



Rick Staly, Sheriff  
**FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

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**Internal Investigation Report**

**Internal Inquiry Incident # 2017-028**

**Sworn Employee**

**Detention Services Deputy**  
**Danielle Basciano**

**Internal Inquiry Incident #: 2017-028**

**Subject Employee:** Danielle Basciano

**Division:** Detention Services Division

**Date of Hire:** 05-11-2016

**Probation Status (if any):** None

**Date of Most Recent Promotion:** None

**Previous Corrective Measures:** None

**List of Witnesses:** Deputy Amanda Priemer  
Deputy Jared Tazewell  
Corporal Peter Descartes  
Sgt. Althea Civil  
Civilian Witness Teresa Tazewell  
Civilian Witness Salina Cox  
Civilian Witness Inmate Danielle Mullener  
Commander Louis Miceli  
Civilian Witness Inmate Brooke Crawford  
Civilian Witness Inmate Sheila Orozco  
Civilian Witness Inmate Amber Romines

**List of Exhibits:**

**Exhibit 1:** Memorandum from Commander Miceli to Chief Cole, Memorandum from Chief Cole to Undersheriff Bisland, Authorization to Conduct Internal Investigation from Undersheriff Bisland to Detective Nicole Thomas

**Exhibit 2:** Employee Notice of Internal Investigation (**Deputy Basciano**) and Internal Investigation Confidentiality Acknowledgement Form (**Deputy Basciano**)

**Exhibit 3:** Template for Interview of Department Employee as Witness and Internal Investigation Confidentiality Acknowledgement Form (**Deputy Priemer**)

**Exhibit 4:** Audio recorded interview with Deputy Amanda Priemer

**Exhibit 5:** Template for Interview of Department Employee as Witness and Internal Investigation Confidentiality Acknowledgement Form (**Deputy Tazewell**)

**Exhibit 6:** Audio recorded interview with Deputy Jared Tazewell

**Exhibit 7:** Video surveillance of conversation between Deputy Danielle Basciano and Civilian Witness Teresa Tazewell

**Exhibit 8:** Audio recorded interview with Civilian Witness Teresa Tazewell

**Exhibit 9:** Template for Interview of Department Employee as Witness and Internal Investigation Confidentiality Acknowledgement Form (**Sgt. Althea Civil**)

**Exhibit 10:** Audio recorded interview #1 and #2 with Sgt. Althea Civil

**Exhibit 11:** Template for Interview of Department Employee as Witness and Internal Investigation Confidentiality Acknowledgement Form (**Cpl. Peter Descartes**)

**Exhibit 12:** Audio recorded interview with Cpl. Peter Descartes

**Exhibit 13:** Template for Interview of Department Employee as Witness and Internal Investigation Confidentiality Acknowledgement Form (**Commander Louis Miceli**)

**Exhibit 14:** Audio recorded interview with Commander Miceli

**Exhibit 15:** Audio recorded interview with Civilian Witness Inmate Danielle Mullener

**Exhibit 16:** Audio recorded interview with Civilian Witness Salina Cox

**Exhibit 17:** Emails, Salina Cox demographic, criminal history and AEGIS information, Danielle Mullener AEGIS profile.

**Exhibit 18:** Audio recorded interview with Civilian Witness Inmate Brooke Crawford

**Exhibit 19:** Audio recorded interview with Civilian Witness Inmate Sheila Orozco

**Exhibit 20:** Audio recorded interview with Civilian Witness Inmate Amber Romines

**Exhibit 21:** Internal Affairs Evidence Review Form

## **Incident and Complaint:**

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Commander Miceli received a telephone call from Deputy Tazewell in reference to subject employee Deputy Danielle Basciano. Deputy Tazewell relayed to Commander Miceli that he had pertinent information in regards to a possible inappropriate romantic relationship occurring between Deputy Danielle Basciano and former inmate Salina Cox. Deputy Tazewell indicated to Commander Miceli that Deputy Danielle Basciano provided her telephone number to former inmate Salina Cox while she was incarcerated and then picked former inmate Salina Cox up from the Kangaroo gas station located on Highway 100 upon her release from the Flagler County Detention Facility.

Furthermore, it is said that Deputy Danielle Basciano and former inmate Salina Cox are currently residing together within Deputy Danielle Basciano's residence in Ormond Beach. It should be noted for investigative purposes, all of this information was provided to Deputy Jared Tazewell's wife by Deputy Danielle Basciano and subsequently provided to Deputy Jared Tazewell by his wife. The information provided to Commander Miceli was documented on memorandum (**Exhibit 1**) and provided to Chief Cole. Based on the information in the memorandum written by Commander Miceli, Chief Cole brought Deputy Danielle Basciano into his office in the presence of Director Quintieri and provided Deputy Danielle Basciano with a brief synopsis of the potential "rumors" of her relationship and gave her the opportunity without any questioning to dispel the rumors and no explanation or information was provided by Deputy Danielle Basciano.

Based on the lack of explanation provided during the conversation between Chief Cole and Deputy Danielle Basciano, a memorandum was drafted by Chief Cole to Undersheriff Bisland with a request for the Professional Standards Unit to conduct an investigation into the possible violation of General Order 002 (**Exhibit 1**).

## **Investigation:**

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Undersheriff Bisland signed an Authorization to Conduct Internal Investigation (**Exhibit 1**) and assigned FCSO IA 2017-028 to Detective Nicole Thomas for further investigation.

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Detective Nicole Thomas served Deputy Danielle Basciano with the Employee Notice of Internal Investigation (**Exhibit 2**) and obtained her signature on the form. Detective Nicole Thomas also provided Deputy Danielle Basciano with the Internal Investigation Confidentiality Acknowledgement Form (**Exhibit 2**) and also received her signature on the form with Sgt. Althea Civil witnessing the signature.

