

**VOLUSIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT NUMBER: IA-17-005

PERIOD COVERED: January 19, 2017
DATE REPORTED: January 23, 2017
SUBJECT(S) NAME: Deputy Jay Hawman #6839
INVESTIGATING OFFICERS: Detective Glen Bennett #1452

BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION:

On January 23, 2017, Sergeant Michael Odgers, a court security supervisor at the Daytona Beach Courthouse Annex, was contacted by a Volusia County Clerk of Court employee inquiring why Deputy Jay Hawman would be asking a Clerk of Court employee to query a females name in a courthouse database. It was alleged that the request to have the name queried did not involve official law enforcement business.

OFFENSES:

This investigation is relevant to an alleged violation of Department Standards Directives and Volusia County Merit Rules and Regulations:

26.2.54 Association with Criminals - Employees shall avoid regular or continuous association or dealings with persons who they know or should know are under criminal investigation or indictments, or persons who have a criminal or immoral reputation in the community, except as necessary in the performance of official duties. Immediate family members are exempt from this provision, providing the situation is immediately reported to the Sheriff. *(Violation subject up to a 5 day suspension.)*

26.2.118 Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees - Employees shall strictly adhere to the code of ethics for public officers and employees and shall not violate the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees as set forth in Florida law and the County Merit System. *(Violation subject up to dismissal.)*

26.2.124 Compliance With Direct Order of a Superior or Competent Authority - Employees shall comply with the direct orders or instructions given by a supervisor or superior officer and shall not refuse to comply when such orders or instructions are lawful and proper. *(Violation subject up to dismissal.)*

26.2.153 Fictitious Use or Access to Secure/Restricted Databases - Employees shall not knowingly under false or fictitious pretense cause another to access secured/restricted databases in an attempt to avoid detection of unauthorized use. Employees who knowingly oblige such a request will also be in violation of authorized access/use. *(Violation subject up to dismissal.)*

***Secure/ Restricted Databases Defined:** A criminal justice database that requires the use of a password or authentication process to gain access to the database. Examples include but are not limited to: AIM, CAD/RMS, CAREER OFFENDER AND STATEWIDE TRACKING, CDC, CJIS, CJNET, CLERK.ORG, DAVID, FCIC/NCIC, FDLE SEXPREP MAINTENANCE, FINDER, JAIL PHOTO IMAGING, OFFENDER WATCH, ETC.

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

RE: (2) Disregard for or frequent violations of Federal Laws, State laws, County ordinances, Departmental Standard Directives, and safety rules.

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

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

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY:

On February 1, 2017, Chief Deputy John Creamer assigned the above incident to the Internal Affairs Unit and Deputy Hawman was served with a Notification of Internal Investigation along with a copy of his Officer Bill of Rights at the Daytona Beach Courthouse Annex in Daytona Beach, FL. This report details the internal affairs investigation conducted by Detective Glen Bennett. *(See Tab – C for Official Correspondence)*

Jennifer Knowles, a Clerk of Court employee, was working first appearance at the Branch Jail on Thursday, January 19, 2017 when Deputy Hawman allegedly asked her to query the name, Lacie

Stowel. Deputy Hawman wanted to know if she was on probation since the two were dating. Deputy Hawman also commented that Ms. Stowel had previously participated in the Drug Court program which she completed in Volusia County on February 24, 2015. Ms. Knowles accessed the Clerk of Court database, Comprehensive Case Management System (CCMS), and fulfilled Deputy Hawman's request, advising him Ms. Stowel was not on probation.

CCMS is a computer database which is overseen by the Volusia County Clerk of the Court and is password protected. However, some of the information contained within CCMS is public information which can be accessed through other means such as Clerk.org. Information pertaining to whether an individual is on probation is obtainable by the public using Clerk.org.

Since Ms. Knowles utilized information from CCSM, which only shows data entered on Volusia County cases, she was unaware Ms. Stowel was in fact on felony probation in Flagler County. A criminal history search on Ms. Stowel revealed a criminal history dating back to 2012. Furthermore, Ms. Stowel is a Drug Court participant in Flagler County and was recently arrested on January 20, 2017 by the Flagler County Sheriff's Office for Grand Theft and Possession of Oxycodone, both of which are felonies. This last arrest was the day after Deputy Hawman requested Ms. Knowles to query her name.

Kelli Augat

On March 21, 2017, Detective Glen Bennett and Detective Tara Burke conducted a sworn recorded interview with Kelli Augat at the Volusia County Branch Jail in Daytona Beach, FL. The following is a summary of that interview:

Ms. Augat has worked for the Volusia County Clerk of Court for over seventeen years and is assigned to traffic court and first appearance. Ms. Augat was also Jennifer Knowles' training officer.

Ms. Augat was at first appearance on January 23, 2017 when she was informed by Ms. Knowles that Deputy Hawman asked her to query his girlfriend to see if she was on probation. According to Ms. Augat, Ms. Knowles utilized CCMS to ascertain the information request made by Deputy Hawman.

After hearing this information, Ms. Augat contacted Sergeant Hansard and advised him of the incident. *(See Tab – D for Official Transcript)*

Jennifer Knowles

On March 21, 2017 Detective Bennett and Detective Burke conducted a sworn recorded interview with Jennifer Knowles at the Volusia County Courthouse in Deland, FL. The following is a summary of that interview:

Ms. Knowles has worked for the Volusia County Clerk of Court since February of 2016. Being new to the job, Ms. Knowles has worked in various positions within the Clerk's Office and was being trained by Ms. Augat.

