

**VOLUSIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**

**REPORT NUMBER: IA 21-013**

**PERIOD COVERED:** October 2, 2021  
**DATE REPORTED:** October 3, 2021  
**SUBJECT(S) NAME:** Deputy Recruit Kristina Kent, #8493  
**INVESTIGATING OFFICER:** Lieutenant Daniel Shivers, #6842

**BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION:**

On October 2, 2021, deputies responded to [REDACTED] Deltona in reference to a report of a domestic battery complaint. Upon arrival, deputies contacted [REDACTED] who advised his live-in daughter, Deputy Recruit Kristina Kent, had engaged in a verbal argument with him and subsequently battered him.

Deputies conducted an investigation, and based on the statements made by [REDACTED] along with the physical evidence and totality of the circumstances, determined Deputy Recruit Kent was the primary aggressor and there was sufficient probable cause to arrest and charge Deputy Recruit Kent with Domestic Battery on a Person 65 years or Older; a felony offense (F.S.S. 784.08(2)(C)).

Deputy Recruit Kent left the residence prior to deputies' arrival, and was later contacted and responded to the District Four office for an interview. Sergeant John McDonald conducted an interview with Deputy Recruit Kent, who provided a written and verbal statement, post Miranda.

Deputy Recruit Kent was transported to the Volusia County Branch Jail the following morning where Circuit Judge Linda Gaustad found probable cause in regards to the criminal charges at first appearance.

On October 12, 2021, due to the nature of the allegations, Chief Deputy J. Gallagher initiated an internal affairs investigation. The internal investigation was conducted pursuant to Section 943.1395(5) F.S., which states an employing agency must conduct an internal investigation when having cause to suspect that an officer or instructor it employs or employed by them at the time of

the alleged violation, or employed on a Temporary Employment Authorization is not in compliance with Sections 943.13(4) or (7) Florida Statutes or Rule 11B-27-0011, F.A.C.

**OFFENSES:**

**Volusia Sheriff's Office General Orders:**

**GO-026-02.IV.B.3** – Any other conduct or action, on-duty or off-duty, of such seriousness that disciplinary action is considered warranted.

**GO-026-02.IV.F.5 – Commission of Felony** – VSO personnel shall not commit any act or crime defined by state or federal law as a felony, whether chargeable or not.

**GO-026-02.IV.F.6 – Criminal or Illegal Conduct** – Regardless of the filing of criminal charges, or lack thereof, or the absence of a criminal conviction, criminal or illegal conduct that interferes with effective job performance or has an adverse effect on the VSO is prohibited.

**INVESTIGATION:**

On October 12, 2021, Chief Deputy Joseph Gallagher assigned the above incident to the Internal Affairs Unit. This report details the Internal Affairs investigation conducted by Lieutenant Daniel Shivers.

Lieutenant Shivers obtained and reviewed Volusia Sheriff's Office case number 210018535, authored by Sergeant John McDonald, along with supplemental reports authored by Deputy Daniel Galarza and Deputy Melissa Cunningham. Upon reviewing the reports, Lieutenant Shivers observed the following:

Deputies responded to the aforementioned address in regards to a battery complaint. Upon arrival, deputies contacted [REDACTED] who advised Deputy Recruit Kristina Kent battered him during an argument earlier in the day.

The report indicates an argument ensued between [REDACTED] and Deputy Recruit Kent in regards to the passing of a former law enforcement officer by suicide the day prior. [REDACTED] advised Deputy Recruit Kent wished to talk to him in regards to the incident, at which time he did not, so they began to argue.

During the verbal argument, Deputy Recruit Kent picked up an aerosol spray bottle and threw it at [REDACTED] as he was walking away. [REDACTED] advised Deputy Recruit Kent then picked

up two TV dinner tables and threw them at him, and then approached and grabbed him by his arms. ██████ advised he pushed Deputy Recruit Kent away, which ended the physical altercation. ██████ sustained minor scratches on his arms, and sustained a small laceration on the right side of his mouth due to the altercation.

The report advises there was evidence at the residence which corroborated ██████ recollection of events.

The report states a few hours later, deputies contacted Deputy Recruit Kent, who advised she did become upset during the argument and threw the aerosol bottle, but not in ██████ direction. Deputy Recruit Kent advised she followed ██████ into another room into the kitchen, at which time ██████ *“slapped her in the face and grabbed her near the kitchen sink and wouldn’t let her go.”* Deputy Recruit Kent stated she grabbed ██████ arms to push him away, eventually getting free.

Deputy Recruit Kent also advised she moved and kicked the TV dinner tables during the incident.

According to the report, deputies did not observe any injuries to Deputy Recruit Kent, nor did she complain of any injuries.

Deputy Recruit Kent was transported to the Volusia County Branch Jail, where she attended first appearance. Circuit Judge Linda Gaustad found probable cause, and released Deputy Recruit Kent on her own recognizance with a no-violent contact order with ██████ (court case number 2021 101996 CFDL).

The body worn camera footage was reviewed, and the statements made by ██████ and Deputy Recruit Kent were consistent with the aforementioned reports.

On October 3, 2021, Lieutenant David King placed Deputy Recruit Kent on administrative leave with pay due to Deputy Recruit Kent being arrested for a felony offense. Lieutenant King authored a memorandum detailing his actions and forwarded it through the chain-of-command (file number 052M062.21).

On October 4, 2021, Sheriff Michael Chitwood terminated Deputy Recruit Kent’s employment with the Volusia Sheriff’s Office, as she was a probationary employee, hired as a Deputy Recruit on June 7, 2021.

On October 26, 2021, Assistant State Attorney Amy Walker filed an announcement of no information regarding the criminal charges against Kristina Kent (Volusia County court case number 2021 101996 CFDL).

A voluntary interview with Kent was scheduled for 1200 hours on November 17, 2021; however, at approximately 1020 hours, just prior to the interview, Kristina Kent arrived at the Internal Affairs office and delivered a typed, notarized statement. Lieutenant Shivers asked Kristina Kent if she still wished to be interviewed; at which time she advised, she did not, and departed the building. Kristina Kent subsequently emailed a non-notarized copy of the written statement to Lieutenant Shivers and Sheriff Chitwood. A copy of the written statement provided by Kristina Kent will accompany this report.

On November 30, 2021, this investigation was presented to the Volusia Sheriff's Office Executive Command staff. After careful review, Chief Deputy Joseph Gallagher determined the violation of the below listed Volusia Sheriff's Office General Orders to be:

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>GO-026-02.IV.B.3</b> – Any other conduct or action, on-duty or off-duty, of such seriousness that disciplinary action is considered warranted. | <b>Sustained</b> |
| <b>GO-026-02.IV.F.5</b> – Commission of Felony  | <b>Sustained</b> |
| <b>GO-026-02.IV.F.6</b> – Criminal or Illegal Conduct   | <b>Sustained</b> |

**EXHIBITS:**

- A. Report of Investigation
- B. Official Correspondence
- C. Official Police Reports
- D. Official Clerk of Court Records
- E. Notarized Statement Provided by Kristina Kent
- F. Digital Evidence


**WITNESSES:**

**Volusia Sheriff's Office**  
123 W. Indiana Avenue  
DeLand, FL 32720

Lieutenant David King  
Sergeant John McDonald  
Deputy Melissa Cunningham  
Deputy Daniel Galarza

**CIVILIAN WITNESSES:**

  
Address Restricted

Kristina Kent  


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: [Signature] DATE: 12/10/2021

**Lieutenant Daniel Shivers  
Internal Affairs Lieutenant**

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA**

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me by means of  physical presence or  online Notarization this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021 by Lieutenant Daniel Shivers

[Signature]

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: [Signature] DATE: 12.07.2021

**CHIEF DEPUTY JOSEPH GALLAGHER  
VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

# Sheriff

**MICHAEL J. CHITWOOD**

OFFICE  
(386) 736-5961



**VOLUSIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

123 WEST INDIANA AVE • P.O. BOX 569 • DELAND, FLORIDA 32721-0569  
(386) 822-5074 (FAX) • WWW.VOLUSIASHERIFF.ORG

October 4, 2021

Kristina Jeanette Kent  
[REDACTED]

## Termination

Ms. Kent,

You are herewith notified that effective October 4, 2021, your employment with the Volusia Sheriff's Office is terminated. As a probationary employee, you have no right to appeal this action.

Upon receipt of this notice, you are instructed to immediately relinquish and return all Volusia Sheriff's Office issued equipment, uniforms, and supplies.

  
Michael J Chitwood  
Sheriff of Volusia County

*Kristina Kent*

This letter read and received by:

Kristina Jeanette Kent

Date: 10/4/21

Time: 9:24 pm

Served by: A. Calkins #7929

MJC/esw 040L0219.21