Later on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Detective Nicole Thomas conducted a search through the CCIS system on former inmate, Salina Cox, and located numerous criminal cases between the timeframe of 1998 through 2017 with the most recent criminal charge against Salina Cox filed on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. It should be noted, Salina Cox has been charged with multiple crimes of dishonesty to include: Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card (01/2017), Grand Theft (01/2017), Uttering a Forged Check (09/2014), Petit Theft (09/2014), Grand Theft (08/2014), Uttering a Forged Instrument (08/2014), Grand Theft (08/2014), Robbery with a Firearm (07/2013), Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card (09/2011), and Issuing a Worthless Check (08/2011). Salina Cox has numerous additional criminal charges that are traffic related as well.

During the afternoon of June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Detective Nicole Thomas traveled to Deputy Danielle Basciano's address between the timeframe of 1430-1500 in an attempt to locate evidence for this investigation of former inmate Salina Cox residing in the same location, no investigative information was obtained.

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Detective Nicole Thomas traveled to Deputy Daniele Basciano's address between the timeframe of 1300-1330 in an attempt to locate evidence for this investigation of former inmate Salina Cox residing in the same location, no investigative information was obtained.

## **SWORN RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH DEPUTY AMANDA PRIEMER:**

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, a sworn audio recorded interview was conducted with Deputy Amanda Priemer in the Professional Standards Unit office of the Operations Center, 901 E Moody Blvd Bunnell, Florida 32110. Deputy Priemer was placed under oath and agreed to only provide truthful statements on the recording with Detective Nicole Thomas.

Deputy Priemer indicated she was aware of the allegations relating to Deputy Danielle Basciano and her association with former inmate Salina Cox. Deputy Priemer also indicated she was aware of an incident that occurred previously where she (Deputy Priemer) was questioned by an unknown supervisor about providing legal information to former inmate Salina Cox. Deputy Priemer indicated to Detective Nicole Thomas that she told the supervisor she was not the deputy providing the information but that it was possibly Deputy Danielle Basciano.

Detective Nicole Thomas asked Deputy Priemer what her personal knowledge is of Deputy Danielle Basciano and former inmate Salina Cox involvement with one another and she indicated she only knows what all of the other deputies know. Deputy Priemer indicated she and other Detention Deputies reported to the Detention Supervisors on several occasions that Deputy Danielle Basciano was spending an unusual amount of time in the block with former inmate Salina Cox and it was starting to raise concern. Deputy Priemer indicated to Detective Nicole Thomas that when their rotation was on nightshift it was not uncommon for Deputy Danielle Basciano to remain within “Mike Block” outside of former inmate Salina Cox cell for excess of an hour at times. Detective Nicole Thomas asked Deputy Priemer how long detention deputies usually speak to inmates and she indicated she only engages an inmate for approximately 2-3 minutes usually and is able to obtain all information needed to assist the inmate.

Detective Nicole Thomas asked Deputy Priemer if Deputy Danielle Basciano spent that amount of time with any other inmates and she indicated she does not. Deputy Priemer said she and other Detention Deputies have attempted to speak with Deputy Danielle Basciano and tell her what she was doing “doesn’t look good” but she did not change her behavior even after the conversations.

Detective Nicole Thomas asked Deputy Priemer if she ever witnessed any physical contact between Deputy Danielle Basciano and former inmate Salina Cox and she indicated she did not. Deputy Priemer said she only saw Deputy Danielle Basciano outside of former inmate Salina Cox's cell on numerous occasions but never witnessed her go inside of the cell. Deputy Priemer provided that Deputy Danielle Basciano would go into the block to conduct a check or in response to an inmate request and then stop at the cell assigned to former inmate Salina Cox and remain there in conversation for an extended amount of time.

Detective Nicole Thomas asked Deputy Priemer if she was aware of the current relationship status of Deputy Danielle Basciano and former inmate Salina Cox and she indicated she was not. Deputy Priemer indicated she had no information about former inmate Salina Cox since she has been released from the detection facility.

Deputy Priemer signed the Internal Investigation Confidentiality Acknowledgement Form at the conclusion of her interview (**Exhibit 3**).

### **SWORN RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH DEPUTY JARED TAZEWELL:**

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017, a sworn audio recorded interview was conducted with Deputy Jared Tazewell in the Professional Standards Unit office of the Operations Center, 901 E Moody Blvd Bunnell, Florida 32110. Deputy Tazewell was placed under oath and agreed to only provide truthful statements on the recording with Detective Nicole Thomas.

Deputy Tazewell indicated he is familiar with the incident(s) that are currently being investigated by Detective Nicole Thomas in regards to a conversation that occurred between Deputy Tazewell's wife and Deputy Danielle Basciano. Deputy Tazewell indicated the conversation occurred sometime in June of 2017 and he advised he was familiar with its content.

Detective Nicole Thomas asked Deputy Jared Tazewell to describe from start to finish how he was made aware of the conversation that occurred between his wife and Deputy Basciano. Deputy Tazewell indicated he got off of his shift at the Flagler County Detention Facility and went to his wife's business in Bunnell, Florida. Deputy Tazewell said his wife looked troubled when he entered her business and

she indicated to him that he needed to sit down, she needed to tell him something. Deputy Tazewell indicated his wife told him that one of his fellow deputies that he went to the academy with told her that she (Deputy Basciano) was having an “affair” that started around January 2017 with a former inmate.

Deputy Tazewell said his wife told him that Deputy Basciano confided in her that she was “passing notes” with former inmate Salina Cox while she was incarcerated and then their relationship continued upon the release of former inmate Salina Cox. Deputy Tazewell said his wife told him Deputy Basciano disclosed she traveled to the Kangaroo on Highway 100 in Bunnell and picked up former inmate Salina Cox and took her back to her (Deputy Basciano’s) residence. Deputy Tazewell indicated Deputy Basciano told his wife she (Deputy Basciano) had sexual relations with former inmate Salina Cox on the date of her release from the Flagler County Detention Facility and the two were now residing together in Deputy Basciano’s home.

