



January 26, 2022

To: Sheriff William Masters

From: Sgt. Inv. Grant Markwell

Re: Internal Investigation (IA 22-0001) – Deputy (former) Paula Martinez

1. Introduction:

- a. On 01/10/2022 at approximately 1759 hours, I, San Miguel County Sheriff's Office (SMSO) Sergeant Investigator G. Markwell, received a phone call on my department issued cell phone from Deputy ██████ regarding a call for service he was on with Deputy P. Martinez (and multiple other deputies) on 06/11/21 (was actually 06/10/21) that caused ██████ concern regarding her truthfulness. ██████ stated on that date, ██████ responded to a reported stabbing call in the Town of Norwood. ██████ told me ██████ contacted Deputy Martinez who was with the victim at the scene. ██████ told me he asked Deputy Martinez whether she searched the victim, who was involved in a physical fight involving a knife, and she replied she had ██████ later found out this was untrue when ██████ reviewed body worn camera (BWC) video she shared with him in the Motorola Command Central Vault.

2. Synopsis:

- a. After Deputy ██████ contacted me, I informed Undersheriff Dan Covault of the additional allegation and he tasked me to investigate the incident.
- b. The initial call for service was documented under CAD #C114600 and SMSO Case S21-0860.
- c. The call was a reported assault (stabbing) that occurred on 06/10/21 at approximately 1814 hours at 1445 Grand Avenue in Norwood, CO 81423.
- d. Deputy Martinez was off duty at her residence when she was called out at approximately 1819 hours to assist other on-duty deputies that were enroute from the Telluride area with an extended response time.
- e. Deputy Martinez was the first deputy on scene with the reported male victim at approximately 1828 hours.
- f. Deputy ██████ was also dispatched to the call for service. This was at approximately 1822 hours.
- g. Deputy ██████ reported via radio ██████ was in the area at approximately 1830 hours. This was approximately two minutes after Deputy Martinez.
- h. Deputies were advised via radio of the involvement of a knife at approximately 1817 hours.
- i. Deputies were advised via radio that there was a stabbing victim at approximately the same time and again at approximately 1826 hours.

- j. Deputy ██████ had a brief conversation with Deputy Martinez near the south entrance of 1445 Grand Avenue regarding whether the male victim she contacted was patted down for weapons. This was captured on Deputy Martinez's body worn camera. Deputy ██████ BWC was not activated for this interaction.
- k. Deputy Martinez resigned her position as a deputy sheriff prior to the conclusion of this investigation, so she was not interviewed.

3. Summary of allegations:

a. Untruthfulness:

- i. SMSO Personnel Manual, Section 2.1, labeled General Conduct and Responsibilities: The Sheriff expects employees to be ethical in their conduct while engaged in County business. The Sheriff's Office requires employees to carefully follow all laws and regulations and have the highest standards of conduct and personal integrity. Our continued success depends on the public's trust. Employees owe a duty to the County to act in ways that will earn us the continued trust and confidence of the public. The expectation is that all employees conduct business in accordance with the letter, spirit, and intent of all relevant laws, avoiding conduct that is illegal, dishonest, or unethical.
- ii. SMSO Personnel Manual, Section 2.2, labeled Code of Ethics, which states, in part, I understand that honesty, speaking the truth and absolute accuracy is critical in this demanding profession.
- iii. SMSO Personnel Manual Section 2.9.9, labeled Misrepresentation or Falsification: An employee shall not willfully misrepresent or falsify any matter, verbally or in writing.

4. Evidence/attachments:

- a. Spillman CAD call screen entry C114600
- b. SMSO Deputy Reports for S21-0860
- c. Deputy ██████ Email Statement
- d. Data Request for SMSO dispatch radio traffic
- e. SMSO audio files for SMSO dispatch radio traffic
- f. Body Worn Camera video (Deputy Martinez)
- g. Memorandum regarding Deputy ██████ allegation

5. Conclusion:

- a. To whether Deputy Martinez provided untruthful information regarding whether she conducted a pat-down for weapons of a male subject who was stabbed to SMSO Deputy ██████. This complaint was sustained and was supported by the documents and evidence attached to this case file. In particular, the first approximately three minutes of Deputy Martinez's video capture her initial contact with two male subjects and another female. This video showed Deputy Martinez did not conduct a pat-down for weapons of any of the three individuals. This pat-down would have been prudent due to the violent circumstances of the call. Deputy Martinez was clearly asked by Deputy ██████ if she "checked" the male victim for weapons and she replied she had done so. This statement

was not true. Given the short time between her initial contact with the male victim and her interaction with Deputy [REDACTED] it would seem unlikely that the matter in question escaped her recollection.

Respectfully,

/s/ Grant Markwell  
Sergeant G. Markwell  
Investigator, 337