While working first appearance on Thursday, January 19, 2017, Ms. Knowles was asked by Deputy Hawman to query the name of a female in order to ascertain whether she was on probation. Ms. Knowles complied with Deputy Hawman's request and searched the CCSM database to discover the female was not on probation in Volusia County. After telling Deputy Hawman this information, he responded, *"He said ok, that's good because I met her in drug court and I'm dating her and I just, she [the girl] didn't know if she was on probation or not...those might not have been his exact words but he said he met her in drug court. He was dating her and she couldn't remember if she was on probation or not and he was just trying to help her out."* Ms. Knowles confirmed to detectives the name of the female Deputy Hawman asked her to query was in fact Lacie Stowel.

Ms. Knowles took Deputy Hawman's comments seriously and did not perceive them as a jovial punch line; however, being that his request could have been accessed via public record she did not immediately feel she was in violation of any department policy. Ms. Knowles' immediate thought was that he was trying to help the girl, *"You want to help people get better like that's why you're in the field [law enforcement] that you're in. I took it as that's what he wanted to do. I'm gonna help him, but then it turned into something personal and I was like, I was working. I just didn't think it was professional at that point."*

The following day, Friday, January 20, 2017, Ms. Knowles and Ms. Augat were working first appearance along with Deputy Hawman. On this day, Ms. Knowles heard Deputy Hawman

making comments about how young his girlfriend was “*I think he said he was 50 something and she was 20 something so maybe about 30 year, 25-30 year difference.*” After overhearing his conversation, Ms. Knowles informed Ms. Augat of Deputy Hawman’s prior comments, and of his request to query his girlfriend’s name. After learning of this information, Ms. Augat notified Sergeant Hansard. (See Tab – E for Official Transcript)

Lacie Marie Stowel

On April 12, 2017, Detective Bennett and Detective Burke conducted a sworn recorded interview with Lacie Marie Stowel at the Department of Parole and Probation, 2405 East Moody Boulevard in Bunnell, FL. The following is a summary of that interview:

Ms. Stowel was on probation for Child Neglect when she was arrested for Grand Theft and Possession of Oxycontin on January 20, 2017 in Flagler County; just one day after Deputy Hawman asked Ms. Knowles to query her name. As a result of her most recent arrest, she was placed in the Drug Court program in Flagler County.

Ms. Stowel had previously been a Drug Court participant in Volusia County from December 2013 to February 2015 as a result of multiple narcotic arrests. She was placed in the Drug Court program at the S. James Foxman Justice Center (Justice Center) in Daytona Beach, FL and according to Ms. Stowel, was when she first met Deputy Hawman.

Back in December of 2013, when Ms. Stowel began attending her required Drug Court meetings at the Justice Center, she would often see Deputy Hawman in the courtroom. Ms. Stowel recalled their first conversation at the front door security checkpoint where deputies conduct security searches of individuals entering the courthouse. It was at the security checkpoint where Deputy Hawman would ask her personal questions along with making comments like;

“...do you know that you’re really beautiful? You know you’re a very pretty girl? You know, too bad you’re young I mean kind of things like that” and “He did ask if I had a daughter and this was; not a daughter I’m sorry a child you know and I told him I had a daughter” as well as “...you know like I’ve had a nice body um you know kind of awkward comments like that.”

While in the Drug Court program, Deputy Hawman sent her an unsolicited Facebook friend request which she accepted.

Ms. Stowel first told detectives, the last time she spoke to Deputy Hawman was approximately six months ago, *“And I haven’t spoke to him in months. Like at all. Not even since January have I even spoke to him.”* Ms. Stowel later explained how all communication with Deputy Hawman was strictly through Facebook Messenger, just after admitting to speaking to him a few months prior.

The two engaged in conversation via Facebook Messenger as time went on. According to Ms. Stowel, Deputy Hawman would ask her questions, *“...Hi how are you? What are you doing today? What are your plans? How’s your daughter? ‘Cause like I said in previous conversations I’ve told him I’ve had a child. How’s your daughter doing you know how’s she doing in school?”* In Drug Court, Judge Will would often ask the participants about their place of employment and other related personal questions which she believed Deputy Hawman overheard and would later question her about.

Deputy Hawman had given Ms. Stowel his cell phone number and the two talked and texted one another on and off, *“... he gave me his number and said, hey call me sometime. Call me if you need anything or whatever.”* According to Ms. Stowel, she spoke to Deputy Hawman approximately seven or eight times and during those conversations, Deputy Hawman would ask;

“...how are you doing? How was your day? How was work...He’s asked me out before. I’ve declined him. He’s asked me, the way that he’s asked me out was we should get the girls together and do something. Talking about his daughter and my daughter. I’ve declined him and then he’s also asked me for dinner you know we should get dinner sometime and I’ve declined him...”

Ms. Stowel perceived Deputy Hawman’s comments as personal and flirtatious in nature. According to Ms. Stowel, on one occasion, *“He said that you know, like I’ve had a nice body, um you know kind of awkward comments like that.”*

Ms. Stowel was aware of a couple of other female Drug Court participants that had spoken with Deputy Hawman, *“I, I only know for sure of April Brogan because I knew her outside of drug*

court as well,” Ms. Brogan was a past Drug Court participant, but passed away while in custody at the Volusia County Correctional Facility back in early 2015. Ms. Stowel had known Ms. Brogan from when they both resided at the Palmetto House together and recalled, “...we’ve had the conversation about him [Deputy Hawman] you know, saying how he’s a little weird with the girls...he’s made comments to other of the girls about how, like how they look. Their body...I’ve heard him say to other girls in drug court.” It was also during their time together at the Palmetto House; Ms. Brogan said she engaged in sexual relations with Deputy Hawman.