Deputy Tazewell provided during his interview that his wife has audio and video surveillance that is active and recording all of the time and documented on the front door of the business that the business is under surveillance. Deputy Tazewell said the conversation between Deputy Basciano and his wife was recorded (audio and video) on the store’s surveillance and he wished to provide a copy of the video to Detective Nicole Thomas. It should be noted, Deputy Tazewell and Detective Nicole Thomas reviewed the video on audio recording during his interview. The audio can be heard on the interview recording with Deputy Tazewell (**Exhibit 7**).

Deputy Tazewell signed the Internal Investigation Confidentiality Acknowledgement Form at the conclusion of his interview (**Exhibit 5**).

#### **SWORN RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH CIVILIAN WITNESS TERESA TAZEWEILL**

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, a sworn audio recorded interview was conducted with Civilian Witness Teresa Tazewell in the Professional Standards Unit office of the Operations Center, 901 E Moody Blvd Bunnell, Florida 32110. Teresa Tazewell was placed under oath and agreed to only provide truthful statements on the recording with Detective Nicole Thomas.



Teresa Tazewell told Detective Nicole Thomas that she and Deputy Danielle Basciano became friends when she and her (Teresa's) husband were in the Corrections Academy. Teresa Tazewell described her relationship with Deputy Danielle Basciano as being very close and even referring to her as "wifey". Teresa Tazewell indicated she and Deputy Danielle Basciano's friendship in the last couple months had become distant and up until recent events she was unsure why.

Teresa Tazewell told Detective Nicole Thomas that Deputy Danielle Basciano came to her shop (Teresa's) on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and disclosed to her (Teresa) that she (Deputy Basciano) was having an intimate relationship with a former inmate of the Flagler County Detention Facility. Teresa Tazewell told Detective Nicole Thomas that Deputy Danielle Basciano went into detail of how the relationship began around January of 2017 when the inmate identified as Salina Cox was incarcerated in the Flagler County Detention Facility. Teresa Tazewell indicated she and Deputy Danielle Basciano discussed the details of her (Deputy Basciano) and Salina Cox relationship as being intimate and they are currently residing together at Deputy Basciano's residence in Ormond Beach.

Teresa Tazewell said that Deputy Basciano told her she (Deputy Basciano) and former inmate Salina Cox would communicate via "passing notes" within the Flagler County Detention Facility and went as far as exchanging telephone numbers. Teresa Tazewell asked Deputy Basciano if anything "physical" ever happened between her and former inmate Salina Cox while she was incarcerated and Deputy Danielle Basciano responded with "no you know I am not like that". Teresa Tazewell said Salina Cox contacted Deputy Basciano on the day of her release from the Flagler County Detention Facility and asked her to pick her (Salina Cox) up from the Kangaroo store on Highway 100 in Bunnell. Deputy Basciano told Teresa Tazewell she went and picked former inmate Salina Cox up from that location and brought her back to her (Deputy Basciano's) residence. Teresa Tazewell asked Deputy Basciano what she and former inmate Salina Cox did while at Deputy Basciano's residence and her exact response to Teresa Tazewell was "fucked".

During the remainder of the conversation Deputy Basciano told Teresa Tazewell that the hardest part of the relationship is having to keep everything a secret because she knows what she is doing with former inmate Salina Cox is wrong and could cause her to lose her job and her certification as a law enforcement officer. Teresa Tazewell asked Deputy Danielle Basciano during the conversation "Is she worth it?" and Deputy Basciano responded with "Yes". Teresa Tazewell and Deputy Danielle Basciano

discussed former inmate Salina Cox's history in depth to include her previous Heroin addiction and also her criminal history where Deputy Basciano appeared to have a clear understanding of the negative history associated with former inmate Salina Cox.

Teresa Tazewell confirmed with Detective Nicole Thomas the whole conversation between her (Teresa) and Deputy Basciano was recorded audio and video on her public business surveillance system and was a true and accurate depiction of the conversation.

Detective Nicole Thomas advised Teresa Tazewell of the confidential nature of this investigation and requested she not speak of any of its content to any other person until the investigation is closed and made public record. Teresa Tazewell indicated on record she understood the confidential nature of this investigation and would not speak about it to anyone else. **(Exhibit 8)**

#### **FIRST SWORN RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH SGT. ALTHEA CIVIL**

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, a sworn audio recorded interview was conducted with Sgt. Althea Civil in the Professional Standards Unit office of the Operations Center, 901 E Moody Blvd Bunnell, Florida 32110. Sgt. Civil was placed under oath and agreed to only provide truthful statements on the recording with Detective Nicole Thomas.

Detective Nicole Thomas asked Sgt. Civil if she had any knowledge of a relationship between Deputy Danielle Basciano and former inmate Salina Cox and Sgt. Civil indicated she did not. Detective Nicole Thomas asked Sgt. Civil if Deputy Danielle Basciano confided in her any information in regards to the allegations of her relationship with former inmate Salina Cox after being served her notice of internal by Detective Nicole Thomas and Sgt. Civil indicated she did not. Detective Nicole Thomas asked Sgt. Civil to explain what occurred after Deputy Basciano was served with her notice and Sgt. Civil indicated Deputy Basciano became visually upset and ill and was sent home but did not make any statements in regards to her relationship with former inmate Salina Cox.

Detective Nicole Thomas asked Sgt. Civil if she was made aware of any allegations of inappropriate behavior between Deputy Basciano and former inmate Salina Cox while Salina Cox was incarcerated,

she indicated she was not made aware. Detective Nicole Thomas specifically asked Sgt. Civil if she was made aware of Deputy Basciano remaining in “Mike block” for a significant amount of time while she was on night shift causing concern for other deputies and Sgt. Civil indicated she was not made aware.

Sgt. Civil signed the Internal Investigation Confidentiality Acknowledgement Form at the conclusion of her interview (**Exhibit 9**).

### **SWORN RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH CPL. PETER DESCARTES**

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, a sworn audio recorded interview was conducted with Cpl. Peter Descartes in the Professional Standards Unit office of the Operations Center, 901 E Moody Blvd Bunnell, Florida 32110. Cpl. Descartes was placed under oath and agreed to only provide truthful statements on the recording with Detective Nicole Thomas.

