

# C.A.R.E.S.

SHERIFF MARCOS R. LOPEZ



## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022

**Time Scheduled:** 6:00 p.m.      **Started:** 6:05 P.M.    **Ended:** 7:02 P.M.

**Location:** Osceola County Sheriff's Office Complex  
2601 E. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway  
Kissimmee, FL 34744  
Training Rooms: B & C

**Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance:** Chaplain Mary McNutt

**Invocation:** Chaplain Mary McNutt

### 1. INTRODUCTION:

### 2. CALL TO ORDER:

A. Chairman McCrimon called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

### 3. ROLL CALL: Completed by: Captain James Spain

Committee Members

Present:

Mr. Ronald "Fred" McCrimon, Ms. Lissette Campos, Mr. Hector Acosta,  
Mr. David Couch, Mr. Michael Bast

Committee Members

Absent:

Mr. Owen McCurty, Pastor Leonard Thompson

Speakers and

Presenters:

Detective James Forgey, Sergeant Jeffrey Curtis

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- A. Chairman McCrimon asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 4<sup>th</sup> C.A.R.E.S. meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **5. HOUSEKEEPING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. Chairman McCrimon turned the floor over to Captain Spain to cover any housekeeping items.
- B. Captain Spain provided the board with information requested in the last meeting pertaining to profiling complaints. There were 2 complaints received in the last year. Both were exonerated. Additionally, he provided statistics regarding traffic crashes in Osceola County. In 2020, there were 5213 total crashes and 59 fatalities. The majority of the crashes were along the West 192 and I4 corridor.
- C. Captain Spain asked the board for review and provide recommendations regarding the Osceola County Sheriff's Fair and Impartial Policing Policy and S.A.L.T.S. training presented at the previous meeting. The board had no recommendations

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Investigator James Forgey presented a review of Internal Investigation 2021-0034.
  1. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, the Sheriff's Office received an external complaint regarding Deputy Rivera-Aguilar. The complainant alleged that while she was on the way to her mother's residence, she observed the deputy and a woman walking down the street, went around them, and pulled into her mother's driveway. She stated that as she was getting out of the car, the deputy began yelling and threatened her. She said that she entered her mother's residence for 5-10 minutes and left when she realized no one was home. She alleged that the deputy's car pulled out behind her as she was driving away, and there was barely any space between the two vehicles. She stated she turned right on S. Poinciana Boulevard and drove to the first traffic light to make a U-turn and the deputy made the U-turn with her and continued to follow her by way of S. Poinciana Boulevard to Reaves Road to Pleasant Hill Road until she lost sight of him.
  2. Two independent witnesses were contacted and provided testimony that the deputy spoke professionally and never witnessed the deputy harassing or threatening the victim.
  3. One of the witnesses stated they saw a white sedan speeding at approximately 45 MPH down the street. They also observed Deputy Rivera-Aguilar walking with his family and the white sedan came within 6 feet of hitting them.
  4. Regarding the second part, video surveillance was reviewed and revealed the deputy had not exited his home until after the vehicle drove past.
  5. Deputy Rivera-Aguilar observed the same white sedan at the intersection of S. Poinciana Blvd. and Eagles Trail. He observed that the vehicle had committed a traffic violation, as the front tires were past the painted stop bar on the roadway. He followed the vehicle until he was able to complete a registration and driver's license check. After obtaining the results, he did not observe any additional traffic violations, so he did not continue to follow the vehicle.
  6. 3<sup>rd</sup> part- GPS showed he was 7.6 miles away from the location in which the complainant alleged he had been following her in his marked patrol vehicle.
  7. The investigation was closed as exonerated.
  8. Mr. Acosta asked what recourse did the complainant face. Investigator Forgey answered the complainant did not face any recourse.
  9. Ms. Campos asked if he was represented by a union representative. Investigator Forgey answered that he was.

