



# VOLUSIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MICHAEL J. CHITWOOD, SHERIFF

Office of Chief Deputy Brian M. Henderson - Internal Affairs

## REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT NUMBER: IA 24-002

**PERIOD COVERED:** January 02, 2024

**DATE REPORTED:** January 24, 2024

**SUBJECT(S) NAME:** Deputy Ryan Cason, #9305

**INVESTIGATING OFFICER:** Sergeant Thomas Hachenberger, #8186

### BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION:

On January 2, 2024, Mary Spalding mistakenly left her purse and its contents near the community bathrooms of Sunshine Holiday Park at 1701 North US Highway 1 in Ormond Beach. Donna Baker, a resident of the park, found the purse and promptly contacted the VSO to report the discovery, subsequently handing over the items to Deputy Cason. The following day, January 3, 2024, Mary contacted the VSO Communications Center to inquire about her lost property, speaking with Deputy Crofutt. Deputy Crofutt then contacted Deputy Cason, who informed her that he had left the property with park staff at the front office. Deputy Crofutt relayed this information to Mary, who responded to the park on January 8, 2024, to reclaim her belongings. However, upon arrival, park staff informed Mary that they had not received any purse or property from a VSO deputy. Due to the disappearance of Mary's property, Sergeant Riley completed an initial supervisory inquiry report documenting the incident.

### OFFENSES:

**GO-026-02.V.C.5.g - Failure to Follow General Order, Standard Operation Procedure, or Order** – Employees shall adhere to all official general orders, standard operational procedures, and orders, and shall faithfully execute all the duties and responsibilities of their assigned position.

**GO-026-02.V.C.1 – Neglect of Duty** - Neglect of duty offenses include any act, failure to act or instance wherein an employee ignored, paid no attention to, disregarded, failed to care for, give proper attention to or carry out the duties and responsibilities of their position whether through carelessness, oversight or neglect.

**GO-026-02.V.D.9.p - Use of Equipment: BWC** – Employees shall not intentionally through acts of negligence or inattention, cause interruption or defeat of the BWC for its intended purpose of recording law enforcement encounters.

**GO-026-02.V.G.1.a – General Proficiency** - VSO personnel are required to maintain the job knowledge, skills and abilities required for the performance of the duties and responsibilities attendant to their positions.

**GO-026-02.V.C.5.h – 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.

## **INVESTIGATION:**

On January 24, 2024, Chief Deputy Brian Henderson assigned the incident to the Internal Affairs Unit. On the same date, Deputy Cason was served with a Notice of Internal Affairs Investigation and provided a copy of the Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights. On January 26, 2024, Deputy Cason resigned from his position with the Sheriff's Office. This report details the Internal Affairs investigation conducted by Sergeant Hachenberger.

Sergeant Hachenberger reviewed former Deputy Cason's BWC recording from the call for service. Upon his arrival, former Deputy Cason contacted Donna and followed her to a covered tent area, where she retrieved the purse she had located. The purse was blue with tan straps and said "Union Bay" on a brown patch. After being handed the purse, former Deputy Cason thanks Donna and states, "*I'll see if I can find the owner.*" They briefly discussed local transients and trespassers at the park before former Deputy Cason returned to his patrol vehicle.

Once at his patrol vehicle, former Deputy Cason opened its rear hatch, placed the purse on the vehicle's lockbox, and began inventorying the purse's contents. During his inventory of the purse, former Deputy Cason is seen handling the purse's contents, including various banking cards, a smartphone, and other unknown items. Former Deputy Cason is then approached by a male who identified himself as Donna's husband. Former Deputy Cason placed the items back within the purse and secured it in the rear of his patrol vehicle while continuing to speak with the male and Donna about nearby transient camps. After the conversation, former Deputy Cason entered his patrol vehicle and deactivated his BWC.