At first, Ms. Stowel claimed she never met with Deputy Hawman outside the courthouse; however, she later provided Detective Bennett with a series of photographs depicting her daughter swimming with Deputy Hawman in what was confirmed to be his neighborhood community pool in New Smyrna Beach, FL. Ms. Stowel admitted to taking the pictures of them together in the pool, and that she was unable to swim because of an ankle monitor she had been court ordered to wear. *(See Tab – K for Miscellaneous Documents)*

According to Ms. Stowel, she could think of no reason why Deputy Hawman would have asked a Court Clerk to look her name up to see if she was on probation. *(See Tab – F for Official Transcript)*

Amanda Leffler

On April 20, 2017, Detective Bennett and Detective Burke conducted a sworn recorded interview with Amanda Leffler at 250 North beach Street in Daytona Beach, FL. The following is a summary of that interview:

At the time of this interview, Ms. Leffler was employed as a department manager at a local retail store and has been clean and sober for some time. When Detective Bennett initially contacted Ms. Leffler in reference to this investigation, she expressed her distain for the entire law enforcement community. She took responsibility for her past and offered no excuse; however, she went on to offer information which was supported by numerous other female Drug Court participants both interviewed for this investigation and a prior investigation involving former deputy Scott Barnett. Mr. Barnett was a deputy sheriff who resigned in lieu of termination as a result of an internal affairs investigation (IA-16-006) involving his inappropriate behavior with female Drug Court participants.

Ms. Leffler has been arrested numerous times on various charges ranging from Armed Robbery to misdemeanor Drug Possession. On June 12, 2012, she was court ordered to attend Drug Court at the S. Foxman Justice Center (Justice Center) in Daytona Beach, FL, where she first met Deputy Jay Hawman. Ms. Leffler's experience in Drug Court was similar to other female Drug Court participants in which she was befriended by certain deputies assigned to the Justice Center; one of which being Deputy Jay Hawman.

Prior to being placed into Drug Court, Ms. Leffler had relapsed and was arrested. She knew if she was released from jail she was going to die, "*...I knew that if they let me out I was probably not going to be in a really good way so I begged them to keep me in jail.*" As a result of the arrest and her fear of being released, Judge Will ordered her into the Drug Court program. It was during her time in Drug Court that she first met Mr. Barnett and Deputy Jay Hawman.

Ms. Leffler described how the transport deputy, the one assigned to transport the female inmates from the Correctional Facility to the Justice Center, could pick and choose which female inmate they wanted assigned to their transport van. According to Ms. Leffler, on one particular transport, Mr. Barnett was driving the transport van and, "*Before I ever made it to the courthouse Barnett had given me his phone number.*" It was Ms. Leffler's belief that Mr. Barnett had recognized her based on her many times of being incarcerated, "*...you already know what the reasoning is, I mean you don't arbitrarily, men don't arbitrarily give a prostitute or an escort their phone number for no apparent reason...I mean it wasn't for me to come over and watch damn cartoons.*"

According to Ms. Leffler, she had run into Mr. Barnett at the courthouse one day, which happened to be towards the end of Drug Court, and the two met later that night after she was leaving the Sea Dip Beach Resort in Daytona Beach. There was never a discussion of sex for money, it was just understood, "*It's fair to say that Barnett knew that I would never pay him the money back that I borrowed from him.*" Being in need of money, Ms. Leffler was compensated \$400.00 for engaging in sexual relations with Mr. Barnett, "*I borrowed \$400 from him. It was my final Drug Court payment.*"

Ms. Leffler first met Deputy Hawman while attending Drug Court at the Justice Center. Ms. Leffler was coming to the Justice Center virtually every day of the week, and would see Deputy

Hawman regularly during her visits. Deputy Hawman would strike up conversations with the female Drug Court participants outside the courthouse where they all sat and smoked cigarettes together. Ms. Leffler recalled one conversation where Deputy Hawman was talking about his girlfriend that had a drug problem, *“That was his, basically their icebreaker is, I have a heart for people who’s struggling with drugs and if you’re trying to do the right thing I’ll help you.”*

Ms. Leffler along with other members of Drug Court would sit in front of the Justice Center smoking cigarettes and talk to the deputies. Just to the north of the Justice Center was a bus transfer station where, according to Ms. Leffler, was not a good place for a recovering addict to be hanging out. Because of that, Drug Court participants would sit in view of the deputies and Drug Court personnel, so as to not get accused of doing something wrong, *“...so it’s a comfort to sit at the courthouse and that probably doesn’t make sense to a lot of people...But it’s extremely comforting.”*

While they sat in front of the courthouse, Ms. Leffler recalled Deputy Hawman showing pictures of female adults and their children, saying how he was helping them out; *“Pictures of kids, he’s got a lot of pictures of kids...he seems to be overly concerned with what people do with their female children.”* And she further stated, *“It’s just weird that no girl he’s ever dated has had a male child. Not one.”* The photographs he would show, *“...were always of drug addicts. It was always, this girl is a drug addict I’m helping her because of oh look at the kid, oh look at this kid I’m helping, their mom is strung out.”*

After being advised Deputy Hawman had inquired about female children, Detective Bennett showed Ms. Leffler the photographs Ms. Stowel had provided him which depicted her daughter in the pool with Deputy Hawman. Ms. Leffler immediately identified the child as being Ms. Stowel’s daughter. Ms. Leffler and Ms. Stowel lived together at the Palmetto House around 2012 – 2013, where she would often watch Ms. Stowel’s daughter.

