



*LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SECTION*

Supervisory Inquiry 2019-00053

Date/Time of Incident: 06/26/19 / 2330

Date/Time Reported: 06/28/19 /1559

Reported to: Sgt. Brad Harkin

Associated Case Report #: Incident #P191770811

Location of Incident: 2000 Block of N. College Avenue, Fort Collins CO

Involved Employee(s): Deputy Geoffrey Preece Off# 18051

Deputy [REDACTED]

Deputy [REDACTED]

Deputy [REDACTED]

Case Origin

On July 2nd, 2019 at approximately 0930 hours, while on a break during Red Side patrol in-service, I was notified by my Watch Commander Jeff Vanhook to open a Supervisor's Inquiry into an incident involving one of our employees, Deputy Geoffrey Preece. He informed me that Deputy [REDACTED] in the course of his Field Training Officer (FTO) duties was informed by his trainee, Deputy [REDACTED] of some unprofessional behavior involving Deputy Preece during a call for service they had all been on. Deputy [REDACTED] had created an email about the incident and had forwarded it to his immediate traffic supervisor, Sergeant Brad Harkin.

It was alleged that Deputy Preece had made some unprofessional statements about a possible past sexual assault victim in front of Deputy [REDACTED] his trainee Deputy [REDACTED] and the possible past sexual assault victim being within earshot of those statements.

[REDACTED]

Complaint(s)/Allegation(s)

That Deputy Preece:

[REDACTED]



*LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SECTION*

Supervisory Inquiry 2019-00053

(2) Violated Rule 10000.2.5 Rules of Conduct – Standard of Conduct

Complaint: That Deputy Geoff Preece violated the rules of conduct by his unprofessional demeanor and verbal statements he made about an alleged past sexual assault victim within earshot of her.

(3) Violated Rule 10000.2.6 Rules of Conduct - Courtesy

Complaint: That Deputy Geoff Preece violated the rules of conduct by his unprofessional demeanor and verbal statements he made about an alleged past sexual assault victim in front of a Phase I female trainee, her FTO, and cover officer that shocked their conscious.

Complainant Information

Name: Deputy [REDACTED]
Address: 2501 Midpoint Drive
Home Telephone: [REDACTED]

Documentation Review

E-mail Message: On 06/28/19 at approximately 1559 hours, FTO Deputy [REDACTED] sent an e-mail message to his traffic supervisor Sergeant Brad Harkin summarizing the concerns brought up by his trainee Deputy [REDACTED] during a welfare check call for service. The e-mail reads as follows:

*"Sergeant Harkin,
Here's what we discussed today on the phone. Deputy [REDACTED] was on a Welfare check with Deputy Preece and Deputy [REDACTED]. Deputy Preece told us within earshot of the female subject of the welfare check that he dealt with her the prior week when she reported being the victim of a sexual assault. Deputy Preece said the female "was getting fucked in her car." Deputy Preece also made a statement along the lines of the female having sex for money. Deputy [REDACTED] went to talk to the female. [REDACTED]*

[REDACTED] The more concerning thing to me was the statements he made in front of the potential sex assault victim and Deputy [REDACTED]"



*LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SECTION*

Supervisory Inquiry 2019-00053

CAD:

CAD notes documented that on 06/26/19 at approximately 2334 hours, Deputies Preece, [REDACTED] Trainee [REDACTED] and her FTO Deputy [REDACTED] were dispatched to a welfare check in the area of Terry Lake Road and County Club Road for a woman walking down the middle of Highway 1 and with a bag on her head with eye-holes cut into them.

Deputies Preece and [REDACTED] made contact with the female in the 2000 block of N. College Avenue. The female was identified [REDACTED]. Deputy Preece requested information on prior contacts with [REDACTED]. At approximately 2358 hours, Deputy [REDACTED] and her FTO Deputy [REDACTED] provided a courtesy ride to [REDACTED] to the El Palomino Motel near N. College Avenue and Hickory St. in Fort Collins.

Deputy [REDACTED] entered CAD notes at the end of the call writing, "*[REDACTED] was extremely intoxicated and difficult to speak to. She was unable to articulate what happened or the sequence of events. She states that her vehicle is still missing but there was not new information since her contact on 062219 with blue side Deps. She did admit that she had given permission to the male half to driver her car but now she wants it back. She stated the male was last given permission to drive her vehicle in old town fort Collins after he was released from the high risk stop on 062219.*" The welfare check was cleared as complete with no report number pulled.