While reviewing Sergeant Riley's supervisor inquiry, Sergeant Hachenberger observed he attached a recording of the park's surveillance cameras documenting former Deputy Cason's response. In the footage, former Deputy Cason's patrol vehicle is seen entering the park and driving past the surveillance camera, which is attached to the exterior of the park's office. Sergeant Hachenberger noticed the time stamp on the surveillance footage was 1124 hours when former Deputy Cason entered the park. Approximately 14 minutes later, at 1138 hours on the camera's timestamp, former Deputy Cason is seen driving past the park's office and exiting the park. In the surveillance video obtained by Sergeant Riley, former Deputy Cason did not approach or enter the park's office and is not seen contacting park staff.

On Wednesday, February 14, 2024, Sergeant Hachenberger responded to Sunshine Holiday Park and viewed the office's interior surveillance camera footage for the timeframe former Deputy Cason was at the park. While reviewing the footage, Sergeant Hachenberger noticed former Deputy Cason did not enter the office or contact any office staff members.

Sergeant Hachenberger queried RMS and found that former Deputy Cason had not completed a report documenting the incident.

Sergeant Hachenberger obtained the CAD history for the three calls for service involving Mary's property at Sunshine Holiday Park.

#### **Call for Service #P240021063**

The first call for service, documented under event #P240021063, is a found property complaint reported by Donna Baker on January 02, 2024, at approximately 1052 hours. A comment entered into the CAD history at 1054 hours states, "Found a purse in the shower area of the bathrooms earlier this morning." Former Deputy Cason was dispatched to the call, and at 1150 hours, he entered a comment into the CAD history stating "will locate owner" before clearing the call with no report shortly after.

#### **Call for Service #P240031921**

The second call for service, event #P240031921, was generated the following day, on January 03, 2024, at approximately 1500 hours and was dispatched as a miscellaneous law enforcement call. At 1513 hours, a comment was added to the call explaining the reporting party, Mary Spaulding, called in advising she left her purse at the location and was requesting to know where it was. The original call for service, #P240021063, was also linked to the CAD history of the second call. Deputy Crofutt was dispatched to the call, and at 1626 hours, she added the following comment:

"Info provided – the bag was left with the front desk per Dep. Cason." Deputy Crofutt then cleared the call with no report.

Sergeant Hachenberger reviewed Deputy Crofutt's BWC recording, documenting a telephone call between her and Mary Spaulding. During the conversation, Deputy Crofutt explained to Mary that she had spoken to the deputy dispatched to the original found property complaint, and he had told her that he had left the property at the park's front desk. Mary thanked Deputy Crofutt, and the telephone call ended.

### **Call for Service #P240081684**

The third and final call for service pertaining to Mary's property, event #P240081684, was generated on January 08, 2024, at 1447 hours. At 1451 hours, a comment was entered stating the reporting party, "Brent," was at Sunshine Holiday Park attempting to retrieve Mary's property, who he identified as being his girlfriend. The comment also stated that the park's staff had told him they did not have the property.

Deputies Salinas and Hopgood responded to the call and contacted Mary in front of the park. Sergeant Hachenberger reviewed Deputy Hopgood's BWC recording of the incident. It should be noted that Deputy Salinas' BWC recording could not be viewed due to a malfunction with the camera during the call. Mary explained to the deputies that she had previously left her purse at the park and was unsure who currently had it. Mary said she had been told her purse was turned over to law enforcement and was later told a deputy had given it to the park's staff. Mary was at the park to retrieve her property; however, when she asked staff about it, they did not know of it and explained they did not have her purse, prompting her to contact the Sheriff's Office.

Deputies Salinas and Hopgood then responded to the park's front office and contacted staff members. Staff members, including one working on the date of the purse's recovery, confirmed former Deputy Cason had not given them the purse. They then returned to Mary, who provided a description of the purse. Sergeant Hachenberger noted that Mary's description was consistent with the purse that was seen being given to former Deputy Cason on his BWC recording. Deputy Salinas later completed an incident report documenting Mary's lost property under VSO case number 240000541.

