

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

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT NUMBER: IA 18-002

PERIOD COVERED: January 22, 2018
DATE REPORTED: January 22, 2018
SUBJECT(S) NAME: Telecommunicator Mathew Cresenzi #8138
INVESTIGATING OFFICERS: Detective Glen Bennett #1452

BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION:

On January 22, 2018, Mathew Cresenzi, a Telecommunicator assigned to the Sheriff's Office Communications Center, was allegedly involved in a domestic battery incident involving his ex-girlfriend for which he was arrested on the misdemeanor charge of Battery Domestic Violence, by the Port Orange Police Department.

OFFENSES:

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

26.2.128 Misdemeanors Not Affecting the Department - Department personnel shall adhere to all federal, state and local laws, defined as a first or second degree misdemeanor, whether chargeable or not, provided that the commission of such crime does not bring the Department or its personnel into disrepute or otherwise impair the efficiency or operation of the Department, and adverse effect upon future performance of duties by the personnel concerned appears unlikely. *(Violation subject up to a demotion.)*

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

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY:

On January 24, 2018, Chief Deputy John Creamer assigned the above incident to the Internal Affairs Unit. Telecommunicator Mathew Cresenzi was served with a Notice of Internal Affairs Investigation. This report details the internal affairs investigation conducted by Detective Glen Bennett. *(See Tab – B for Official Correspondence)*

Detective Bennett reviewed Port Orange Police Department report #180000660. According to police reports, Mr. Cresenzi and now ex-girlfriend, Catrina Stearns, had resided together as a family unit for approximately two and a half years. On or around January 8, 2018, the two separated and Ms. Stearns left the residence only to return on the agreed upon date of January 22, 2018, so the two could exchange personal items. *(See Tab – C for Miscellaneous Documents)*

After a short conversation, the situation became physical after Ms. Stearns made comments related to Mr. Cresenzi striking a wall and hurting his hand sometime prior. According to Ms. Stearns witness statement, Mr. Cresenzi, “...backhanded me across the face with his left hand...” and “...grabbed me by the arm and dragged me out the apartment...”

Documented in the arrest report, Mr. Cresenzi advised officers they both began arguing over their relationship when he became angry and back handed Ms. Stearns on the left side of her face, grabbed her arm and proceeded to drag her out the front door of the apartment. Based on evidence collected at the scene and statements obtained from parties involved, Mr. Cresenzi was taken into custody and charged with misdemeanor domestic battery.

On February 8, 2018, the Internal Affairs Unit received correspondence from Director John Balloni, with the Sheriff’s Office Communication Center, advising of Mr. Cresenzi’s situation. According to Mr. Balloni, Mr. Cresenzi was proactive in seeking help regarding the incident, which resulted in his arrest; furthermore, he voluntarily attended and will continue to attend programs offered by the Employees Assistance Program (EAP).

On April 26, 2018, Mr. Cresenzi entered into a Deferred Prosecution Agreement with the State Attorney’s Office. *(See Tab – C for Miscellaneous Documents)*

CONCLUSION:

On May 17, 2018, 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:

26.2.128 Misdemeanors Not Affecting the Department **SUSTAINED**

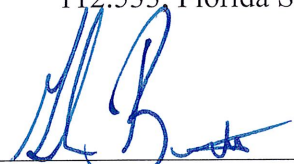
Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations 86-453 (13). **SUSTAINED**

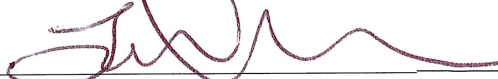
On May 23, 2018, Mr. Cresenzi was issued a Letter of Reprimand. *(See Tab – B for Letter of Reprimand)*

EXHIBITS:

- A. Report of Investigation
- B. Official Correspondence
- C. Miscellaneous Documents
- D. 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.

DETECTIVE:  DATE: 6/13/18
Detective Glen Bennett
Internal Affairs Detective

APPROVED BY:  DATE: 6/13/18
Chief Deputy John Creamer
SHERIFF Michael J. Chitwood
VOLUSIA COUNTY FLORIDA