According to Ms. Leffler, she had sex with Deputy Hawman one time at her house, *“I went to the courthouse to get my divorce papers and I revenge fucked him and recorded it and sent it to my ex.”* She had gone to the Courthouse Annex to get the paperwork where Deputy Hawman was working the front door security checkpoint. Ms. Leffler offered for Deputy Hawman to come by her house when she lived at the Sea Dip Resort on beachside in Daytona Beach, FL.

Sometime after 4 or 5 o'clock he showed up off duty in plain clothes and the two talked for a while before having sexual relations. Ms. Leffler was not paid to have sex with Deputy Hawman nor did she receive any sort of benefit. She had only been with him once; however, Deputy Hawman did ask her to come over to his house on multiple occasions.

According to Ms. Leffler, Deputy Hawman told her of a girl he was dating and how he was going to take her to detox. He needed to get her some pills so she would be under the influence in order for her to be accepted at the detox center. Something Ms. Leffler claims to be true because she once had to be under the influence in order to be admitted into the detox facility.

When Ms. Leffler and Ms. Stowel lived together, Ms. Stowel was a participant in Drug Court. It was during this time she recalled Ms. Stowel being ordered to take a urinalysis after a night she had consumed alcohol. Ms. Stowel had been drinking and her ankle monitor had not gone off but she was worried the alcohol would show up in her urinalysis. According to Ms. Leffler, Ms. Stowel contacted Deputy Hawman and the two drove to the Justice Center where he gave her money to buy a cleansing drink in order to pass the urinalysis. Ms. Stowel dropped Ms. Leffler off at her place of employment and purchased the cleansing drink at a store named Pumpernickel Pops in Daytona Beach, FL, before her court ordered urinalysis.

Ms. Leffler described a culture amongst some of the deputies at the courthouse, a culture that went unchecked even though the writing was on the wall. Ms. Leffler described the behavior of Deputy Hawman and Mr. Barnett as "13 Stepping."

"You don't do it. Relationships are not the thing you do your first year of recovery. 13 stepping is when you have that knowledge in yourself, that, that is a bad, bad, bad, bad thing and you go target someone who is very early in recovery and they don't have the mental capacity to understand why you shouldn't be in a relationship in recovery."

According to alcoholrehab.com, "13 Stepping" is defined as: 13th Stepping is not an official part of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous (or any 12 Step group). It is said to occur when somebody who has more than a year of sobriety tries to start up a sexual relationship with somebody who is new in recovery – or less than a year sober. Sometimes relationships like this do develop in AA, but they are viewed negatively and are not a good idea for either of those

involved. Furthermore, this act is dangerous for a number of reasons including, when people become sober they can be highly vulnerable. It is therefore easy for other people to take advantage of them, and this would be considered exploitative.

According to Ms. Leffler, Deputy Hawman used his authority as a Deputy Sheriff to intimidate the females into getting what he wanted, *“Like it’s more of they’re preying on the people that they know would be easier to convince for them to have a mutual relationship with them because of who they are.”* It is Ms. Leffler’s belief that Deputy Hawman and Mr. Barnett were, *“...using their position to take advantage of vulnerable populations and addicts and quite frankly when you’re in early recovery your brain really cannot connect it like that...You’re so vulnerable mentally and so fucking broken emotionally the last god damn thing you need is a sheriff trying to fuck you.”* (See Tab – G for Official Transcript)

On April 21, 2017, Theresa Stroh, Lacie Stowel’s mother, provided detectives with a detailed conversation between her and Deputy Hawman that she saved on her Facebook Messenger account. The conversation began on January 24, 2017 with Deputy Hawman asking Ms. Stroh how her daughter, Ms. Stowel, and granddaughter were doing. Deputy Hawman referenced Ms. Stowel’s arrest, which took place on Friday, January 20, 2017, asking if she had any information. Deputy Hawman goes on to introduce himself to Ms. Stroh and further stating, *“I was interested in taking Lacie [Ms. Stowel] to a concert in April. I thought she had her issues behind her, but apparently I was mistaken.”* (See Tab – K for Miscellaneous Documents)

Ms. Stroh tells Deputy Hawman she does not know who he is but thanks him for his concern and asks where he met her daughter, Ms. Stowel. Deputy Hawman identifies himself as a deputy sheriff and states, *“I met Lacie [Ms. Stowel] when she was in drug court”* and expresses how thrilled he was when she graduated Drug Court; however, disappointed she was still struggling. Deputy Hawman further stated, *“I had invited her to accompany me to a concert to which she seemed excited, but didn’t respond to further messages all weekend. Now I know why [referencing her arrest on Friday, January 20, 2017]”*

Deputy Hawman confirms with Ms. Stroh what Ms. Stowel was arrested for on January 20, 2017, *“The charges are grand theft and possession of hydrocodone? Yikes. Those are serious.”*

To which Ms. Stroh responded, *“Yep and vop [violation of probation] of drug offender felony prob [probation][sic].”*

The conversation continued on January 24, 2017 with Ms. Stroh thanking Deputy Hawman for his concern for her daughter. Ms. Stroh asked Deputy Hawman how old he was and after he advised her he was forty seven, she replied, *“Ok I know men like younger woman but really what do u want out of a 25 yr old don’t u think that’s a little strange [sic].”* Deputy Hawman answered, *“Probably. Age is simply a number. I’m immature for my age, but not irresponsibly so. I was hoping lacie was more mature than that, but given her poor choices, I would have to reconsider dating her. Unfortunately for me I’m attracted to much smaller woman...[sic]”*

Ms. Stroh asked Deputy Hawman how he knew who she was and he explained he was in law enforcement and referenced a past conversation he discovered between Ms. Stowel and Ms. Stroh on Facebook. Ms. Stroh replied back telling him how she knew who he was and was just testing to see if he was honest and Deputy Hawman stated, *“I simply presumed you were upset some dirty old man was stalking your daughter. I was trying to make a good first impression.”* He went on to say, *“I was confused at first because she said she was on probation, but I couldn’t find anything in the Volusia County clerk’s office. Then it dawned upon me that she lived in Flagler County.”*

The conversation on Facebook Messenger started again on February 9, 2017 at 8:54PM, the same day Ms. Stowel was released from the Flagler County jail and eight days after he was served with his Notice of Internal Investigation (041M0017.17). Deputy Hawman sent Ms. Stroh a message asking if there were any more developments concerning her daughter. Ms. Stroh replied back stating her daughter was home and he went on to say, *“Yeah she sent me an apology... Hopefully she relizes what she has to lose. 2 years is a lifetime to her daughter [sic].”*

Amanda Bairstow

On April 21, 2017, Detective Bennett and Detective Burke conducted a sworn recorded interview with Amanda Bairstow at 821 South Ridgewood Avenue in Daytona Beach, FL. The following is a summary of that interview:

Ms. Bairstow was court ordered to Drug Court at the Justice Center in Daytona Beach, FL in June of 2014. It was during her time in Drug Court that she met Deputy Hawman.

Like other female participants in Drug Court, Ms. Bairstow first met with and spoke to Deputy Hawman while smoking cigarettes in front of the Justice Center. Ms. Bairstow believed Deputy Hawman would be outside smoking and talking with Drug Court participants each time he was on shift. Ms. Bairstow didn't feel it was appropriate for a deputy to be talking to Drug Court participants, *"Well yeah him talking to drug court participants just didn't seem like what sheriffs should be doing. They're there to have you follow the rules and so forth and they're not out there to mingle on the clock."* According to Ms. Bairstow, she could not recall any other deputy standing in front the courthouse engaging the Drug Court participants in conversation.

It wasn't until July of 2016 when, according to Ms. Bairstow, Deputy Hawman began to discuss personal issues with her and the two became friends on Facebook. According to Ms. Bairstow, he told her he was transferring over to the Daytona Beach Courthouse Annex (Courthouse Annex) on City Island in Daytona Beach, FL. She was still in Drug Court at the time; however, their paths would later cross when she had to attend a hearing at the Courthouse Annex.

During one of their conversations at the Courthouse Annex, Ms. Bairstow remembered him talking about a girl he met on the internet and how all she wanted was his money and also, *"...another conversation he's like well you know I date younger girls because I did kind of think that he was trying to hit on me...An um they're just more fun. I remember him saying that and they're more fun."*

Ms. Bairstow provided detectives with copies of a Facebook Messenger conversation between her and Deputy Hawman. On the front page of the printout, it shows the name "Jay Clayton Hawman" with "You're friends on Facebook" indicated below. The conversation was dated July 30, 2016 and Deputy Hawman sent her a message, *"Hey happy birthday (belated) Are you still in drug court? Who was sleeping with the deputy?"* Deputy Hawman may have been attempting to ascertain the names of the female Drug Court participants who were involved in the active internal affairs investigation involving ex-deputy Scott Barnett (IA-16-006.) *(See Tab – H for Official Transcript)*

Lacy Gunter

On April 27, 2017, Detective Bennett and Detective Burke conducted a sworn recorded interview with Lacy Gunter at 149 South Hollywood Avenue in Daytona Beach, FL. The following is a summary of that interview:

Ms. Gunter had been a participant in the Drug Court program at the Justice Center from 2014 – 2015 and would be at the courthouse approximately twice a week.

Ms. Gunter, when not in the courtroom, would often sit and smoke cigarettes with other Drug Court participants in front of the Justice Center while she waited for court. She recalled on several occasions when Deputy Hawman would come outside and smoke cigarettes with several of the Drug Court participants; however, she did not pay any attention to their conversations and kept to herself.

On one occasion, Ms. Gunter was sitting outside the courtroom awaiting court, when Deputy Hawman approached her, “...before we started court he asked me for my phone number and if I had a boyfriend, and showed me that picture and then I went in and I did my Drug Court thing with Judge Will.” During their encounter in front of the courtroom, Deputy Hawman had engaged Ms. Gunter in conversation and showed her a photograph, “...I’ve seen a photo of a little girl with blonde hair as I recall...On his cellphone.” When Ms. Gunter was asked why he showed her a picture of a little girl, she replied, “Um, probably because it was maybe a past girlfriend that he talked to, and it was their kid and he was helping them.”