### **Interview with Sergeant Justin Riley**

On February 9, 2024, at approximately 0950 hours, Sergeant Hachenberger conducted a sworn recorded interview with Sergeant Justin Riley. The interview was conducted at the Sheriff's Office

Administrative Building at 123 W. Indiana Avenue, Deland. Sergeant Hachenberger, Lieutenant Gordon, and Sergeant Riley were present for the interview. Below is a synopsis of the audio-recorded interview:

Sergeant Riley began the interview by stating he has been employed by the Sheriff's Office since 2011 and is currently a sergeant assigned to Bravo shift in District 3 North. Sergeant Riley explained that Deputy Salinas initially told him about the incident when she noticed the call for service pending. Mary Spaulding was attempting to gather her purse from the park's staff. Sergeant Riley said he then responded to the park *"Went there, Salinas was there first and she said she spoke with the owner of the purse told her that she was informed that it was left at the front office of the park and then Salinas told me she went to the park in the office and said they had no idea what they were talking about there was no purse there."*

While on scene, Sergeant Riley called former Deputy Cason inquiring about the purse *"I called Dep. Cason just to get a fact finding type hey man can you just help me out here and just be done with this. Where's the, this purse you came here and collected that they, that another resident found in the bathroom area you know did you, what happened with it? Oh I left it, he said he left it with a staff member at the front desk of the park."* During the conversation, Sergeant Riley said Deputy Cason could not describe who he had left the purse with: *"He didn't say any names or anything like that he said and I said well can you describe, couldn't remember. He said somebody in the front office. I'm like ok and that was it."*

Sergeant Riley stated the park has several surveillance cameras, including one on the exterior of the office, which shows the parking area for the office and the park's entrance. Sergeant Riley said he reviewed the surveillance footage from the date of the incident. *"Yeah so in the video I observed and you could see the patrol car come in, drive around and the property or the trailer that the Donna Baker lived in was kind of behind the office. And then like 20 minutes I'm not exactly sure The timing you see the vehicle the patrol car drive away, at no time stops at the office."* Sergeant Riley explained that the surveillance camera provided a clear view of the parking area and the entrance to the office.

Sergeant Riley said he notified his chain of command of the incident and initiated a supervisory inquiry. During his inquiry, Sergeant Riley spoke to Deputy Salinas, who had also contacted former Deputy Cason to locate the purse. While speaking with Deputy Salinas, she told Sergeant Riley that former Deputy Cason had made the statement, *"...there were only hygiene products nothing of value otherwise I would have put it into evidence..."* Sergeant Riley said he viewed Deputy Cason's BWC recording from the incident. *"Now when I reviewed the video was when I noticed the BWC footage I noticed there was a phone, unknown cards you know debit card looking things."*

While completing his inquiry, Sergeant Riley also spoke with Deputy Crofutt, who explained that she had also contacted former Deputy Cason, attempting to locate the purse. Deputy Crofutt told Sergeant Riley that *"She contacted Cason I believe via text and said where's this lady's purse..."* Sergeant Riley further explained former Deputy Cason then called Deputy Crofutt and told her, *"...tell her to go to the front desk it's at the front desk [referring to the park's front desk]."* Sergeant Riley stated that Deputy Crofutt then spoke with Mary on the telephone: *"Dep. Crofutt called her back hey I spoke to the deputy that took the purse or was the initial deputy and they said they left it at the front desk."*

Sergeant Riley was unable to provide any additional information about the incident.

### **Interview with Deputy Sarah Salinas**

On February 09, 2024, at approximately 1119 hours, Sergeant Hachenberger conducted a sworn recorded interview with Deputy Sarah Salinas. The interview was conducted at the Sheriff's Office Administrative Building at 123 W. Indiana Avenue, Deland. Sergeant Hachenberger, Lieutenant Gordon, and Deputy Salinas were present for the interview. Below is a synopsis of the audio-recorded interview:

Deputy Salinas explained she has been employed by the Sheriff's Office for nearly four years and is a deputy training officer assigned to Bravo shift in District 3 North. Deputy Salinas stated that on January 08, 2024, she was Deputy Hopgood's training officer and confirmed they had responded to Sunshine Holiday Park, where they had contacted Mary Spaulding.

Deputy Salinas said she first noticed the call for service as they were completing a separate call *"So I was after clearing from a traffic accident I saw that there was a pending call miscellaneous for this LOI over at the Sunshine RV park. After reading the call notes I saw that it sounded familiar from a call just a few days prior where Dep. Crofutt I believe is the one who took the THC in regards to this lady Ms. Mary Spaulding looking for her purse. And then when I saw the call notes date and January 08's call notes stating that she went then to the RV park to collect her purse that it wasn't there."*

Deputy Salinas explained she contacted former Deputy Cason via telephone before arriving at the call for service attempting to find where the purse was. Deputy Salinas said former Deputy Cason told her, *"...and he said he left it at the front desk."* Deputy Salinas advised former Deputy Cason also forwarded her a photograph of a similar purse via text message showing what the purse looked like. Deputy Salinas further explained former Deputy Cason told her during the conversation, *"...if it was anything of value that he would have submitted it to evidence."*

Deputy Salinas stated that once they arrived at the park, she and Deputy Hopgood contacted Mary, who told them, *"Ms. Spaulding told me, I met her at the front entrance of the RV park. She said that she went to collect her purse however she was advised that her purse was not at the front desk. Where it was stated it should have been left."* Deputy Salinas said Mary told her the purse

contained several items "...her cell phone. Her ID card, bank cards and she mentioned candy and pens. And I believe and a speaker a Bluetooth speaker." After they contacted Mary, she and Deputy Hopgood responded to the park's front office. While at the office, they spoke with three employees who confirmed it had not been turned in to the office. After talking with the park employees, Deputy Salinas recontacted Mary and generated a lost property report documenting the incident.

Deputy Salinas had no further information to provide about the incident.

### **Interview with Deputy Jethro Hopgood**

On March 06, 2024, at approximately 1402 hours, Sergeant Hachenberger conducted a sworn recorded interview with Deputy Jethro Hopgood. The interview was conducted at the Sheriff's Office Administrative Building at 123 W. Indiana Avenue, Deland. Sergeant Hachenberger, Lieutenant Gordon, and Deputy Hopgood were present for the interview. Below is a synopsis of the audio-recorded interview:

Deputy Hopgood stated he has been employed by the Sheriff's Office for nearly one year and is currently assigned to Alpha Shift in District 4. Deputy Hopgood confirmed he completed a training phase with Deputy Salinas before his assignment to District 4 and recalled responding to the Sunshine RV Park on January 08, 2024, during that training phase.

When asked to explain what occurred when they responded, Deputy Hopgood explained, *"Ok so we responded to that RV park. It was forgot the lady's name I think it was Spaulding or something. She was parked on the side in a white I think it was a white van they were in. We got out the car and met up with her and she was telling us that her, she went up there to get her purse and the folks at the front desk told her that they didn't have her purse. So then we left from talking with her and we went and spoke with the people at the front desk. That's how we found out about I think the lady's name was Barbara or something. And, that stayed in one of the other RV's that actually took possession of the purse and gave it over to one of the deputies. So I think that was pretty much that, oh yeah I remember. Barbara she told us that inside the purse it had an ID card like a driver's license of some sort. It had a cell phone and it had I think like a cash card or a bank card. Something like that was inside that purse and she said that the deputy came, took possession of the purse because she mentioned something about that she's prior law enforcement and corrections and her husband told her no you don't wanna keep that purse that you wanna get rid of it so she said that's what she did and gave it to the actual deputy."* Deputy Hopgood reported that while speaking with Mary, she had mentioned talking to Deputy Crofutt, who informed her that Deputy Cason had left her purse with park staff members at the park's office.

Deputy Hopgood said Deputy Salinas contacted former Deputy Cason via telephone while they were on scene at the RV park. Deputy Hopgood stated he was present for their telephone conversation and overheard it as Deputy Salinas' phone was on speakerphone. Deputy Hopgood

recalled the conversation and said, *"I didn't speak with Dep. Cason, I think Salinas spoke with Dep. Cason if I'm not mistaken. But he told her cuz he was on speaker phone. He told her that the, that the purse didn't have any identification or anything in it. It was just a, think he said it was just a bag and he didn't know who the purse would have belonged to because it didn't have any type of identification in the purse."* Deputy Hopgood said former Deputy Cason then explained, *"he left it at the front office."*

Deputy Hopgood stated he and Deputy Salinas contacted the park's staff members while they were on scene. *"We spoke with it was a lady, it was a lady and a male she said that she was very adamant that there is no way that the purse could have been dropped off at the office because they said it was after hours. That the business would have already been closed. And they were very adamant that they never even seen the purse."*

Deputy Hopgood explained he had no further information about the incident.