10. Chairman McCrimon asked whether the complainant could have been charged. Commander Sowles answered no. The complainant perceived that she had been followed, and there was no indication she had intentionally made false allegations.
  11. Chairman McCrimon asked if they received a statement from the complainant. Commander Sowles answered they had.
- B. Sergeant Jeffrey Curtis presented a PowerPoint on the Osceola County Sheriff's Office Training Unit.
1. The Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC) establishes standards for law enforcement training.
  2. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement requires Firearm, Use of Force, Taser, and less lethal (other than taser) training every two years. The scores are documented and a CJSTC instructor must be present during the training. The agency fulfills this requirement annually.
  3. The CJSTC requires Use of Force training be met every four years. This includes scenario-based firearm training, psychological response dynamic training, and agency policies on use of force.
  4. Less Lethal force (options other than taser) training includes ASP Baton, OC spray, or other less lethal options approved by Sheriff including 37/38 mm launchers and stun-cuffs.
  5. Mr. Bast asked what 37/38 mm launchers are. Sergeant Curtis answered it is similar to a military grenade launcher.
  6. Mr. Bast asked whether it is a grenade launcher. Sergeant Curtis answered that it is similar.
  7. Mr. Bast asked for clarification as to whether they emit gas or smoke. Sergeant Curtis answered yes, they do.
  8. Florida Statute 943.17297 requires law enforcement officers to complete four hour training in identifying and investigating human trafficking.
  9. Florida Statute 943.17298 requires law enforcement officers complete training on recognizing head injuries in infants and children.
  10. Agency required training goes beyond what the CJSTC requires. Includes initial new hire training, Emergency Vehicle Operators Course, annual Power DMS training, and training topics which can be identified by the Training Unit if there are issues to be addressed.
  11. CPR training is required every two years. The agency typically retrain annually to stay up to date with current information.
  12. The Blood Borne Pathogen training course through Power DMS is required as a new hire and mandatory retraining is required annually.
  13. Power DMS training courses required every four years include:
    - a) Domestic Violence
    - b) Elderly Abuse
    - c) Human Diversity
    - d) Juvenile Sex Offender
    - e) Safe and Legal Traffic Stops (S.A.L.T.S.)
  14. Mr. Bast asked what Human Diversity entails. Sergeant Curtis explained that it teaches ethnic diversity and taking different cultures into effect.
  15. Required training per Accreditation requires:
    - a) Use of Force annually
    - b) Firearms annually
    - c) Defensive Tactics biennially
    - d) Taser annually
    - e) Pursuit of Motor Vehicles
  16. Additional Power DMS training courses include:
    - a) Photo Lineup

- b) Narcan
- c) Autism
- d) Mental Health Awareness to Include PTSD
- e) Accreditation Standards and Process

17. Mr. Bast asked what CJSTC stands for. Sergeant Curtis answered Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission.
18. Mr. Acosta asked whether deputies are required to call EMS after deploying their tasers. Sergeant Curtis answered deputies are trained to remove the dart if it's not in a sensitive or critical area. If a dart gets stuck in a critical area such as the eye, genitals and or breast, deputies are trained to call EMS.
19. Mr. Acosta asked what age is considered elderly in reference to Elderly training. Sergeant Curtis answered 65 years old and up.
20. Mr. Bast and the board commented on the frequency at which deputies receive training.
21. Captain Spain advised that specialty units receive additional specialized training.
22. Captain Spain asked if the board had any recommendations regarding the Internal Investigation Review and the Training Unit Presentation. They would discuss it next meeting.
23. Chairman McCrimon expressed gratitude that his question from the last meeting regarding profiling complaints was addressed.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- A. A member from the audience, Mark Peters, came forward for public comment regarding traffic and reckless driving on Pleasant Hill Road. He advised he has been in contact with Sheriff Lopez who teamed up with KPD in an operation to address reckless driving. He informed the board that the officers wrote over 100 citations. He stated that members of the community want more traffic enforcement in the area. He advised that Mr. Bast had invited him to attend the meeting.
- B. Mr. Couch advised he lives off Pleasant Hill Road and observed speeding in the school zones earlier in the day.
- C. Mr. Peters advised that periodic law enforcement presence in the area would be helpful to deter reckless driving in the area.
- D. Captain Spain advised that the agency has a Motors and Traffic Unit, and Community Contact Cards. Traffic is among one of the main concerns in Osceola County.
- E. Ms. Campos requested a report of what was done and the results regarding the traffic enforcement operation Mr. Peters referenced. Captain Spain advised he would look into that information in order to provide it in the next meeting. He added that the agency conducts Zero Tolerance operations to address reckless driving. Ms. Campos stated that hopefully these operations would improve traffic and deter speeding.
- F. Mr. Peters advised that the operation he referenced earlier was done in December.
- G. Mr. Bast asked about 2021 information regarding traffic crashes in Osceola County. Captain Spain advised that these statistics currently have not been released, but he advised once they are, he will provide this information to the board.
- H. Mr. Acosta asked if there are any plans to get the meetings advertised in local papers, etc. Captain Spain advised that there have been numerous discussions regarding advertising the meetings. He added that they had promoted the meetings at the India Mela Fair held at the Osceola Sheriff's Office this previous weekend. He also advised that the Outreach Services Unit would be promoting the meeting at the Osceola County Fair and Rodeo.
- I. Mr. Acosta asked what time the team is going to be at the fair. Captain Spain advised that they are aiming to be there the whole day, and the Recruiting Unit would also be there.
- J. Mr. Bast advised the Fair starts February 11<sup>th</sup> and opens at 4pm.
- K. Mr. Acosta advised that he would attend.

L. Mr. Couch made a motion to end the meeting, Chairman McCrimon seconded the motion.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. There was no other business to address.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

A. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

**10. NEXT MEETING:**

A. Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

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Ronald "Fred" McCrimon  
Chairman

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OCSO Staff Member