After she finished court that day, she called her mother and told her about the deputy that approached her just before court. Ms. Gunter commented by saying, “I don’t think it’s normal for an officer in a uniform to come up to somebody in Drug Court and ask that question. That’s not ok to me.” Ms. Gunter further commented on Deputy Hawman’s actions;

“That’s pretty much trying to 13th step somebody. I mean your, if somebody’s sitting there and they’re in hard times in their life and they’re doing nothing but trying to get better I don’t think a gentleman should try and prey on somebody like that and that’s how I felt he was doing to me when he asked for my phone number and asked if I had a boyfriend. I think that’s how he like, I think that’s

how he tries to catch females and I don't think that's ok and I think that's why it freaked me out." (See Tab – I for Official Transcript)

On May 23, 2017, Detective Bennett received an Intake/Referral report from the Child Protection Team/Broward County.

On May 24, 2017, Detective Bennett, Detective Burke and Sergeant Tom Tatum briefed Detective Dennis Miller with the Sheriff's Office Child Exploitation Unit on the findings related to the case. This internal affairs investigation was tolled pending the results of Detective Millers investigation.

On July 5, 2017, Detective Bennett received a copy of the incident report which documented the criminal investigation conducted by Detective Miller. Based on the findings, it was determined there was insufficient evidence to support a criminal complaint. *(See Tab – K for Miscellaneous Documents)*

Deputy Jay Hawman

On July 11, 2017, Detective Bennett and Detective Burke conducted a sworn recorded interview with Deputy Jay Hawman at the Sheriff's administrative offices in Deland, FL. Also present, representing Deputy Hawman, was Dan Leising. The following is a summary of that interview:

Deputy Hawman has been with the Sheriff's Office for thirteen years. For the last five years he has been assigned to the Judicial Services Division where he is presently a bailiff at the Daytona Beach Courthouse Annex.

Deputy Hawman first met Lacie Stowel approximately four years prior while she was attending Drug Court at the Justice Center in Daytona Beach, FL. He recalled speaking to her while he smoked cigarettes in front of the Justice Center, where the majority of Drug Court participants sat awaiting court. It was either in front of the courthouse, at the security checkpoint or in the courtroom where Deputy Hawman said he first engaged in conversation with Ms. Stowel. Deputy Hawman denied making statements to Ms. Stowel or any other female Drug Court participant about how pretty or how nice their body was. He did recall speaking to Ms. Stowel about her daughter; however, he denied any conversation in reference to her physical appearance.

Ms. Stowel was not the only female Drug Court participant which Deputy Hawman engaged in conversation while at front of the courthouse smoking cigarettes. According to those interviewed for this investigation, it was common practice for whenever they were at the courthouse. According to Deputy Hawman, he described himself as, "*Being friendly,*" when he engaged in conversation with female Drug Court participants at the courthouses.

In reference to him ascertaining Ms. Stowel's criminal history, Deputy Hawman said he first researched her criminal history on the Clerk of Court public website using his cell phone. He did not find any criminal convictions; however, he recalled Ms. Stowel telling him she had \$1,000.00 worth of restitution owed to the court. Deputy Hawman, while working first appearance at the Volusia County Branch Jail one day, asked Court Clerk employee, Jennifer Knowles, to query the name Lacie Stowel. Deputy Hawman denied telling Ms. Knowles that Ms. Stowel was his girlfriend and he merely asked her if there was a website he could use since the Probation and Parole website was not user friendly. According to Deputy Hawman, Ms. Knowles agreed to ascertain the information he requested since it was believed to be public record; however, When asked why he did not query Ms. Stowel using Sheriff's Office equipment he replied, "*I don't have access to a database, I don't have an MDC (Mobile Data Computer) in my car and we're not permitted to run people for personal, personal gain [sic].*"

Deputy Hawman was questioned on why he was communicating with Ms. Stowel via Facebook Messenger and he replied he was just, "*Being friendly.*" When asked how he obtained Ms. Stowel's Facebook page, he said he conducted a Facebook name search out of curiosity. When asked why he was conducting social media searches on females in Drug Court he replied, "*I have no answer.*" It was during a prior Facebook Messenger conversation that Deputy Hawman obtained Ms. Stowel's cell phone number and the two began communicating via cell phone.

Ms. Stowel had been to Deputy Hawman's residence on one occasion. Reference to the photographs provided by Ms. Stowel, which depicted her daughter swimming with Deputy Hawman in his neighborhood community pool, Deputy Hawman responded, "*She [Ms. Stowel] brought her daughter by my swimming pool to introduce her to water. She said she'd never been swimming before,*" so he was teaching her how to swim. Deputy Hawman acknowledged Ms. Stowel did not go swimming that day because of the court ordered ankle monitor attached to her ankle.

Deputy Hawman was asked about the Facebook Messenger conversation between him and Ms. Stroh, Ms. Stowel's mother, which began after Ms. Stowel was arrested a few days prior. According to Deputy Hawman, he never met Ms. Stroh, and he merely contacted her to check on Ms. Stowel and her granddaughter. In the Facebook Messenger conversation, Deputy Hawman made reference to taking Ms. Stowel to a concert; something Deputy Hawman claims was only going to happen unless Ms. Stowel was clean and sober. None the less, throughout this Facebook Messenger conversation it showed that Deputy Hawman and Ms. Stowel did engage in communication during the course of this internal affairs investigation.

Deputy Hawman claimed he was unaware of Ms. Stowel's criminal history even though she had been court ordered to Drug Court. Since Deputy Hawman had worked in the Drug Court Courtroom, he knew or should have known how or why Ms. Stowel was ordered to attend. When asked by detectives if he was aware how one gets ordered into Drug Court he replied, *"You're either facing felony charges and drug court is like a deferred um, prosecution program or treatment program in lieu of sentencing or adjudication."*

Amanda Leffler, was another prior female Drug Court participant whom Deputy Hawman said he met in Drug Court. Deputy Hawman denied ever showing photographs of females and their children as described in Ms. Leffler's statement to internal affairs. He further denied ever having a sexual relationship with Ms. Leffler as well as ever going to her residence, an incident described in detail in Ms. Lefflers statement to detectives. Deputy Hawman denied he ever provided Ms. Stowel money for a cleansing drink so she could pass her court ordered urinalysis, another incident Ms. Leffler said she was witness to.