Detective Nicole Thomas asked Cpl. Descartes if he was aware of any type of relationship between former inmate Salina Cox and Detention Deputy Danielle Basciano and he indicated he was not aware. Detective Nicole Thomas asked Cpl. Descartes if he recalled a conversation between himself and Deputy Priemer in regards to an allegation that she was providing legal advice to former inmate Salina Cox. Cpl. Descartes indicated he did recall the conversation and confirmed it was learned through further inquiry that the deputy providing the information was actually Deputy Basciano.

Cpl. Descartes indicated he called Deputy Basciano in to speak with her and provide a verbal counseling for her actions. Cpl. Descartes indicated he explained to Deputy Basciano that providing civil court information is the same as providing criminal court information which they are not allowed to provide. Detective Nicole Thomas asked Cpl. Descartes if he was ever informed of any incidents where Deputy Basciano was spending a significant amount of time in the female block while their shift was on nightshift and Cpl. Descartes indicated there may have been one incident he recalled but Deputy Basciano was working within the appropriate timeframe of the tasks she was assigned within the block. Cpl. Descartes was unable to recall any other reports of Deputy Basciano misusing her time within the block while on shift.

Cpl. Descartes confirmed he has no knowledge or information relating to the possible relationship between former inmate Salina Cox and Detention Deputy Danielle Basciano.

Cpl. Descartes signed the Internal Investigation Confidentiality Acknowledgement Form at the conclusion of his interview (**Exhibit 11**).

### **SWORN RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH COMMANDER LOUIS MICELI**

On July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017, a sworn audio recorded interview was conducted with Commander Louis Miceli in the Commander's office of the Flagler County Detention Facility, 1002 Justice Lane Bunnell, Florida 32110. Commander Miceli was placed under oath and agreed to only provide truthful statements on the recording with Detective Nicole Thomas.

Commander Miceli told Detective Nicole Thomas he received a telephone call from Deputy Jared Tazewell a couple weeks prior to this date indicating he had information he felt like a supervisor needed to be made aware of. Commander Miceli said Deputy Tazewell went into detail with him about the possible relationship between Deputy Basciano and former inmate Salina Cox. Commander Miceli indicated after he received the basic information of the allegations against Deputy Basciano he drafted a memorandum and submitted the information via the chain of command to Chief Cole for further investigation.

Commander Miceli told Detective Nicole Thomas he spoke to Sgt. Althea Civil prior to the investigation starting to provide her a "heads up" of what was occurring on her shift and Commander Miceli indicated Sgt Civil made a statement to the effect of "now all of the puzzle pieces are fitting together" indicating her prior knowledge of something occurring possibly with Deputy Danielle Basciano. Commander Miceli also indicated he had a conversation with Sgt Althea Civil about the emotional breakdown Deputy Danielle Basciano experienced after being served with her notice of internal investigation. Commander Miceli stated Sgt Althea Civil told him that Deputy Danielle Basciano "basically confirmed the allegations" to Sgt Althea Civil at that point. Commander Miceli indicated he told Sgt. Althea Civil not to speak to him any further about Deputy Danielle Basciano's disclosure to her and he (Commander

Miceli) told Sgt. Althea Civil he was going to refer her to Detective Nicole Thomas as a witness on this case to provide a statement of the events that occurred.

Detective Nicole Thomas asked Commander Miceli if he was ever made aware of any of the allegations against Deputy Basciano and former inmate Salina Cox while Salina Cox was incarcerated and he indicated he was not made aware. Detective Nicole Thomas asked Commander Miceli if he was made aware of Deputy Basciano spending excessive time in the “blocks” while former inmate Salina Cox was incarcerated and he indicated he was not aware.

Commander Miceli signed the Internal Investigation Confidentiality Acknowledgement Form at the conclusion of his interview (**Exhibit 14**).

### **SECOND SWORN RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH SGT. ALTHEA CIVIL**

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017, a secondary sworn audio recorded interview was conducted with Sgt. Althea Civil in the Professional Standards Office of the Operations Center 901 E Moody Blvd Bunnell, Florida 32110. Sgt. Civil was placed under oath and agreed to only provide truthful statements on the recording with Detective Nicole Thomas.

Detective Nicole Thomas explained to Sgt. Civil the reason for a secondary interview was to attempt to gain clarification on her previous sworn statement. Sgt. Civil indicated she was unsure why a secondary interview was needed because she did not have any information to provide in her first interview.

Detective Nicole Thomas explained to Sgt. Civil the information obtained during the sworn recorded interview with Commander Louis Miceli. Detective Nicole Thomas told Sgt. Civil Commander Miceli indicated there were two conversations held between himself and Sgt. Civil in regards to this investigation where he was under the impression Sgt. Civil had knowledge of things pertaining to this investigation.

Sgt. Civil again denied having any knowledge of information pertaining to this investigation and indicated “I would even go as far to say that conversation did not happen”. Detective Nicole Thomas asked Sgt. Civil if there was anything she could think of that may have been said between herself and Commander Miceli that he may have misunderstood that would make him believe she had information

and she indicated she was not aware of anything. Sgt. Civil did indicate she may have expressed her personal opinion or emotions on the matter to Commander Miceli but her personal opinion has nothing to do with this investigation and she did not feel it was appropriate to express her personal opinion in an Internal Investigation. Sgt. Civil did not provide Detective Nicole Thomas any information to clarify the information obtained from Commander Miceli in his sworn recorded statement.

### **SWORN RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH CIVILIAN WITNESS DANIELLE MULLENER**

On July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017, a sworn audio recorded interview was conducted with Civilian Witness Inmate Danielle Mullener at the Flagler County Detention Facility, 1002 Justice Lane Bunnell, Florida 32110. Danielle Mullener was placed under oath and agreed to only provide truthful statements on the recording with Detective Nicole Thomas.

