

**New Smyrna Beach Police Department
Office of Professional Standards**

Report of Investigation

Report Number: IA 2018-003

DATE OF INCIDENT: November 9, 2017

DATE REPORTED: November 14, 2017

SUBJECT(S) NAME: Officer Beau Estrada

INVESTIGATING OFFICER: Deputy Chief Jessica Paugh

Basis for Investigation:

On January 09, 2017, Officer Beau Estrada was served a "Notice of Internal Investigation" in reference to IA 2018-002. The notice was given to Officer Estrada by Deputy Chief Paugh in the presence of Lieutenant Mark Severance. At the time this notice was given, Officer Estrada was specifically informed that he was under investigation for allegations that he was meeting with multiple women during his work hours.

Officer Estrada was given a direct order not to reach out to anyone about this investigation except for union representation. Any deviation would be considered insubordination for failing to follow a direct order. Officer Estrada was also shown the sentence in the notice that reads: "*Be advised that you are prohibited from contacting any witnesses, complainants or discussing this investigation with anyone; with the exception of your personal representative or attorney.*" Officer Estrada acknowledged he understood when he signed the notice.

During the course of investigating IA 2018-002, it was determined that Officer Estrada had violated the direct order when he spoke with two witnesses about being under investigation.

Offenses:

Section X, Group III (e) Insubordination (Failure to follow a direct order)

Investigative Summary:

On January 29, 2018, Chief M. Coffin assigned the above incident to the Office of Professional Standards to conduct an internal investigation. Officer Estrada was served with a Notification of Internal Investigation along with a copy of his Officer Bill of Rights on January 29, 2018, at the New Smyrna Beach Police Department. This report details the Internal Affairs investigation conducted by Deputy Chief Jessica Paugh.

Ashley LeBlanc

On January 26, 2017, Deputy Chief Paugh conducted a sworn recorded interview with Ashley LeBlanc. Ms. LeBlanc stated that Officer Estrada contacted her and advised her, he was under investigation for potential sexual misconduct. Ms. LeBlanc knew details of the allegation that were not known to the public. Ms. LeBlanc also provided a screenshot of Officer Estrada texting her on Monday January 22, 2018, asking if she had been contacted by the police. Ms. LeBlanc stated she then called Officer Estrada and they discussed the investigation that date.

Bridget Crawford

On January 29, 2018, Deputy Chief Paugh conducted a sworn recorded interview with Bridget Crawford. During this interview, Ms. Crawford stated Officer Estrada had contacted her and advised he was under investigation for sexual misconduct. Ms. Crawford could not provide a specific date of their conversation but stated it was within a month time frame.

Officer Beau Estrada

On January 31, 2018, Deputy Chief Paugh in the presence of Teamsters business agent Gary Conroy, conducted a sworn recorded interview with Officer Estrada at the New Smyrna Beach Police Department. The following is a summary of the interview:

Officer Estrada stated he had spoken to both women about allegations surfacing around him in reference to sexual misconduct. Officer Estrada denied that Deputy Chief Paugh informed him that he was under investigation for meeting women while on duty, even though this was done in the presence of witness. Officer Estrada stated he believed he told these women about the allegations before he was served the notice of internal on January 9, 2017. Officer Estrada was shown a print out of the text he sent on January 22, 2018 to Ashley Leblanc that reads:

“I need you to be honest with me. Did you get called to the pd and have an interview about me and you?”

At the conclusion of the interview, Officer Estrada was asked if he believed he violated the below policy and procedure:

Section X, Group III (e) Insubordination (Failure to follow a direct order)

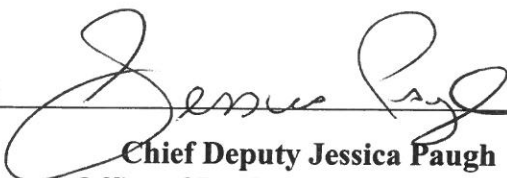
Officer Estrada responded “No”.

On February 5, 2018, this investigation was presented to Chief Coffin for review. After review, Chief Coffin determined Officer Beau Estrada violated the following policy(s):

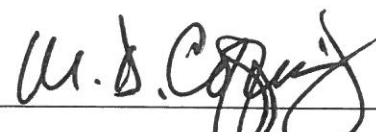
Section X, Group III (e) Insubordination (Failure to follow a direct order)

Sustained

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 subject of the investigation of any rights contained in ss.112.532 and 112.533, Florida Statutes.

Investigator: 
Chief Deputy Jessica Paugh
Office of Professional Standards

Date: 2-12-18

Approved by: 
Chief M. Coffin
CHIEF OF POLICE

Date: 02/19/2018

NEW SMYRNA BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT