

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

**REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**

**REPORT NUMBER: IA-16-017**

**PERIOD COVERED:** December 19, 2016  
**DATE REPORTED:** December 19, 2016  
**SUBJECT(S) NAME:** Deputy Cory Freeburn #8190  
**INVESTIGATING OFFICERS:** Detective Glen Bennett #1452  
**BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION:**

On December 19, 2016, while responding to a non-emergency call, Deputy Cory Freeburn was traveling north on US Highway 1 in the City of Edgewater when he was involved in a crash at the intersection of US Highway 1 and Marion Avenue. Four vehicles were involved in the crash with one of the occupants sustaining serious bodily injury. Based on the severity of those injuries, Edgewater Police Department conducted a traffic homicide investigation.

This crash would be Deputy Freeburn's second at fault crash within twenty eight months in which he totaled his patrol vehicle. Both crashes combined resulted in approximately \$48,098.00 in damages to Sheriff's Office property.

**OFFENSES:**

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

**26.2.98 Careless Handling of Equipment and Vehicles - Resulting in Damage/Loss -** Employees shall utilize Department or County equipment for its intended purpose in accordance with established procedures, and shall not subject such equipment to loss or damage through careless handling. *(Violation subject up to a 5 day suspension and/or loss or suspension of the equipment use privileges.)*

**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, Department Standard Directives, and safety rules.

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

#### **INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY:**

On December 20, 2016, Deputy Chief Eric Dietrich assigned the above incident to the Internal Affairs Unit. Deputy Cory Freeburn was served with a Notification of Internal Investigation along with a copy of his Officer Bill of Rights and was placed on Administrative Leave with Pay. This report details the internal affairs investigation conducted by Detective Glen Bennett. *(See Tab – B for Official Correspondence)*

On December 29, 2016, Deputy Freeburn was removed from Administrative Leave with Pay and assigned to light duty status. *(See Tab – B for Official Correspondence)*

Detective Bennett reviewed the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), and Sheriff's Office reports pertaining Deputy Freeburn's crash. On December 20, 2016 at approximately 8:12pm, Deputy Freeburn was responding without lights or siren from Edgewater to backup other Sheriff's Office units on a non-emergency civil service in New Smyrna Beach. At approximately 8:42pm, Deputy Freeburn was involved in a traffic crash while traveling north on US Highway 1 at Marion Avenue in Edgewater. *(See Tab – C for Sheriff's Office and Police reports)*

On January 10, 2017, Detective Bennett reviewed a copy of the initial crash investigation conducted by the Edgewater Police Department (161200212). The initial findings documented in the crash report indicate Deputy Freeburn's speed to be approximately 81mph, in a posted 45 mph speed zone at the time of the initial crash at the intersection at US Highway 1 and Marion Avenue in Edgewater. After impacting the first vehicle, Deputy Freeburn continued traveling north across the grass median before crashing into two other vehicles traveling south on US Highway 1.

Both Deputy Freeburn and the driver of the vehicle he initially impacted, Stanley Dabrowski, were transported to Halifax Medical Center. The passenger in Mr. Dabrowski's vehicle, Lillian Turner, was also transported to Halifax Medical Center as a trauma alert from the injuries she sustained. Based on the severity of her injuries, Edgewater Police Department initiated a traffic homicide investigation.

On March 22, 2017, Detective Bennett received a copy of the traffic homicide report conducted by Edgewater Police Department. The Medical Blood Report indicated Mr. Dabrowski's Ethyl Alcohol Level at .106 (g/dl) BAC. The Crash Data Recorder from Deputy Freeburn's patrol vehicle showed his speed at 81mph at the time of initial impact.

The traffic homicide investigation determined the sole contributing factors which led to the crash were the speed of Deputy Freeburn's vehicle and Mr. Dabrowski blood alcohol level. As a result of the traffic homicide investigation, Deputy Freeburn was issued two Uniformed Traffic Citations; one for Excessive Speed and one for Careless Driving. A complaint affidavit on Mr. Dabrowski for DUI Crash with serious bodily injury was completed and forwarded to the State Attorney's Office by Edgewater Police Department.

