

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

**Report of Investigation**

**Report Number: IA 2017-004**

**DATE REPORTED:** October 26, 2017  
**SUBJECT(S) NAME:** Officer Beau Estrada  
**INVESTIGATING OFFICER:** Deputy Chief Jessica Paugh

**Basis for Investigation:**

On October 26, 2017, Sergeant Brian Morris of the New Smyrna Beach Police Department drafted a supervisory inquiry report in reference Officer Beau Estrada leaving the police department without proper notification and being unaccounted for, for approximately 144 minutes.

At approximately 1733 hours, Officer Estrada logged out at the New Smyrna Beach Police Department where he had been directed to complete several outstanding reports due from his patrol shift that date, prior to departing the police department. At approximately 2128 hours, Sergeant Morris attempted to locate Officer Estrada to inquire about a crash report still not turned in. Officer Estrada, who was still logged out at the police department, could not be located.

At 2145 hours, Officer Estrada's vehicle was located by Sergeant Morris parked, unoccupied in the 800 block of Downing Street, New Smyrna Beach. Despite several phone calls and texts to Officer Estrada, Officer Estrada failed to respond.

At 2257 hours, Officer Estrada sent a responding text to Sergeant Morris stating he would be returning to the police department. Officer Estrada arrived at the police department at 2341 hours. Sgt. Morris inquired on the whereabouts of Officer Estrada, who reported he was picked up by his wife and was eating in Port Orange.

**Offenses:**

This investigation is relevant to an alleged violation of The City New Smyrna Beach Personnel Policies and Procedures:

**Group II (b) Absent without permission**

**Group II (Q) Lying to an official of the city**

**Group III (b) Misuse of city property**

### **Investigative Summary:**

On November 3, 2017, 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 November 20, 2017, at the New Smyrna Beach Police Department. This report details the Internal Affairs investigation conducted by Deputy Chief Jessica Paugh.

Deputy Chief Paugh reviewed the body worn camera footage, and the supervisor inquiry submitted by Sergeant Brian Morris. The below will outline the interviews conducted related to this investigation.

### **Sergeant Brian Morris**

On November 30, 2017, Deputy Chief Paugh and Sergeant Chris Kirk conducted a sworn recorded interview with witness Sergeant Brian Morris at the New Smyrna Beach Police Department. The following is a summary of the interview:

On October 26, 2017, Sergeant Morris was coming on as the night time Delta Squad supervisor. Sergeant Reve was the dayshift supervisor ending his tour of duty. Sergeant Reve advised Sergeant Morris that Officer Estrada had several reports to be completed and had been advised to complete the reports before leaving the police department. At 2109 hours, Sergeant Reve sent Sergeant Morris a message via the MCT advising Officer Estrada had one final crash report to submit. Sergeant Reve completed his duties and left at approximately 2121 hours.

At 2127 hours, Sergeant Morris attempted to locate Officer Estrada who was showing logged out at the New Smyrna Beach Police Department. Sergeant Morris stated that he checked the police department inside and out, noting Officer Estrada's patrol vehicle was no longer in the parking lot. Sergeant Morris began texting Officer Estrada's phone with no response. After about twenty minutes Sergeant Morris checked the GPS on Officer Estrada's vehicle, locating it in the 800 block of Downing Street. Sergeant Morris contacted Sergeant Reve and asked if Officer Estrada had family or knew anyone on Downing Street as he was unable to reach him, and his vehicle was showing out on that street. Having no knowledge of potential acquaintances, Sergeant Morris went to Downing in attempt to locate Officer Estrada. Sergeant Morris check the residences of 817 Downing, knocking on several doors with no success. Sergeant Morris continued to call and text Officer Estrada, again with no response.

At approximately 2257 hours, Officer Estrada responded via text stating "Hey I'm coming back I had to get dinner I was starving". After several more texts and phone calls unanswered, at 2330 hours Officer Estrada answered the phone stating "I went to get some pizza and stuff". At 2341 hours, Officer Estrada returned to the police department. Sergeant Morris attempted to ascertain what Officer Estrada was doing during his absence. Officer Estrada first refused to talk to Sergeant Morris, then re-initiated contact advising his wife picked him up and he was eating in Port Orange.