#### **Interview with Deputy Brittany Crofutt**

On February 13, 2024, at approximately 1002 hours, Sergeant Hachenberger conducted a sworn recorded interview with Deputy Brittany Crofutt. The interview was conducted at the Sheriff's Office Administrative Building at 123 W. Indiana Avenue, Deland. Sergeant Hachenberger, Lieutenant Gordon, and Deputy Crofutt were present for the interview. Below is a synopsis of the audio-recorded interview:

Deputy Crofutt explained she has been employed by the Sheriff's Office for five years and is currently assigned to patrol in District 1. Deputy Crofutt recalled being dispatched the call for service on January 03, 2024, in which Mary Spaulding was seeking information about her purse. Deputy Crofutt recounted, *"So that day I was working 34 zone and I it was a pretty steady day and I noticed that 32 zone which was Salinas she was really slammed with calls so I was trying to help her with calls so I saw a THC and I thought I could handle it. I read through the priors, I saw that Cason was on it. So I saw that it was a lady looking for her purse and what it should have been like a found property. So I texted, I called him he didn't answer so I texted him and I said where's this lady's purse? And then he didn't answer and then he called me back immediately and he told me that he gave it to the lady at the front office."*

When asked if former Deputy Cason provided more specific information about who he had left, Deputy Crofutt said, *"No he just said he gave it to the lady at the front office. Cuz I clarified which front office cuz I didn't know if it was ours and he said it was the one at the trailer park."*



Deputy Crofutt stated she then contacted Mary via telephone: *"She said that they were looking for her purse and she kind of explained the, I don't think it was a very long phone call and I just told her what the deputy told me and then she said that she would go get it there was really no other questions."* Deputy Crofutt said Mary never mentioned what items were within the purse.

Deputy Crofutt advised that she had no other involvement with Mary and no additional information to provide regarding the investigation.

### **Interview with Matt Berkie**

On February 14, 2024, at approximately 0828 hours, Sergeant Hachenberger conducted a sworn recorded interview with Matt Berkie. The interview was conducted at the Sunshine Holiday RV Park at 1701 North US Highway 1, Ormond Beach. Sergeant Hachenberger, Lieutenant Gordon, and Matt Berkie were present for the interview. Below is a synopsis of the audio-recorded interview:

Matt began the interview by stating he is currently the park's general manager and has been employed by the park for over two years. Matt explained that he was familiar with the incident but had no direct involvement. Matt learned of it when *"The individual that lost the purse came into the office wanting to know where their purse was. And I told them we have no purse nothing was ever dropped off."* Matt advised that neither he nor his staff had any contact with law enforcement on the original date of the incident.

When asked if staff members would notify him if they had contact with law enforcement, he stated, *"Yeah they would bring it to my attention, staff members would."* Matt further explained that he had received no notifications of staff members interacting with law enforcement on the date the purse was located.

Matt advised that he assisted Sergeant Riley with obtaining the surveillance footage from the office; however, he had no additional information about the incident.

### **Interview with Lori Lewis**

On February 14, 2024, at approximately 0833 hours, Sergeant Hachenberger conducted a sworn recorded interview with Lori Lewis. The interview was conducted at the Sunshine Holiday RV Park at 1701 North US Highway 1, Ormond Beach. Sergeant Hachenberger, Lieutenant Gordon, and Lori Lewis were present for the interview. Below is a synopsis of the audio-recorded interview:

Lori explained she is currently employed as an office clerk at the park and was familiar with the incident involving the purse being found. Lori stated she was not directly involved with the

incident *"I heard about it. Ms. Baker came in the next morning and said that she found a purse in the bathrooms in the back. And that she called the cops. She was told to bring it up here but she refused to cuz she didn't want nobody involved in it. I never saw the purse, it was never seen here. And then she left. That was the last time I heard about that."* Lori reported the conversation with Donna Baker occurred the following morning after Donna had located the purse.