In reference to Lacy Gunter, another former Drug Court participant, who advised detectives Deputy Hawman asked her for her phone number and if she had a boyfriend while outside Judge Will's courtroom. An accusation which Deputy Hawman denied; however, he did remember asking her if she was any relation to the Gunter family which lived in one of his old patrol zones.

Deputy Hawman denied knowing Amanda Bairstow, another female Drug Court participant, who stated that Deputy Hawman engaged her in conversation, not only at the Justice Center but also at the Courthouse Annex. During one of those conversations, Ms. Bairstow described how

she believed Deputy Hawman was “hitting” on her, a conversation Deputy Hawman denied having.

Ms. Bairstow provided detectives with a printout of a Facebook Messenger conversation between her and Deputy Hawman dated July 30, 2016. Deputy Hawman stated he sent her the message, “*Out of curiosity*” and claimed to have found her name, “*Probably through a standard [internet] search.*” When asked how he recalled Ms. Bairstow’s name to conduct the search he stated, “*I may have heard it in the courtroom as well.*”

Deputy Hawman saw these girls on a frequent basis, approximately twice a week in the court room where they held Drug Court. In Drug Court, Judge Will would often discuss personal matters related to the Drug Court participant’s life. Information Deputy Hawman was present for and used to conduct his Facebook search on Ms. Bairstow. When asked how he obtained Ms. Bairstow’s name to conduct his search he replied, “*Likely just a random search if that was a name that I could recall from that day [in court].*” When asked why he was communicating with female Drug Court participants, Deputy Hawman responded, “*Exercising bad judgement obviously.*” Furthermore, when questioned as to why he had interest in Drug Court females, Deputy Hawman responded;

“Just being friendly and, I mean not to justify anything sir but where else do you meet people? I don’t go to church; I don’t go out drinking in the bars. You meet people either at school or your place of business and unfortunately I work at the courthouse... I admit to you that it was wrong.”

The very first message of the Facebook Messenger conversation between Deputy Hawman and Ms. Bairstow was, “*Hey happy birthday (belated) Are you still in drug court? Who was sleeping with the deputy?*” It is apparent that Deputy Hawman knew enough about Ms. Bairstow to wish her happy belated birthday; furthermore, based on the questioning about who was sleeping with the deputy, it is believed he was inquiring about the open internal affairs investigation involving ex-deputy Scott Barnett which involved female Drug Court participants. A claim Deputy Hawman agreed with.

Deputy Hawman was asked if he violated the following policies:

26.2.54 Association with criminals	YES
26.2.99 Intentional abuse of equipment or vehicles	NO
26.2.153 Fictitious use or access to secure/restricted database	NO
Volusia County Merit System and Regulations 86-453 (2)	YES
(13)	YES
(21)	YES

(See Tab – J for Official Transcript)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On January 19, 2017, while working first appearance at the Volusia County Branch Jail, Deputy Hawman asked a Court Clerk employee to query the name Lacie Stowel, to ascertain her probation status. The Court Clerk honored his request, believing she was not in violation of any department policy, and provided him the requested information. After doing so, according to the Court Clerk, Deputy Hawman made reference to Ms. Stowel being his girlfriend. Therefore, the action of accessing Ms. Stowel's information using the Court Clerks computer is not permitted since the request was not official law enforcement business; something Deputy Hawman was aware of since he knew he could not utilize Sheriff's Office equipment or computers for personal use.

A few days later, the Court Clerk and Deputy Hawman were working together at first appearance when he was overheard talking to other deputies about his young girlfriend. Hearing this conversation, the Court Clerk informed her training officer of Deputy Hawman's request to query the name and of his comments. At that point Sheriff's Office command staff was notified and a supervisor's inquiry was conducted.

Ms. Stowel had been a Drug Court participant in Volusia County for approximately three years starting in 2012. It was during the time she was at the courthouse attending Drug Court in Volusia County that Deputy Hawman befriended her and the relationship began. This relationship was confirmed by Deputy Hawman and Ms. Stowel; however, both Ms. Stowel and Deputy Hawman denied the relationship was sexual in nature. Ms. Stowel, along with other female Drug Court participants, recalled Deputy Hawman engaging them in conversation either when they smoked cigarettes in front of the courthouse, at the front door security checkpoint or in and around the courtroom.

Drug Court is a court ordered diversionary program for select individuals chosen by the courts. In order to be selected into the program, one must have committed a crime; a process Deputy Hawman stated he was aware of in his interview with internal affairs.

During Ms. Stowel's interview with internal affairs, she provided photographs of her daughter in Deputy Hawman's neighborhood community pool. The photographs, taken by Ms. Stowel, depicted her juvenile daughter swimming alone with Deputy Hawman. Ms. Stowel did not go in the pool because of an ankle monitor she was court ordered to wear. An incident Deputy Hawman did not deny.