Case Reports in 2019

[REDACTED]

On 06/17/2019, the Larimer County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) completed a report of a possible sexual assault involving [REDACTED]. It was closed as an Information Report only. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SECTION

Supervisory Inquiry 2019-00053

Recording (Audio):

On 07/03/2019, I conducted four audio taped interviews using my patrol issued Dictaphone. The first was with the complainant Deputy [REDACTED]. The second with her FTO Deputy [REDACTED]. The third with Deputy [REDACTED]. The fourth and final, was with Deputy Geoff Preece.

Interviews

Complainant:

I interviewed Deputy [REDACTED] without her FTO present, inside the patrol briefing room. I asked her first to tell me about the call for service and the unprofessional demeanor Deputy Preece displayed during the welfare check. She confirmed that during the previous rotation at the end of June 2019, she had responded to a welfare check on a female who was walking down the street in the area of Highway 1 and College Avenue. She also confirmed that Deputy Preece and Deputy [REDACTED] arrived in the area first and made contact with the female before she arrived. Deputy [REDACTED] told me the female, later identified as [REDACTED], was very intoxicated with some mental health issues, but was not gravely disabled by alcohol. She was also not suicidal. It was determined in the end that there was not enough for a detox or mental health hold. Deputy [REDACTED] was given the task of providing [REDACTED] a courtesy ride to the El Palomino Hotel to keep her from having to walk any further.

Deputy [REDACTED] told me that while investigating the welfare check, Deputy Preece and Deputy [REDACTED] advised her that [REDACTED] was so intoxicated that it was hard to communicate with her. For training purposes, she was given the task to try and interview [REDACTED] to see if she would respond better with a female deputy. She advised it was not effective. Deputy [REDACTED] told me she learned that [REDACTED] had previously reported a stolen car and had been fixated on that incident. [REDACTED] continually asked how to get her car back. That's when Deputy Preece told them all about his previous stolen vehicle & possible sexual assault investigations which involved [REDACTED]. Deputy [REDACTED] was very uncomfortable and concerned about how Deputy Preece told them the information. She said they were all basically congregated around Deputy [REDACTED] driver's side door with [REDACTED] sitting on the PIT bar for the squad car as requested. That would put [REDACTED] approximately 8-10 feet away from them. Deputy [REDACTED] said there were no sirens going or other distractions from the car's patrol radio or vehicle traffic to muffle their meeting.

Deputy [REDACTED] told me she was shocked when Deputy Preece began to describe his previous sexual assault investigation with [REDACTED]. She said Deputy Preece basically said that he had described [REDACTED] as "fucking" other men inside of her car. She believed his comments were unprofessional and derogatory towards [REDACTED] especially with her only 8-10 feet away. She said the way he described the whole incident was shocking to her and not how she would have handled it. Deputy [REDACTED] said she was hesitant to bring any of this up with her FTO as she was a trainee, but she wanted to know if this was how "patrol" did things or if this was how deputies were allowed to act.

PUBLIC RELEASE

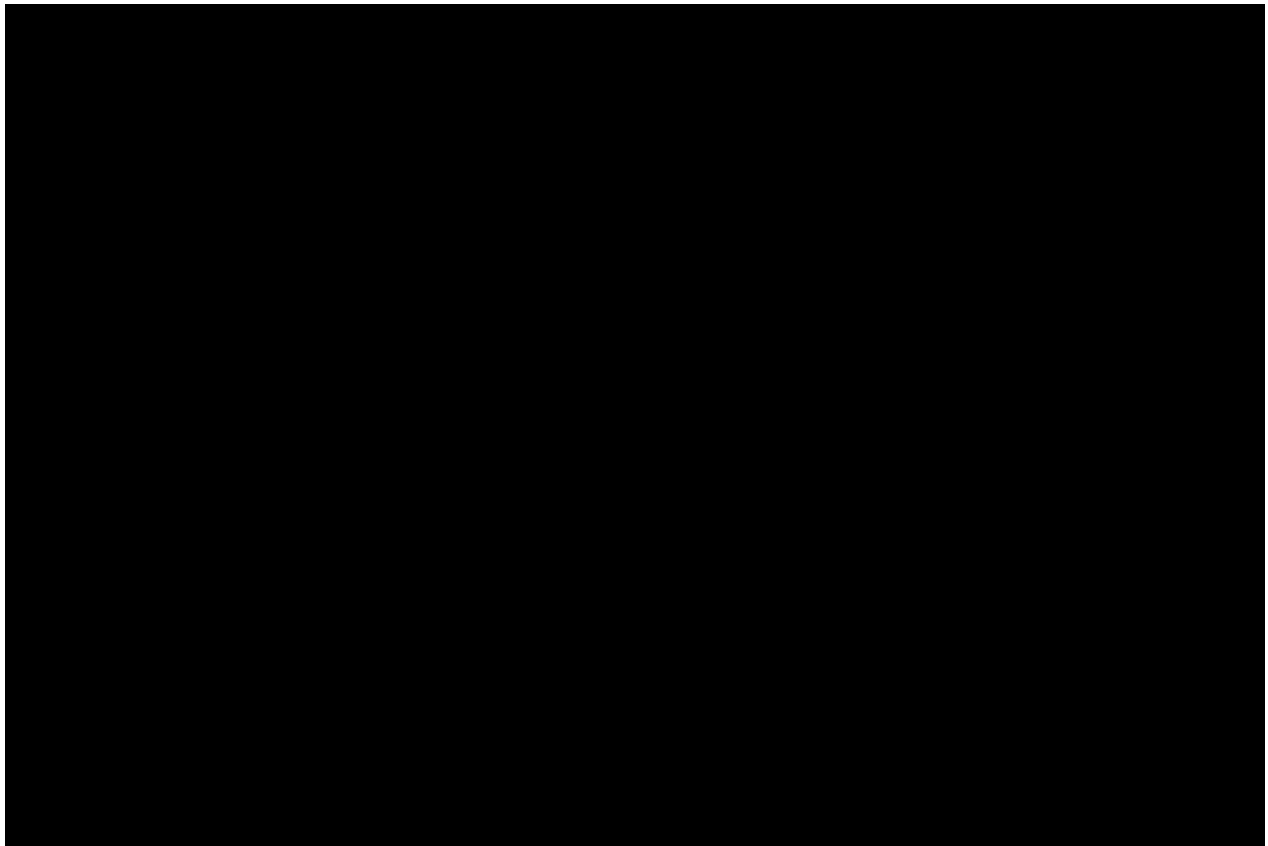


LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SECTION

Supervisory Inquiry 2019-00053

Deputy [REDACTED] did not know for sure if [REDACTED] had overheard what Deputy Preece had said as [REDACTED] was very intoxicated and probably had some mental health issues. Deputy [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] never brought up the conversation afterwards nor did she change her behavior towards Deputy Preece. She also said during the courtesy ride, [REDACTED] did not bring up the subject at all. Deputy [REDACTED] was still very concerned as to the image and professionalism portrayed by Deputy Preece and how that could impact future contacts with her and the Sheriff's Office.

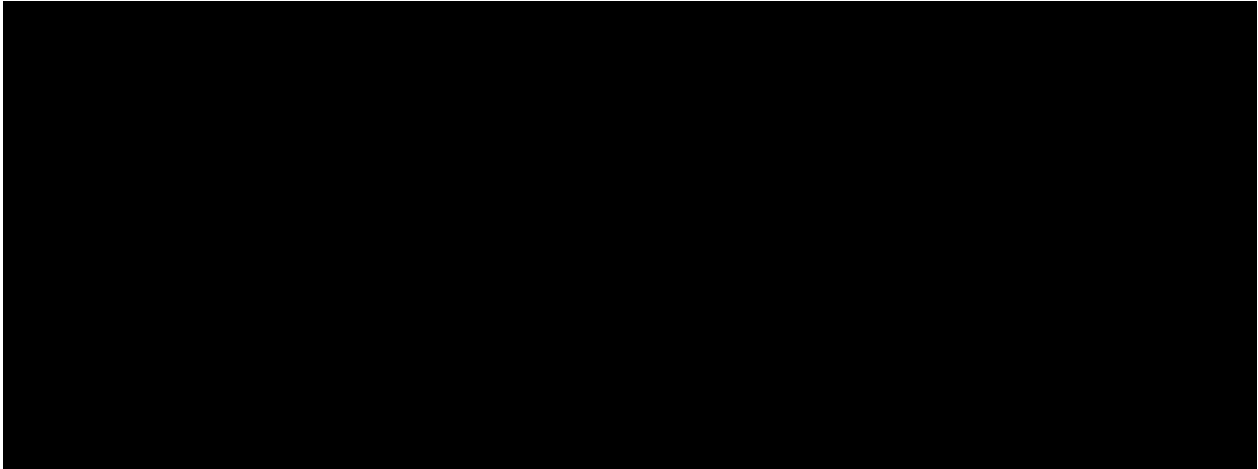
When I asked her what she thought should happen, she told me she believed Deputy Preece's behavior should be addressed by a supervisor appropriately. Deputy [REDACTED] had worked in the Jail before coming to Patrol and advised this type of situation would be handled by the shift Corporal or Shift Sergeant. Deputy [REDACTED] said she was not trying to get him in trouble, but believed his actions and behavior were not how Deputies were supposed to act. She discussed the situation with Deputy [REDACTED] inside their patrol car after the incident. Deputy [REDACTED] told me that before her FTO sent the e-mail reporting the incident to Sergeant Harkin, Deputy [REDACTED] allowed her to read the e-mail to make sure it was worded correctly.