Lori stated the owner of the lost purse responded to the park's office after her conversation with Donna *"The couple, the lady that lost the purse they came back in and she asked about it we told her that, I said I've never seen it and I don't know anything about it. And then she left."* Lori continued, explaining, *"...she said it was brought up here I said the purse was never brought up here. And then I said I've never seen it I don't know I said the only thing I know is that the lady found it she called the police and that's all that we know."*

Lori advised she had no further involvement in the incident and could not provide any additional information.

#### **Interview with Missy Whitfield**

On February 14, 2024, at approximately 0838 hours, Sergeant Hachenberger conducted a sworn recorded interview with Missy Whitfield. The interview was conducted at the Sunshine Holiday RV Park at 1701 North US Highway 1, Ormond Beach. Sergeant Hachenberger, Lieutenant Gordon, and Missy Whitfield were present for the interview. Below is a synopsis of the audio-recorded interview:

Missy stated she is a front desk clerk at the park and was familiar with the incident. Missy advised she was not directly involved in the incident and only learned of it when *"Well she came in here that next morning, the lady that supposedly found it. And said that she found a purse and she called the cops. And of course we were closed. So she waited for the cop and handed it over to him. That's all she said."* Missy reported she was working the date the purse had been located and stated she did not observe any law enforcement at the office throughout the day.

Missy was unable to provide any additional information about the incident.

#### **Interview with Renee Harris**

On February 14, 2024, at approximately 0843 hours, Sergeant Hachenberger conducted a sworn recorded interview with Renee Harris. The interview was conducted at the Sunshine Holiday RV Park at 1701 North US Highway 1, Ormond Beach. Sergeant Hachenberger, Lieutenant Gordon,

and Renee Harris were present for the interview. Below is a synopsis of the audio-recorded interview:

Renee, an employee at the park, explained she was familiar with the incident. Renee explained she was not working the day the purse had been found. Renee reported she was working the following day when the purse owner responded to the office. Renee stated, "...I referred her to Matt cuz I wasn't here."

Renee was unable to provide any additional information about the incident.

### **Interview with Donna Baker**

On February 14, 2024, at approximately 0905 hours, Sergeant Hachenberger conducted a sworn recorded interview with Donna Baker. The interview was conducted at the Sunshine Holiday RV Park at 1701 North US Highway 1, Ormond Beach. Sergeant Hachenberger, Lieutenant Gordon, and Donna Baker were present for the interview. Below is a synopsis of the audio-recorded interview:

Donna recalled locating the purse and provided her account of the incident *"It was about 4, 4:30 in the morning and I went to use the washroom in the back and we have a lot of homeless come here. And there was two, two outside the washroom and I told them I said you guys gotta go. I got a, or I'm gonna call the police. So I then just backed up and came home and then I went back there about an hour later to use the washroom and the purse was in the shower area. And so I took the purse and I brought it home cuz it was early I mean I just left it on the golf cart actually and then my husband got up about 8 and he said that he was running to Walmart. I said well when you get home I gotta call the police cuz I went up to the office right away at 7. And I sat here and I watched to see if anybody was going back and forth looking for it. Didn't see anybody, went up to the office nobody was up there and haven't seen anybody going back and forth looking for it so I said well when you get back we gotta call the police officers cuz I found a purse and so when he did I called and the officer said he'd, he asked, he wanted me to drop it off in the office and I said I wouldn't. Cuz if I touch something then I'm responsible for it. And I don't trust, I don't trust everybody. Anywhere. And so he said he'd get here when he could and then he showed up I can't remember what time he showed up but he showed up not all that much later and got the purse. And took it and put it in the back of his vehicle."*

Donna was asked if she had looked inside the purse and responded, *"I, the front, it was open when I upon finding it and there was a smaller pocket it was drooping on the back of the thing so I saw a phone case. There was another case in there and then there was like a EBT card. So what I did is I didn't want especially something that I figured might be money or have money on it. I stuck*