### **Bridget Crawford**

On January 29, 2018, Deputy Chief Paugh conducted a sworn recorded interview with Bridget Crawford at her residence of 817 Downing Street #2, New Smyrna Beach. The following is a summary of the interview:

Ms. Crawford stated she met Officer Estrada in October of 2017 on a dating site. Ms. Crawford stated she recalled an evening that Officer Estrada was at her residence when he was receiving calls and texts on his phone from work. Ms. Crawford stated she recalled they were eating that evening, and he had told her he was finished with his shift. Ms. Crawford stated she could not recall many details other than he told her that evening he needed to go back to work, and he left her apartment. Ms. Crawford advised Officer Estrada had parked his car on Downing Street that evening in front of her apartment and had not been picked up by his wife, eating dinner with her until he left to return to work.

### **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 on October 26, 2017, he was told by his supervisor to stay at the police department to complete his unfinished reports. Officer Estrada advised without prior authorization, he went to 817 Downing Street #2 to meet the resident Bridget Crawford , stating "I was there visiting a friend about to get dinner". Officer Estrada advise he met Ms. Crawford on a dating site and described their relationship as intimate in nature. Officer Estrada stated while he was at Downing Street his phone was on silent. He stated he was unaware that he was getting messages and phone calls from Sergeant Morris. When Officer Estrada was advised that Ms. Crawford recalled the numerous messages and phone calls during my interview with her, Officer Estrada stated it was "a while ago" and he wasn't sure if she was looking at his phone or not. Officer Estrada stated that he had went to another friends that night after arriving on Downing, picked up pizza, then returned to Downing with Ms. Crawford. Officer Estrada stated he did not see the messages or phone calls from Sergeant Morris until returning from this other unknown location. Officer Estrada stated the delay to return to the police department between 2257 hours until 2341 hours was that he was eating the pizza he had just picked up.

Officer Estrada was asked why he told Sergeant Morris on October 26, 2017 that he was eating with his wife and family, Officer Estrada responded "*I did not say that to him.*" Officer Estrada was specifically asked if he told Sergeant Morris that he was picked up by his wife and had dinner he stated "*No, why would I...No I did not*".

Officer Estrada confirmed that he was not conducting official business while at the home of Bridget Crawford on October 26, 2017. Officer Estrada stated he was not in uniform when going to 817 Downing Street, confirming he was in shorts, flip flops, and a sweatshirt while operating his patrol vehicle. Officer Estrada advised he did not feel that using his patrol vehicle to visit Ms.

Crawford was a proper use of his city owned vehicle. When reviewing Officer Estrada's initial time card, it revealed overtime submitted for some of the time he was on Downing Street. Officer Estrada stated upon arriving at 817 Downing Street, he maintained working on his reports for an hour, until approximately 2200 hours.

Officer Estrada was asked he felt he violated the following City of New Smyrna Beach Personnel Policies and Procedures:

**Group II (b) Absent without permission:**

Officer Estrada stated "*No I don't feel like I violated that one*"

**Group II (Q) Lying to an official of the city:**

Officer Estrada stated "*No*"

**Group III (b) Misuse of city property:**

Officer Estrada stated "*Yes*"

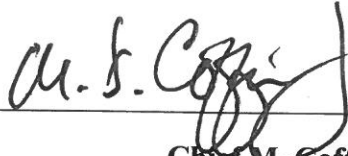
On February 5, 2018, this investigation was presented to Chief Coffin for review. After review, Chief Coffin determined Officer Beau Estrada violated the following policies:

<b>Group II (b) Absent without permission</b>	<b>Sustained</b>
<b>Group II (Q) Lying to an official of the city</b>	<b>Sustained</b>
<b>Group III (b) Misuse of city property</b>	<b>Sustained</b>

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**  
**NEW SMYRNA BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Date: 02/19/18