Danielle Mullener advised Detective Nicole Thomas she is currently legally married to former inmate Salina Cox. Danielle Mullener indicated as far as she knew her marriage with Salina Cox was fine and she and Salina were working on mending their relationship and planned to be together upon her (Danielle Mullener) release from rehabilitation. Danielle indicated she was not aware of any type of relationship between Deputy Danielle Basciano and her (Danielle Mullener) wife Salina Cox. Danielle Mullener did indicate to Detective Nicole Thomas that Deputy Danielle Basciano was overly friendly with Salina Cox during her incarceration at the Flagler County Detention Facility and she did not feel her friendly behavior was appropriate for a Detention Deputy toward an inmate. Danielle Mullener also indicated Deputy Danielle Basciano relayed messages from Salina Cox to her (Danielle Mullener) while she (Danielle Mullener) was incarcerated.

Detective Nicole Thomas asked Danielle Mullener if she was receiving any inappropriate treatment while incarcerated within the Flagler County Detention Facility and/or if she felt she needed to be relocated to another facility and she (Danielle Mullener) indicated she was being treated fine and was comfortable staying in her current housing.

Detective Nicole Thomas advised Danielle Mullener of the confidential nature of this investigation and requested she not speak of any of its content to any other person until the investigation is closed and

made public record. Danielle Mullener indicated on record she understood the confidential nature of this investigation and would not speak about it to anyone else. **(Exhibit 15)**

**AUDIO RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH CIVILIAN WITNESS SALINA COX (NOT SWORN)**

On July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Detective Nicole Thomas traveled to the Kentucky Fried Chicken located at 294 W Granada Blvd Ormond Beach, Florida 32174 in an attempt to interview former inmate, Salina Cox. Salina Cox was hesitant to speak with Detective Thomas initially, but agreed to walk outside of the establishment and speak. Detective Thomas asked Salina Cox if she would be willing to provide a voluntary statement in regards to this investigation and Salina Cox indicated she was not sure what type of statement she could provide and asked what Detective Thomas wanted to know.

Detective Nicole Thomas explained to Salina Cox the basic allegations pertaining to this investigation. It should be noted, Salina Cox would not agree to be placed under oath during her interview and when asked several times during the investigation if her statement was truthful she would change the subject and again not confirm her statement was truthful under the confinements of an oath.

Salina Cox denied contacting Deputy Danielle Basciano to provide her with a ride home upon her release from the Flagler County Detention Facility. Salina Cox said she called another friend to pick her up upon her release but did meet up with Deputy Danielle Basciano later in the day on her release date. Salina Cox told Detective Nicole Thomas nothing inappropriate occurred within the Flagler County Detention Facility between her and Deputy Danielle Basciano and reiterated multiple times that the friendship/relationship between herself (Salina Cox) and Deputy Danielle Basciano started prior to Salina Cox being incarcerated in January of 2017.

Salina Cox indicated to Detective Nicole Thomas on several occasions she does not want Deputy Danielle Basciano to get into trouble for their friendship/relationship and she “feels bad” about this investigation. Salina Cox indicated to Detective Nicole Thomas she is unaware of why this investigation is occurring now since she was released in May of 2017. Salina Cox told Detective Nicole Thomas she does not want anyone to have the wrong impression of her relationship with Deputy

Danielle Basciano and again wanted to make it clear that she was friends with Deputy Danielle Basciano prior to her incarceration in January of 2017. Salina Cox told Detective Nicole Thomas she spent time with Deputy Danielle Basciano even prior to the date of January 2017 during the time when her marriage with her current wife, Danielle Mullener, was “rocky”.

Salina Cox told Detective Nicole Thomas her relationship with Deputy Danielle Basciano during her incarceration was strictly professional because of the respect she (Salina Cox) had for Deputy Danielle Basciano’s job. Salina Cox denied any special treatment from Deputy Danielle Basciano during her incarceration and also denied “passing notes” with Deputy Danielle Basciano other than receiving a piece of paper from Deputy Danielle Basciano providing her with what bands were playing in the County 500 concert.

Detective Nicole Thomas asked Salina Cox if she is currently residing with Deputy Danielle Basciano and Salina Cox hesitated and indicated “No I live at 1509 San Marco with friends”. Salina Cox stated “I am not going to sit here and lie I have been to her house, spent the night and done things at her house like let her dog out”. Salina Cox again stated she did not want to get Deputy Danielle Basciano in trouble for knowing her and followed that statement with “I feel bad”. Salina Cox told Detective Nicole Thomas “honestly to be 100% I don’t want her to lose her job”. Salina Cox indicated she does not want the jail to think this relationship happened “there” (Flagler County Detention Facility). Salina Cox said she does not want anyone think Deputy Danielle Basciano is unprofessional or provides unfair or special treatment, she talks to everyone and treats everyone the same.

Detective Nicole Thomas asked Salina Cox several times due to her obvious demeanor and body language if she was comfortable providing a statement to this detective. Salina Cox indicated “If I had something to hide obviously I wouldn’t be talking to you”. Detective Nicole Thomas presented the opportunity several times for Salina Cox to swear under oath that her statements were truthful and Salina Cox would not provide a sworn oath.

Salina Cox told Detective Nicole Thomas she is still in communication with Deputy Danielle Basciano and provided information she is even aware of Deputy Danielle Basciano’s current plan to change her residence to a new location and that she is under a massive amount of stress at work because of this investigation. Salina Cox asked Detective Nicole Thomas on several occasions exactly what her



statement was supposed to say. Salina Cox said she wanted to know if this detective was asking if her and Deputy Danielle Basciano “slept together” or are in a “serious relationship”. Salina Cox told Detective Nicole Thomas “I mean we have kissed and stuff but I don’t know what you want to know”.

Salina Cox explained to Detective Nicole Thomas she did not want to try and rush a relationship with Deputy Danielle Basciano because of the age difference between her and Deputy Danielle Basciano and the fact that Deputy Danielle Basciano is “young”. Salina Cox said she has a lot of her own personal things she is trying to work through prior to getting into any type of relationship and she has distanced herself from Deputy Danielle Basciano because of the things in her personal life.