PUBLIC RELEASE

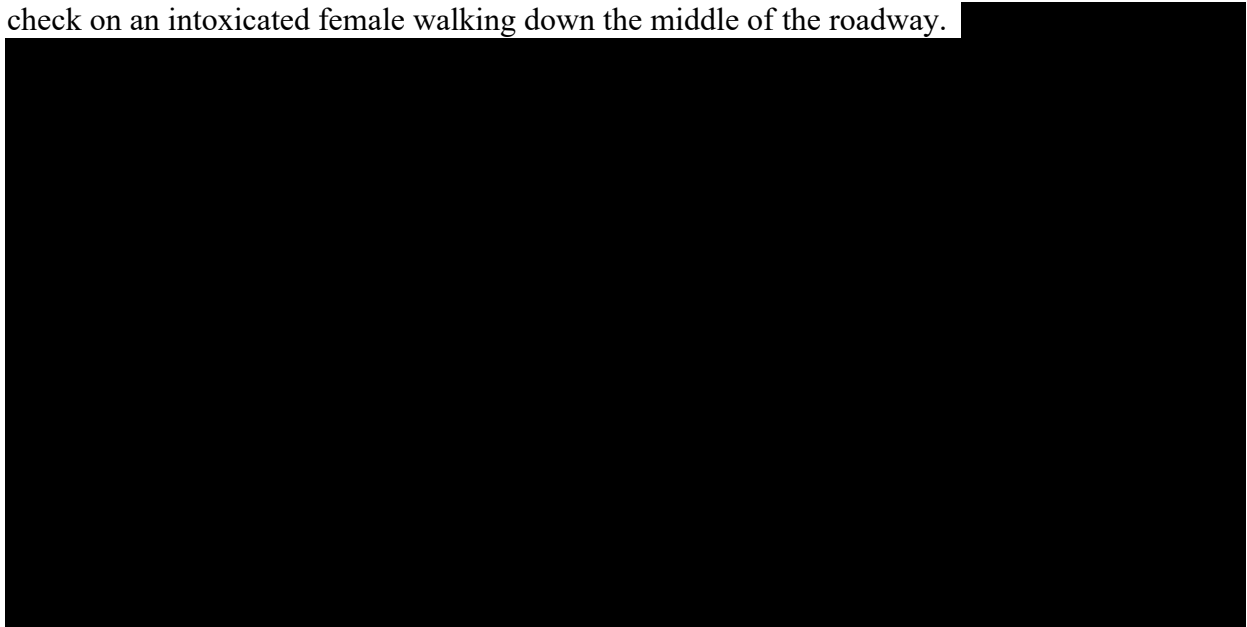


LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SECTION
Supervisory Inquiry 2019-00053



Employee Witnesses:

I spoke with Deputy [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] separately in the patrol briefing room. Both confirmed they had responded to the area of Highway 1 and N. College Avenue for a welfare check on an intoxicated female walking down the middle of the roadway. [REDACTED]



I asked both Deputy [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] separately about the group conversation they had by Deputy [REDACTED] driver's side door. They both relayed that they had been "shocked" and "surprised" by the way Deputy Preece described his previous interaction with [REDACTED]. They both confirmed that his description of his sexual assault investigation was that [REDACTED] had been "fucking men" inside her car. Both told me that this was not professional or appropriate.



LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SECTION

Supervisory Inquiry 2019-00053

behavior with [REDACTED] just by front bumper of [REDACTED] patrol car. They also both said it was not professional or appropriate behavior in front of a female trainee. Deputy [REDACTED] went so far as to say in "shocked his conscious".

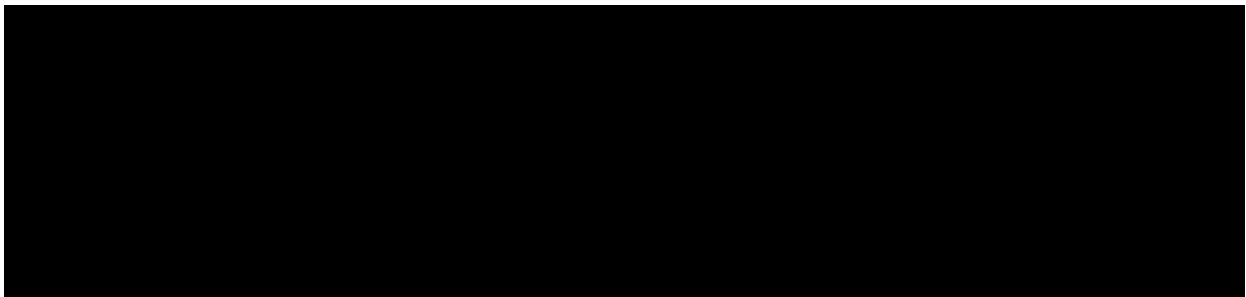
I asked both of them separately if they had confronted Deputy Preece about this behavior while on-scene. Neither said they had and hadn't felt comfortable doing so. I told them both that Supervisor's want and expect Deputies to speak with other Deputies on the street who are doing or saying things that are unprofessional or make the Sheriff's Office look poorly. I especially emphasized this with Deputy [REDACTED] as he is an FTO and a senior Deputy.

Involved Employee:

I spoke with Deputy Preece in the patrol briefing room. I advised him of the allegations made against him and the incident when it had occurred. Deputy Preece fully cooperated with this Supervisor's Inquiry.

Deputy Preece confirmed he had been dispatched to the welfare check on an intoxicated female walking down the middle of the street. He also confirmed recognizing the female he and Deputy [REDACTED] had contacted as [REDACTED]. He confirmed conducting a previous investigation into a possible sexual assault with [REDACTED] as an alleged victim. In the report, Deputy Preece's investigation revealed the sexual encounter had been consensual per [REDACTED] and the male acquaintance. The incident was found to have been in the jurisdiction of the Fort Collins Police Services and he offered to have an officer contact her. She declined and had also declined to have a SANE exam completed. She declined any further assistance from him or Deputy Bordewick who was also on that call for service.

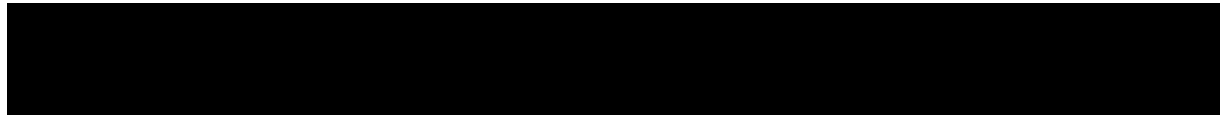
When both Deputy Preece and Deputy [REDACTED] tried to talk with [REDACTED] concerning the welfare check, they described that she was so intoxicated and focused on past issues that she talked in circles. They were unable to determine why she was walking down the middle of the road or what had happened. When Deputy [REDACTED] arrived with her FTO, she was given the task of trying to talk with [REDACTED] to see if she could get her to calm down and tell them what had happened.





*LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SECTION*

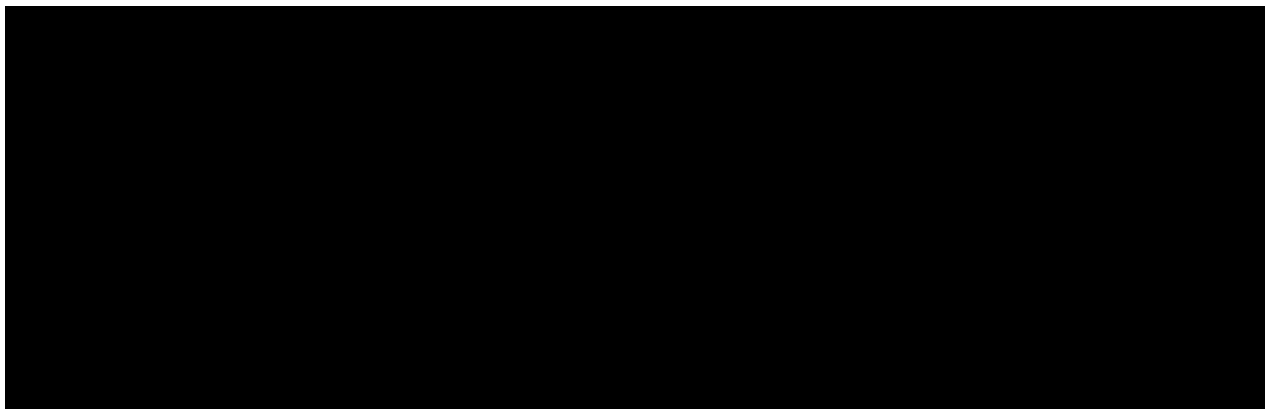
Supervisory Inquiry 2019-00053



I asked him to tell me about the conversation he had with the other Deputies on-scene about [REDACTED]. He confirmed they had been all standing near the driver's door of Deputy [REDACTED] car. He also confirmed that [REDACTED] had initially been seated on the front bumper of the car while they were talking. He confirmed he tried to tell them all about his previous contacts with [REDACTED]. He told me he described very "factually" [REDACTED] description of the sexual encounters she had with the male half. When I confronted him that all three Deputies had been shocked at how he had described the incident, he appeared surprised. I told Deputy Preece they all believed he was being unprofessional and inappropriate. I asked him why he would describe the incident so bluntly, especially with [REDACTED] just 10 feet away from them and in front of a phase 1 female trainee. He said he didn't think their volume of talking would be overheard and said why would we not talk to a trainee in the same way we talk to male trainees.

I told Deputy Preece that this was not the way Deputies talk in front of citizens who may have been victims of a sexual assault whether they believed it or not. I also told him that was not the behavior we model for our trainees in treating victims. We spoke a lot about the way he communicates, the environment he says it in, the tone, content, demeanor, and his audience and that all of it makes an impact on how people "hear" what he's saying.

