw a guy do and not do and where you ultimately contacted him; you indicated that you forgot everything.

Throughout the interview, you admit the report is untruthful, and that on the date of the incident, you exaggerated the facts to your sergeant. You did not offer any plausible reason why you falsified an official document, you simply said it was unintentional and the information authored is what you remembered.

However, the gross inaccuracies of report number 200015003 cannot be blamed, single handedly, on your lack of memory. There was not just grammar mistakes, or content mistakes, the entire report was falsified; proving you knowingly falsified an official document.



You had your body worn camera footage to review, yet you failed to review the footage prior to authoring the report. You also failed to submit your report prior to the completion of your shift. In fact, your sergeant had to call you the following day to order you to complete your report.

September 16, 2020:

On September 16, 2020, Lieutenant Shivers and Sergeant Cobb placed you on administrative duties and collected your duty gear. In doing so, you were asked if your body camera was at the District II Office. You stated you had your body camera in your possession because "you didn't have any videos on it". Sergeant Cobb later downloaded your body worn camera and determined there were two videos on it.

When asked during your interview, why you made that statement on September 16, 2020, you said "I thought I didn't". You admitted you have never received authorization to take your body camera home and you also acknowledged that you are aware of the body worn camera policy.

Your statements to Lieutenant Shivers and Sergeant Cobb on the day of September 16, 2020 were untruthful. Furthermore, you again, failed to dock your body worn camera at the end of your shift.

Throughout your interview, it was made unequivocally clear that you were either unwilling or unable to recall a number of facts that are incredibly important in the performance of your job duties.

You have previously been the subject of the following disciplinary action:

03/29/2019	26.2.98	Careless Handling of Equipment and vehicle	Sustained
09/09/2020	41.20	Body Worn Camera	Sustained
09/11/2020	26.2.98	Careless Handling of Equipment and vehicle	Sustained

In determining your discipline, I have considered your prior disciplinary history, performance, length of service with VSO, and seriousness of the circumstances of the most recent violations.

Deputy Lawrence, you were served with an "Intent to Terminate" letter on October 19, 2020, advising you of my intent to terminate your employment with the Volusia Sheriff's Office. You appeared before me on October 26, 2020, and had the opportunity to offer any mitigating circumstances that should be considered prior to the final discipline. After earnest consideration, my final decision is to terminate your employment with the Volusia Sheriff's Office.

Pursuant to the Volusia County Merit System Rules, Section 86-455, the Volusia County Legal Department and Human Resources Director have reviewed and concur with this intended action.

If you wish to appeal my decision in this matter, you may do so by filing a written request through the County Human Resources Director within ten (10) days of receipt of this notification.

Sincerely,

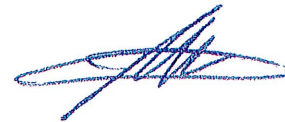


MICHAEL J. CHITWOOD  
SHERIFF

cc: Human Resources  
County Legal  
Internal Affairs

MC/bc 040L0273.20

Y Lawrence  
This letter read and received by:  
Deputy Tyler Lawrence #8553  
Date: 11/06/2020  
Time: 0932 hours

 #7580