Salina Cox indicated she did not have any further information for this detective but would like to come to the Operations Center on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 1000 hours and provide a written statement for this investigation once she got her thoughts together. It should be noted, Salina Cox never agreed to be placed under oath for her statements to Detective Nicole Thomas on this audio recorded interview.

**(Exhibit 16)**

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Salina Cox was a no call, no show at the Operations Center to provide a written statement to Detective Nicole Thomas. Detective Nicole Thomas made contact with Salina Cox via telephone and afforded her another opportunity to come to the Operations Center at which time again she was a no call no show.

On January 21st, 2017, Detective Nicole Thomas served Deputy Danielle Basciano with the Notice of Obtaining Statement for Internal Investigation. Deputy Danielle Basciano signed the form at 0850 hours on this date and was provided with a copy of the signed form for her records. Deputy Danielle Basciano was advised she was able to have an attorney present during her interview if she wished but due to her not being a member of the union, an attorney would not be provided for her. Deputy Danielle Basciano was also told by Detective Nicole Thomas this interview was for the purpose of an administrative investigation and was not criminal in nature. Detective Nicole Thomas advised Deputy Danielle Basciano that prior to her interview she would be provided ample time to review all statements and exhibits related to this investigation.

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Commander Miceli made contact via telephone with Detective Nicole Thomas to advise he was contacted by Inmate Danielle Mullener in regards to having additional information related to this investigation. Inmate Danielle Mullener relayed to Commander Miceli there was an inmate within the Flagler County Detention Facility that may have a photograph of Deputy Danielle Basciano and former inmate Salina Cox together in civilian attire.

### **SWORN RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH CIVILIAN WITNESS BROOKE CRAWFORD**

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, a sworn audio recorded interview was conducted with Civilian Witness Inmate Brooke Crawford at the Flagler County Detention Facility, 1002 Justice Lane Bunnell, Florida 32110. Brooke Crawford was placed under oath and agreed to only provide truthful statements on the recording with Detective Nicole Thomas.

Brooke Crawford described to Detective Nicole Thomas that the relationship between former inmate Salina Cox and Deputy Danielle Basciano appeared to be a very close relationship while Salina Cox was incarcerated within the Flagler County Detention Facility. Brooke Crawford said Deputy Basciano relayed a message from Salina Cox to her (Brooke Crawford) that stated “someone from the outside is missing you”. Brooke Crawford indicated that Deputy Danielle Basciano indicated the message was from Salina Cox.

Brooke Crawford indicated Deputy Danielle Basciano showed favoritism to Salina Cox while she was incarcerated and they were “too close for comfort”. Brooke Crawford said Deputy Danielle Basciano would speak with Salina Cox more than any other inmates and would show some type of favoritism to former inmate Salina Cox during each shift she (Deputy Basciano) worked the female block. Brooke Crawford indicated to Detective Nicole Thomas that Inmate Amber Romines may have information pertaining to this investigation.

Detective Nicole Thomas advised Brooke Crawford of the confidential nature of this investigation and requested she not speak of any of its content to any other person until the investigation is closed and made public record. Brooke Crawford indicated on record she understood the confidential nature of this investigation and would not speak about it to anyone else (**Exhibit 18**).

## **SWORN RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH CIVILIAN WITNESS SHEILA OROZCO**

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, a sworn audio recorded interview was conducted with Civilian Witness Inmate Sheila Orozco at the Flagler County Detention Facility, 1002 Justice Lane Bunnell, Florida 32110. Sheila Orozco was placed under oath and agreed to only provide truthful statements on the recording with Detective Nicole Thomas.

Sheila Orozco told Detective Nicole Thomas she was witness to former inmate Salina Cox and Deputy Danielle Basciano engaging in a lot of secretive talk while Salina Cox was incarcerated in the Flagler County Detention Facility. Sheila Orozco described the interactions to contain: winking, smiling, obvious intimate connection between Salina Cox and Deputy Danielle Basciano. Sheila Orozco described the behavior displayed by Deputy Basciano as flirtatious towards former inmate Salina Cox and she would treat former inmate Salina Cox differently than any of the other female inmates.

Sheila Orozco recalled Deputy Basciano conducting “rounds” through the block during the night on Deputy Basciano’ s shifts where she would conduct her round and then stop and spend a significant amount of time at the cell block where former inmate Salina Cox was housed. Detective Nicole Thomas asked Sheila Orozco if Deputy Danielle Basciano displayed behavior similar to this with any other inmates and she indicated Deputy Basciano did not.

Detective Nicole Thomas asked Sheila Orozco if she was witness to any note passing between Deputy Basciano and Salina Cox and she indicated she was not. Detective Nicole Thomas asked Sheila Orozco if she had any contact with Salina Cox since she was released and she advised she had not had any contact.

Detective Nicole Thomas advised Sheila Orozco of the confidential nature of this investigation and requested she not speak of any of its content to any other person until the investigation is closed and made public record. Sheila Orozco indicated on record she understood the confidential nature of this investigation and would not speak about it to anyone else (**Exhibit 19**).

## SWORN RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH CIVILIAN WITNESS AMBER ROMINES

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, a sworn audio recorded interview was conducted with Civilian Witness Inmate Amber Romines at the Flagler County Detention Facility, 1002 Justice Lane Bunnell, Florida 32110. Amber Romines was placed under oath and agreed to only provide truthful statements on the recording with Detective Nicole Thomas.

Amber Romines indicated to Detective Nicole Thomas she was contacted by former inmate Salina Cox upon the release of former inmate Salina Cox from the Flagler County Detention Facility. Amber Romines said Salina Cox confided in her that she (Salina Cox) was in an intimate relationship with Deputy Danielle Basciano. Amber Romines stated Salina Cox sent her a message via Facebook messenger that contained a photograph of her (Salina Cox) in bed with Deputy Danielle Basciano and it appeared as though both subjects had just woke up. Amber Romines attempted to locate the Facebook message she received from Salina Cox but was unable during her interview with Detective Nicole Thomas. For investigative purposes, the messages on Amber Romines Facebook messenger only date back to June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and Amber Romines indicated the message from Salina Cox was received prior to that date and may possibly be on another Facebook profile which she (Amber Romines) does not have access to any longer.