Summary





*LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SECTION*

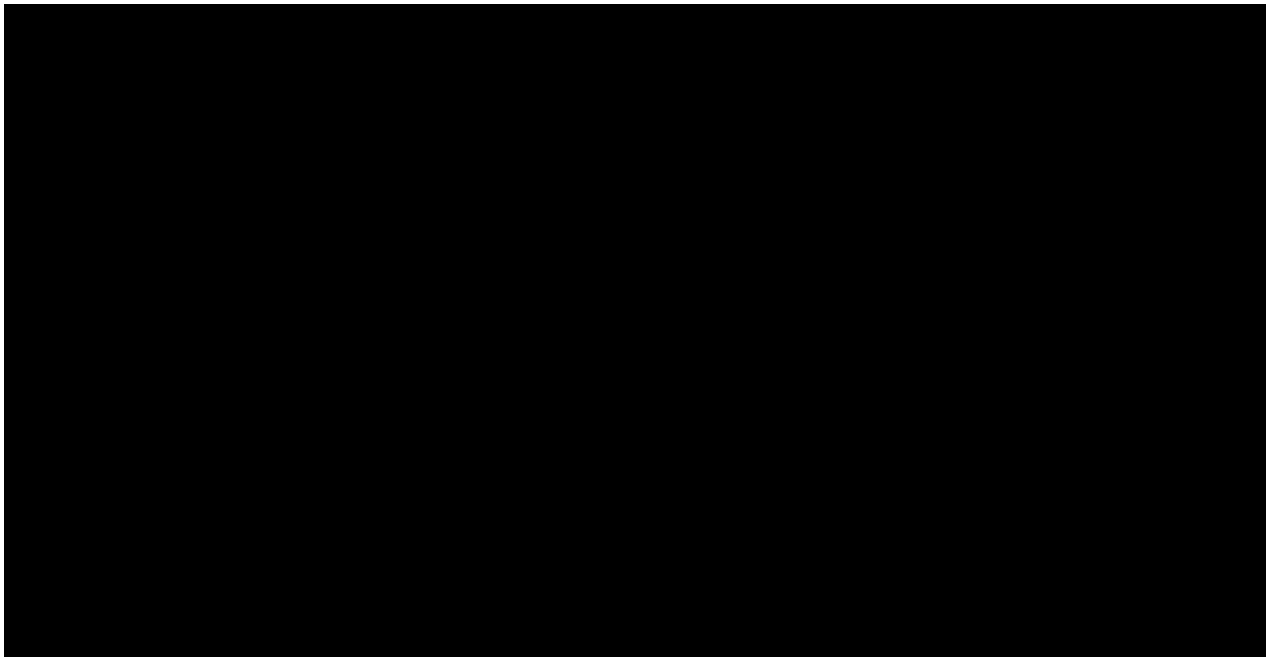
Supervisory Inquiry 2019-00053

I do find that Deputy Preece's Standard of Conduct was obviously unprofessional in the way he communicated his previous interaction with [REDACTED]. It is not ok to relate a story like that with the alleged sexual assault victim nearby and within earshot, even if she was intoxicated and didn't hear it. At the time of the Supervisor's Inquiry, [REDACTED] has not filed a complaint with Professional Standards, the watch commander, or me. Deputy Preece's actions could have brought immediate discredit upon the Sheriff's Office from an alleged victim of a crime. Deputy Preece could have easily avoided this incident.

I also find that Deputy Preece's was lacking in common Courtesy to the public and fellow employees by the use of derogatory language. He could have communicated his previous interaction with [REDACTED] without "shocking" their conscious by simply using different words phrases to describe the incident. He modeled to a trainee unprofessional behavior that if it had been done by Deputy [REDACTED] in Phase I, would have giving her a DOR rating of 1 in several categories with remedial training in her future to address it.

I am recommending that Deputy Preece be given a formal Letter of Reprimand, have an entry placed in his Make Note Performance file, and be enrolled in the next available CIT class. The CIT training will place him directly into "sensitive" and stressful verbal situations with many instructors watching, evaluating, critiquing and retraining him on.

Findings Pertaining to the Investigation for Internal Affairs Case #2019-00053





*LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SECTION*

Supervisory Inquiry 2019-00053

Complaint: That Deputy Geoff Preece violated the rules of conduct by his unprofessional demeanor and verbal statements he made about an alleged past sexual assault victim within earshot of her.

10000.2.5 Rules of Conduct – Standard of Conduct

Employees will conduct their private and professional lives in such a manner as to avoid bringing discredit upon the Office or impairing its effective operation.

Deputy Geoff Preece was unprofessional in his conduct while on-duty and on a call for service with an intoxicated female named [REDACTED] who he had met during a previous investigation. His lack of professionalism would have brought discredit to the Sheriff's Office if she had heard Deputy Preece's derogatory statements about her past sexual behavior. Therefore, I recommend this violation be found as ***Improper Conduct***

Complaint: That Deputy Geoff Preece violated the rules of conduct by his unprofessional demeanor and verbal statements he made about an alleged past sexual assault victim in front of a Phase I trainee, her FTO, and cover officer that shocked their conscious.

Violated Rule 10000.2.6 Rules of Conduct - Courtesy

Employees will be courteous to the public and fellow employees. Employees will control their tempers and avoid arguments. They will not inappropriately use derogatory, violent, profane, or insolent language or gestures.

Deputy Geoff Preece was unprofessional in describing a sensitive and sexually explicit investigation he conducted with an alleged sexual assault victim in front of a trainee, her FTO and an additional cover officer which was inappropriate and a violation of common courtesy. Therefore, I recommend this violation be found as ***Improper Conduct***

Respectfully submitted,

Rafael Sanchez, Sergeant

07/16/2019
Date

PUBLIC RELEASE



LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SECTION
Supervisory Inquiry 2019-00053

Warning: All records of this type are to be confidential and maintained by the Professional Standards Office only. Upon completion of your investigation, attach this document to your Blue Team or IAPro entry and forward through your chain of command to the division administrator. Remove any and all copy(ies) of this investigation from your computer once completed.