Deputy Freeburn's patrol vehicle, a 2015 Ford Taurus Police Interceptor, was deemed to be a total loss costing the Sheriff's Office approximately \$22,098.00. Damages to other vehicles involved were estimated to be totaled at approximately \$9,800.00. All in all, Deputy Freeburn has been responsible for damaging two Sheriff's Office vehicles in a twenty eight month time period for an estimated total loss of \$48,098.00 in Sheriff's Office property. *(See Tab – D for Miscellaneous Documents)*

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

On December 20, 2016 at approximately 8:12pm, Deputy Freeburn was enroute from Edgewater to back up units on a non-emergency civil service in New Smyrna Beach. At approximately 8:42pm, Deputy Freeburn is involved in a traffic crash on US Highway 1 in Edgewater.

According to reports and eye witness statements, Deputy Freeburn was traveling north bound on US Highway 1 without his lights and siren. As he approached the intersection of US Highway 1 and Marion Avenue a vehicle, driven by Stanley Dabrowski, pulled out and the two collided.

After striking the first vehicle, Deputy Freeburn continued northwest across the grass median where he struck two other vehicles traveling south on US Highway 1.

As a result of the crash, three people including Deputy Freeburn were transported to Halifax Medical Center to receive medical treatment. The passenger in the first vehicle Deputy Freeburn struck was transported to the hospital as a trauma alert. Based on the severity of the passenger's injuries, Edgewater Police Department initiated a traffic homicide investigation.

The findings, documented in the traffic homicide report conducted by Edgewater Police Department, found both Mr. Dabrowski and Deputy Freeburn at fault. Data taken from the Crash Data Recorder on Deputy Freeburn's patrol vehicle indicated his speed at impact was 81mph, which is 36mph over the posted speed limit. Results from the Medical Blood Report, showed Mr. Dabrowski's blood alcohol content at .106 (g/dl).

Deputy Freeburn was issued two Uniform Traffic Citations; one for Excessive Speed and one for Careless Driving. A complaint affidavit on Mr. Dabrowski for DUI Crash with serious bodily injury was completed and forwarded to the State Attorney's Office.

Deputy Freeburn's patrol vehicle, a 2015 Ford Taurus Police Interceptor, was deemed to be a total loss costing the Sheriff's Office approximately \$22,098.00. Damages to other vehicles involved were estimated to be totaled at approximately \$9,800.00. All in all, Deputy Freeburn has been responsible for damaging two Sheriff's Office vehicles in a twenty eight month time period for an estimated total loss of \$48,098.00 in Sheriff's Office property.

**CONCLUSION:**

On May 1, 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:

**26.2.98 Careless Handling of Equipment and Vehicles - Resulting in Sustained  
Damage/Loss**

**Volusia County Merit Rules and Regulations 86 – 453**

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

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

On May 22, 2017, Deputy Freeburn was served with an “Intent to Suspend” letter. *(See Tab – B for Official Correspondence)*

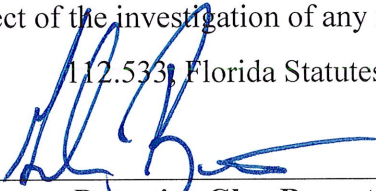
On May 30, 2017, Deputy Freeburn met with the Sheriff and took full responsibility for his actions.

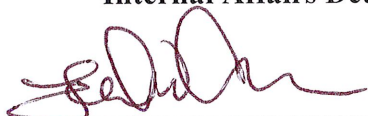
On June 2, 2017, Deputy Freeburn was served with a “Final Suspension” letter outlining the Sheriff’s final decision. *(See Tab – B for Official Correspondence)*

**EXHIBITS:**

- A. Report of Investigation
- B. Official Correspondence
- C. Sheriff's Office and Edgewater Police Department reports
- D. Miscellaneous Documents
- E. Digital Media

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: 6/2/17  
**Detective Glen Bennett**  
**Internal Affairs Detective**

APPROVED BY:  DATE: 6/7/17  
**Chief Deputy John Creamer**  
**SHERIFF MICHAEL J. CHITWOOD**  
**VOLUSIA COUNTY FLORIDA**