

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

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT NUMBER: IA-14-007

PERIOD COVERED: March 21, 2014
DATE REPORTED: March 26, 2014
SUBJECT(S) NAME: Deputy Cameron Tucker ID 7957
INVESTIGATING OFFICERS: Lieutenant Erik Eagan ID 2273

BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION:

On March 21, 2014, Deputy Cameron Tucker responded to a domestic battery 9-1-1 call at 1242 7th Street, Orange City, FL. After investigating the domestic violence incident; Deputy Tucker determined Glen Vickers was the primary aggressor and he was arrested for simple battery – domestic violence and searched incidental to arrest. During the search, Deputy Tucker removed several items from Mr. Vickers' person and placed the items (2 sets of keys, 1 cell phone, a wallet, a knife, multipurpose tool, cigarettes and lighter) on the trunk of his patrol car. The domestic violence incident was documented and referenced by VCSO report number 14-7686. *(See Tab E for Police Report)*

Shortly after placing the prisoner's personal property on his patrol car trunk, Deputy Tucker gave several items (1 set of keys, knife, multipurpose tool, cigarettes and lighter) to the defendant's estranged wife. Apparently, Deputy Tucker realized sometime later that he had left the rest of the defendant's personal property on the trunk of his patrol car and lost the items.

Later that evening, Deputy Tucker learned from Mrs. Vickers that a Good Samaritan had found Mr. Vickers' lost wallet and keys and returned the items to her. According to Mrs. Vickers, the wallet had \$101.00 inside it and she gave the Good Samaritan a \$20.00 reward for returning the items. Still missing was Mr. Vickers' cell phone and approximately \$100.00 cash from his wallet.

Deputy Tucker reported the incident to his supervisor and documented the lost property incident which is referenced by VCSO report number 14-7700. *(See Tab – C For Supervisor's Inquiry) (See Tab E for Police Report)*

OFFENSES:

This investigation is relevant to an alleged violation of Department Standards Directives:

26.2.34 Failure to Follow Directive or Order - Employees shall adhere to all official Directives and/or orders, and shall faithfully execute all the duties and responsibilities of their assigned position. *(Violation subject up to a 5 day suspension.)*

26.2.41 Negligence Associated with Safety of Persons or Property - Employees shall be attentive to job duties and shall not violate official Directives, orders, supervisory instructions, or knowingly refrain and cause another to refrain from the performance of lawful duties required for the safety of persons or property. *(Violation subject up to a demotion.)*

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY:

On April 7, 2014, Chief Deputy Mike Coffin assigned the Internal Affairs Unit an investigation of an allegation against Deputy Cameron Tucker for being neglectful in his duties on March 21, 2014, when he allegedly lost his prisoner's personal property valued at approximately \$500.00. This report details the internal affairs investigation conducted by Lieutenant Erik Eagan.

On April 7, 2014, Lieutenant Eagan served Deputy Tucker with his Notification of Internal Investigation and he was provided a copy of the Law Enforcement Officer's Rights in the Internal Affairs' office at the County Administration building in DeLand, FL. *(See Tab – B for Official Correspondence)*

Deputy Cameron Tucker

On April 9, 2014, Lieutenant Eagan and Sergeant Tom Tatum conducted a sworn recorded interview with Deputy Tucker in the Sheriff's conference room at the County Administration building in DeLand, FL. Also present was Teamsters' representative Richard Lecates. The following is a summary of that interview:

Deputy Tucker is a two and one half year deputy sheriff who works in District 6 as a road patrol deputy. He told investigators that he became distracted on March 21, 2014, while handling a domestic battery incident and subsequent arrest when the victim became emotional when her estranged husband was arrested for slapping her in the face. Deputy Tucker explained that while trying to calm the victim down, he diverted from his normal process of handling personal property from a prisoner. He said after giving the wife some of the defendant's personal property, he left the few other items on the trunk of his patrol car. Deputy Tucker completed his arrest affidavit and drove the defendant to the Volusia County Fairgrounds for transport transfer and mistakenly left the defendant's wallet, keys and cell phone on the trunk of his patrol car. Sometime during the transport, the items fell off his trunk and became lost.