*that there was a smaller little pocket in there and I zipped it up and brought it home because I didn't, bouncing around..."* Donna also explained she had observed a cell phone in the purse. When asked if the EBT card she observed within the purse had a name on it, Donna stated, *"Yep. It said Mary something."*

Donna reported she received a phone call from a deputy after contacting the Sheriff's Office to report the found property. During the phone call, Donna stated the deputy instructed her to turn the property over to the park's front office. Donna said she felt uncomfortable doing that *"Cuz there's different people working there all the time. I just feel if I find it I don't wanna be blamed for anything if I find something I'm responsible to do the right thing with it."*

Donna stated former Deputy Cason then responded to her residence and once he placed the purse in his patrol vehicle, *"...he chit chatted with us for a little bit and left, yeah."* Before leaving, Donna advised that former Deputy Cason did not mention what he would do with the purse.

Donna explained she had no further involvement with the purse, the purse's owner, or the deputy.

#### **Interview with Mary Spaulding**

During the investigation, Sergeant Hachenberger made several unsuccessful attempts to contact Mary Spaulding to schedule an interview. Because Mary was unable to be contacted, she was not interviewed.

#### **Interview with former Deputy Ryan Cason**

After being unable to contact Mary Spaulding, Sergeant Hachenberger began making attempts to contact former Deputy Cason to schedule an interview. Sergeant Hachenberger emailed former Deputy Cason via an email address he provided prior to his resignation on June 24, 2024, and again on June 27, 2024. Former Deputy Cason did not respond to the emails or attempt to contact Sergeant Hachenberger.

**CONCLUSION:**

On June 27, 2024, this Internal Affairs investigation was presented to Chief Deputy Brian Henderson and the executive command staff. Upon completion of the presentation, Chief Deputy Henderson sustained the following General Order violations:

GO-026-02.V.C.5.g - Failure to Follow General Order, Standard Operation Procedure, or Order

GO-026-02.V.C.1 - Neglect of Duty

GO-026-02.V.D.9.p - Use of Equipment: BWC

GO-026-02.V.G.1.a - General Proficiency

GO-026-02.V.C.5.h - Submission of Reports and Documents

GO-026-02.V.D.8.a - Untruthfulness

**EXHIBIT(S):**

- A. Report of Investigation
- B. VSO Official Correspondence
- C. Volusia Sheriff's Office CAD / Incident Reports
- D. Transcript of Interview with Justin Riley
- E. Transcript of Interview with Sarah Salinas
- F. Transcript of Interview with Jethro Hopgood
- G. Transcript of Interview with Brittany Crofutt
- H. Transcript of Interview with Matt Berkie
- I. Transcript of Interview with Lori Lewis
- J. Transcript of Interview with Missy Whitfield
- K. Transcript of Interview with Renee Harris
- L. Transcript of Interview with Donna Baker
- M. Digital Evidence

**WITNESSES:**

**Volusia Sheriff's Office**

123 West Indiana Avenue

Deland, FL 32720

Sergeant Justin Riley

Deputy Sarah Salinas

Deputy Brittany Crofutt

Deputy Jethro Hopgood

**Sunshine Holiday RV Park**

1701 North US Highway 1

Ormond Beach

Matt Berkie

Lori Lewis

Missy Whitfield

Renee Harris

Donna Baker

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

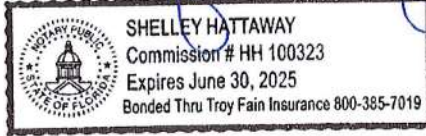
I, the undersigned, do hereby swear, under the penalty of perjury, that, to the best of my personal knowledge, information, and belief, I have not knowingly or willfully deprived, or allowed another to deprive, the suspect of the investigation of any rights contained in ss. 112.532 and 112.533, Florida Statutes.

DETECTIVE: [Signature] DATE: 07/15/24  
**Sergeant Thomas Hachenberger, #8186**  
**Internal Affairs Detective**

**STATE OF FLORIDA**  
**COUNTY OF VOLUSIA**

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me by means of  physical presence or  online  
Notarized this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024 by Sergeant Hachenberger

[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: 07/15/24  
**CHIEF DEPUTY BRIAN HENDERSON**  
**VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**