Detective Nicole Thomas asked Amber Romines what Salina Cox told her about her relationship with Deputy Basciano and Amber Romines indicated “they were fucking”, Salina Cox told Amber Romines they were intimate but she did not confirm if they were in a serious relationship or not. Detective Nicole Thomas asked Amber Romines if she was witness to anything physical between Salina Cox and Deputy Basciano and she indicated she was not. Detective Nicole Thomas asked Amber Romines if she has been in contact with either Salina Cox or Deputy Basciano for any additional conversations and she indicated she had not been.

Detective Nicole Thomas advised Amber Romines of the confidential nature of this investigation and requested she not speak of any of its content to any other person until the investigation is closed and made public record. Amber Romines indicated on record she understood the confidential nature of this investigation and would not speak about it to anyone else (**Exhibit 20**).

On July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Deputy Danielle Basciano came to the Operations Center of the Flagler County Sheriff's Office at approximately 1200 hours to begin her evidence review process for this internal investigation. Deputy Danielle Basciano began her evidence review at approximately 1205 hours on this date. Deputy Danielle Basciano reviewed all forms and documents listed as exhibits in the investigation initially and indicated she was satisfied with the documents and did not need additional time to review the documents. Deputy Danielle Basciano then began reviewing all video and audio exhibits listed under this investigation and upon the completion of those she indicated she was satisfied and did not need any additional time to review any associated exhibits prior to beginning her interview.

### **SWORN RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH DEPUTY DANIELLE BASCIANO**

On July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, a sworn audio recorded interview was conducted with subject employee Danielle Basciano in the Professional Standards Office of the Operations Center 901 E Moody Blvd Bunnell, Florida 32110. Deputy Danielle Basciano was read her Garrity Warning and was placed under oath and agreed to only provide truthful statements on the recording with Detective Nicole Thomas. It should be noted, prior to Deputy Danielle Basciano answering any questions, she provided her signature on her Garrity Warning form and also on the Internal Affairs Evidence Review Form (**Exhibit 21**). The Internal Affairs Evidence Review Form details each exhibit associated with this investigation and requires the subject employee initials next to each item indicating she received ample time to review all items and was provided all items. Deputy Danielle Basciano initialed all items and also provided her signature at the bottom of the form.

Detective Nicole Thomas asked Deputy Danielle Basciano a series of questions and the following statements are a summary of the questions along with responses (For full disclosure refer to the audio recording associated with this interview):

1. You were made aware you could have an attorney present is that correct? **Correct**
2. For the record, you decided not to bring one with you is that correct? **Correct**
3. Do you have any questions on anything before we begin the interview? **No**
4. Did you receive notification by FCSO memorandum that an administrative inquire has been initiated regarding this complaint? **Yes**
5. Did you receive a copy of this complaint? **Yes**

6. Did you receive a copy of the Police Officer's and Correction Officer's Bill of Rights? **Yes**
7. Have you had an opportunity to review the statements of witnesses and information associated with this complaint? **Yes**
8. Do you need more time to review anything or more time to prepare for this interview? **No**
9. How long have you been employed with our agency? **About one year and two months**
10. What are your current duties? **Detention Deputy at the Flagler County Detention Facility**
11. Do you recall an inmate by the name of Salina Cox being housed within the Flagler County Inmate Facility during the timeframe of January 2017-May 2017? **Yes Ma'am**
12. Did you have a previous friendship or relationship with Inmate Salina Cox prior to January 2017? **Yes Ma'am. We have gone out prior to her incarceration drinking and hanging out with friends, we met a few years ago possibly two years ago and never discussed my job or her past prior to her last incarceration we just strictly hung out and drank with friends.**
13. What is your current relationship with former inmate Salina Cox? **We are in a relationship, noting happened while she was in the facility, yes I spoke to her more than I should have but I did not give her any special treatment, I have more of a heart than most, the time I spend with an inmate should not be taken as flirtacious. Yes I did not tell anyone at work, only a few people on the personal side know, I did not want anything to affect my job, I did not want anyone to know while she was in there so it didn't affect my job. I do know once she got out pursuing anything more is guilty on my part, I take full responsibility for what I did, we probably did have something there before I just didn't act on it, but nothing happened in the facility, nothing would have happened in the facility.**
14. Are you and former inmate Salina Cox residing in the same residence? **No she lives at San Marco Apartments. She stays with me sometimes and has access to my apartment when I am not there but she does not live there consistently.**
15. Do you recall a conversation you had on approximately June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 with a civilian by the name of Teresa Tazewell? **I do**
  - a. Is everything expressed in the video surveillance true and accurate? **No. I told her about notes and to be honest I never gave her anything, never brought her anything, she never gave me a note or nothing. Do I know why I said there were notes, I was worried about being judged for having this**

**relationship, if I knew she was going to be worried and say something I probably would have never spoken to her about this.**

16. If you are indicating there were no notes passed how did Salina get your telephone number?  
**Jimmy our mutual friend gave her my number**
17. Is it your statement that you two are still dating as of this point? **Yes Ma'am**
18. What are your intentions with your relationship? **To be honest it has nothing to do with this investigation but I have not been mentally or emotionally ok for a little bit now, I am really young and I thought this career was for me. I left the state prison which was awful for me to come to the county thinking it would be better and Ive noticed I drink a lot more than I probably should, I do not ever involve it with work or drink before work my mental state is not where it needs to be.**
19. Are you aware of her criminal history and history with the Flagler County Detention Facility? **As of her release yes, we have sat down and she has told me and showed me on the computer. I am aware of the policy that we aren't supposed to associate but like I said we had something before she was an inmate we just didn't act on it.**
20. Did you admit to civilian Teresa Tazewell you know what you are doing with former inmate Salina Cox is against general order and could possibly lead to you losing your law enforcement certification? **I do know that what my relationship is now is wrong, I know that our policy says you are not supposed to associate with felons, I admitted I knew this was against policy and I admitted I knew there could be an investigation, I had other thoughts of leaving prior to this coming up because I am not stable.**
21. Did you pass notes back and forth with former inmate Salina Cox while she was incarcerated in the Flagler County Detention Facility? **There were no notes, there is no proof of anything, I never gave her a piece of paper and she never gave me a piece of paper. We had conversations we probably should not have about hanging out when she got out of jail.**
22. Did you relay messages from Salina Cox to other inmates in the detention facility on behalf of Salina Cox after her release? **Yes to Danielle Mullener but I do not recall to Brooke Crawford.**
23. Do you recall reading and signing the General Orders that are provided in memorandum relating to this investigation? **Yes**