Deputy Tucker explained to investigators that after dropping off the prisoner to the transport deputy, he became aware he did not have the prisoner's property. He called the defendant's wife and found out a Good Samaritan had found some of the missing items from the defendant's lost personal property. Deputy Tucker said, Mrs. Vickers told him

the Good Samaritan returned the wallet with \$101.00 cash and she gave him \$20.00 for returning the lost wallet. Deputy Tucker immediately called his supervisor, Sergeant Chilcot and informed him of the mistake. He then drove back to the incident scene and looked for the lost cell phone; which to date has not been located. Deputy Tucker completed a separate police report documenting the items he lost from the trunk of his patrol car.

When questioned, Deputy Tucker had the following response as to whether he felt he violated the following policies:

26.2.34 Failure to Follow Directive or Order – Yes

26.2.41 Negligence Associated with Safety of Persons or Property – Yes
(See Tab – E for Complete Transcript of Interview)

CONCLUSION:

On April 15, 2014, this investigation was presented to the Sheriff and his administrative staff. After review, the Sheriff determined the violations of the below listed Department Standards Directive to be:

26.2.34 Failure to Follow Directive or Order – Sustained

26.2.41 Negligence Associated with Safety of Persons or Property – Sustained

Sheriff Ben Johnson tentatively determined Deputy Tucker would serve a one (1) day suspension without pay which equates to eight (8) hours, for his discipline as a result of this internal investigation and a crash presentation referenced by VCSO crash report number 14-4119.

On April 16, 2014, Investigator Glen Bennett served Deputy Tucker with his Intent to Suspend letter at the Volusia County Sheriff's Administration building in DeLand, FL.

On May 1, 2014, Deputy Tucker met with Sheriff Johnson for a pre-disciplinary hearing in the Sheriff's conference room at the Volusia County Administration building in DeLand, FL. Also present during the hearing were Chief Deputy Mike Coffin, Major Robert Jones, Lieutenant Eagan and Teamsters representative Richard Lecates. After earnest consideration; Sheriff Johnson decided to keep Deputy Tucker's suspension at one (1) day suspension without pay which equates to eight (8) hours. Deputy Tucker will serve his suspension without pay on May 12, 2014.

On May 2, 2014, Investigator Bennett served Deputy Tucker with his Final Notice of Suspension letter at the Volusia County Administration building in DeLand, FL.

Deputy Tucker was to serve his eight (8) hour suspension on May 12, 2014, however;

due to his transfer to another shift, he will serve his suspension on May 14, 2014. (Note: this transfer was not a result of the internal investigation). This was confirmed via email from Captain Paul Adkins to Sergeant Tatum on May 5, 2014.

EXHIBITS:

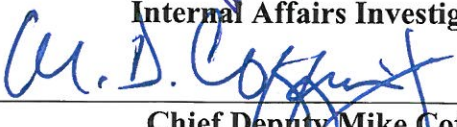
- A. Report Of Investigation
- B. Official Correspondence
- C. Complaint – Supervisor’s Inquiry
- D. Advisement Administration Of Oath/Perjury Warning/Garrity Warning
- E. Official Transcript Of Deputy Cameron Tucker
- F. Miscellaneous Documents – CAD Call and Police Reports
- G. Digital Media

WITNESSES:

Sergeant Michael Chilcot
Volusia County Sheriff’s Office
386-736-5961

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: 05/19/14
Lieutenant Erik Eagan
Internal Affairs Investigator

APPROVED BY:  _____ DATE: 05/19/2014
Chief Deputy Mike Coffin
SHERIFF BEN F. JOHNSON
VOLUSIA COUNTY FLORIDA