During interviews conducted for this investigation, it was determined that Deputy Hawman would strike up conversations with female Drug Court participants and show them photographs of woman and children he claimed to be helping. It was believed by the females interviewed, this was his way of developing a relationship with female Drug Court participants who were at a vulnerable point in their recovery process. One witness described how he began conversations with the female Drug Court participants as, *"That was his, basically their icebreaker is, I have a heart for people who's struggling with drugs and if you're trying to do the right thing I'll help you."*

Deputy Hawman's behavior with the female Drug Court participants was described by some of the witnesses as "13 Stepping." An unofficial term associated with any 12 step alcohol or drug recovery process in which a person more seasoned tries to start a sexual relationship with somebody who is new to recovery. It is during the beginning of recovery that people tend to be

mentally vulnerable; therefore, making it easy for other people to take advantage of them, and this would be considered exploitative.

During Deputy Hawman's assignment at the courthouse, he would often be in attendance in the Drug Court courtroom where he was responsible for security. It was during his time in court he would overhear personal conversations between Judge Will and the Drug Court participants. Deputy Hawman utilized the information gathered during court to conduct social media searches of the female participants he wanted to contact. After conducting a name search on Facebook, he would use Facebook Messenger as the primary means of communication where he would eventually request the female's personal cell number to continue further communication.

A witness interviewed for this case showed communication via Facebook Messenger in which Deputy Hawman was inquiring about the females who had "slept" with now ex-deputy Scott Barnett. During the spring and summer of 2016, there was an ongoing internal affairs investigation involving Mr. Barnett and his inappropriate relationships with female Drug Court participants. During Deputy Hawman's internal affairs interview, he confirmed that he was inquiring about the open internal affairs investigation out of curiosity.

Ms. Stowel's mother provided detectives a copy of another Facebook Messenger conversation between her and Deputy Hawman. During that conversation, which took place from January through February 2017, Deputy Hawman referenced his communication with Ms. Stowel and how they planned to attend a concert together; along with her most recent arrest. This Facebook conversation proved Deputy Hawman and Ms. Stowel communicated with one another while this internal affairs investigation was active and that he was aware of Ms. Stowel's most recent criminal activity.

Another witness described how she met Deputy Hawman while attending Drug Court and described several incidents of inappropriate and/or unethical behavior; all of which Deputy Hawman denied. This same witness explained how she engaged in sexual relations with Deputy Hawman at her residence when he was of duty. This encounter was explained in detail; however, denied by Deputy Hawman.

All in all, Deputy Hawman admittedly used his position as a Deputy Sheriff to gather information on select female Drug Court participants in hopes of developing a personal

relationship, with one such relationship lasting approximately five years. He did this while having full knowledge of the criminal activity needed for an individual to be placed into Drug Court.

Deputy Hawman also maintained a relationship and communicated with Ms. Stowel while under investigation, and admitted to inquiring about a prior internal affairs investigation involving a former deputy who was relieved of duty based on his behavior involving similar circumstances.

Conclusion:

On July 19, 2017, this investigation was presented to the Sheriff. After review, the Sheriff determined the violation of the below listed department and county policies to be:

26.2.54 Association with Criminals **Sustained**

26.2.118 Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees **Sustained**

26.2.124 Compliance with Direct Order of a Superior Competent Authority **Sustained**

26.2.153 Fictitious Use or Access to Secure/Restricted Database **Sustained**

Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations 86-453:

(2) Disregard for or frequent violations of Federal Laws, State laws, County ordinances, Departmental Standard Directives, and safety rules. **Sustained**

(13) Any conduct, on or off duty that reflects unfavorably on the County as an Employer. **Sustained**

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

On July 19, 2017, Sergeant Tatum and Detective Burke served Deputy Hawman an Intent to Terminate letter placing him on administrative leave with pay. *(See Tab – C for Official Correspondence)*

On July 21, 2017, Deputy Hawman met with the Sheriff to offer any mitigating factors which should be considered before the Sheriff's final disciplinary decision. *(See Tab – C for Official Correspondence)*

On July 25, 2017, Detectives Bennett and Burke served Deputy Hawman with a Final Termination letter, terminating his employment with the Sheriff's Office. *(See Tab – C for Official Correspondence)*

EXHIBITS:

- A. Report of Investigation
- B. Advisement Administration of Oath/Perjury Warning/Garrity Warning
- C. Official Correspondence/Supervisors Inquiry
- D. Official Transcripts of Kelli Augat
- E. Official Transcripts of Jennifer Knowles
- F. Official Transcripts of Lacie Marie Stowel
- G. Official Transcripts of Amanda Leffler
- H. Official Transcripts of Amanda Bairstow
- I. Official Transcript of Lacy Gunter
- J. Official Transcript of Deputy Jay Hawman
- K. Miscellaneous Documents
- L. Digital Media

WITNESSES:

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Jennifer Knowles
Clerk of Court
101 North Alabama Avenue
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(386) 736-5915

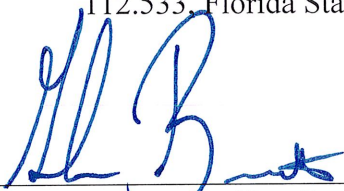
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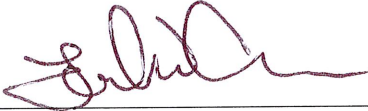
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Lacy Gunter
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Amanda Leffler
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(386)637-4959

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.

INVESTIGATOR:  DATE: 7/28/17
Detective Glen Bennett
Internal Affairs Investigator

APPROVED BY:  DATE: 08/03/17
Chief Deputy John Creamer
SHERIFF MICHAEL J. CHITWOOD
VOLUSIA COUNTY FLORIDA