24. Do you have anything additional you would like to provide? **There is nothing I can say to avoid this, you asked for honesty and I am an honest person. I have stress at home, I have stress at work. Yes I am in the relationship. Yes that is wrong. Yes I am aware of that, I do want to protect myself that I did nothing wrong while she was in the facility. Yes the personal life situation does effect my job because of my badge but I don't go around bragging who I am or who I work for. There is nothing else I can say I answered the questions honestly.**

The interview with Deputy Danielle Basciano was concluded at 1618 hours and no additional questions were asked and no conversation was had outside of the recording once it was concluded.

### **Discussion:**

- Deputy Danielle Basciano knowingly engaged in an inappropriate relationship with former inmate Salina Cox both during her incarceration at the Flagler County Detention Facility and upon her release. Deputy Danielle Basciano indicated to a civilian witness she passed notes with former inmate Salina Cox during her incarceration one of which provided the inmate with her (Deputy Basciano) telephone number which per Florida Statute is Introduction of Contraband to the Flagler County Detention Facility. During her sworn recorded interview, Deputy Danielle Basciano indicates she did not pass notes and there is no proof of note passing which is contrary to her statement to the civilian witness.
- Deputy Danielle Basciano admitted to having knowledge of former inmate Salina Cox criminal and drug history and with that knowledge continues to remain in an intimate relationship with former inmate Salina Cox.
- Deputy Danielle Basciano admitted to having knowledge that her actions with former inmate Salina Cox could potentially cause her to be terminated from the Flagler County Detention Facility and also be reason for her to lose her law enforcement certification and when asked by a civilian witness if former inmate Salina Cox was worth all of that Deputy Danielle Basciano indicated “yes”. Deputy Danielle Basciano expressed several times during her interview her knowledge that what she is doing with former inmate Salina Cox is against FCSO policy, was



intended to be kept a secret from the FCSO, and she was fully aware of the potential of her relationship causing an investigation to be initiated if revealed.

**Findings:**

This investigation is **SUSTAINED** for the following violation(s):

**General Order 002:**

**4. Principle Four-** Employees shall not, whether on or off duty, exhibit any conduct which discredits themselves or the FCSO or otherwise impairs their ability or that of other employees or the FCSO to provide law enforcement services to the community. An employee's ability to perform his or her duties is dependent upon the respect and confidence communities have for the officer and law enforcement officers in general. Employees must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the integrity and trustworthiness expected of them by the public.

- i. Employees shall avoid regular personal associations with persons who are known to engage in criminal activity where such associations will undermine the public trust and confidence in the employees and the FCSO.

**General Order 020:**

**III. Procedure**

- A. There are ten categories that make up this general order with ten being the most severe. There sheriff and designee(s) reserve the unilateral right to promulgate, amend or delete policies and procedures.

**1. Category Nine Violations:**

- f. Unbecoming Conduct:

Personnel shall conduct themselves at all times, both on and off duty, in such manner as to reflect most favorably on the FCSO. This includes, but is not limited to, electronic communications on social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Myspace, etc.) and internet sites. Conduct unbecoming shall include that which brings the FCSO into disrepute or reflects discredit upon the personnel as a member of the FCSO, or that which impairs the operation or efficiency of the FCSO or personnel.

**Disciplinary Action:** According to Flagler County Sheriff's Office **General Order 019-Discipline**, Category nine violations carry a penalty of all ranges of discipline, from written reprimands up to and including termination.

### **3. Category Eight Violations:**

#### **c. Moral Character:**

Personnel shall maintain a level of moral conduct in their personal and business affairs which is in the highest standards of the law enforcement profession. Personnel shall not participate in any incident involving moral character which impairs their ability to perform as law enforcement officers or causes the Sheriff's Office to be brought into disrepute. The moral character offence list is established by FDLE and provides the guide for employment and certification of law enforcement officers in the state:

#### **FLORIDA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMPLIANCE PROCESS:**

The following non-criminal acts or conduct:

- Unprofessional relationship with an inmate, detainee, probationer or parolee, or community controllee; having written or oral communication that is intended to facilitate conduct which is prohibited by Commission Rule; or engaging in physical contact not required in the performance of professional duties, defined as kissing, fondling of the genital area, buttocks and/or breasts, massaging or similar touching, holding hands, any other physical contact

normally associated with the demonstration of affection, or sexual misconduct as applied to all certifications and defined in Section 944.35(3), Florida Statutes;

Engaging in a romantic association with an inmate, detainee, probationer, parolee, or community controllee. “Romantic association” is defined as the exchange of telephone calls, letters, greeting cards, or any other form of oral or written communication which expresses feelings or thoughts of affection or the desire to engage in a romantic relationship whether emotional or physical.

**Disciplinary Action:** According to Flagler County Sheriff’s Office **General Order 019-Discipline**, category 8 violations carry a penalty of Suspension of more than fourteen days (112 hours), and/or demotion, and/or termination.

**To be Completed by the Investigating Supervisor or Official:**

"I, the undersigned, do hereby swear, under 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Sworn to and subscribed before me, the undersigned, this        day,        month,  
year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewing Supervisor Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Reviewing Supervisor