Lee County Sheriff's Office's Post

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Shortly after 10:00 p.m. on October 26, Deputy Brandon Sellers conducted a traffic stop in Lehigh Acres after observing a vehicle rapidly accelerate alongside another vehicle in what appeared to be an exhibition of speed. During the investigation, probable cause was established to arrest the driver for street racing. The driver was subsequently transported to the Lee County Sheriff's Office 2nd Precinct Substation for processing.

After completing the initial paperwork, Deputy Sellers notified his supervisor that the driver had become unruly while in a holding cell. Deputy Sellers reported that the driver had to be redirected to a chair. When he failed to comply, he was placed against a wall. Another deputy subsequently assisted in escorting the driver to a patrol vehicle. When asked by his supervisor whether the driver had sustained any injuries, Deputy Sellers stated that he had not.

While at the Lee County Jail, Deputy Sellers advised his supervisor that he intended to add a charge of Resisting an Officer Without Violence based on the driver's behavior at the substation. He then submitted the probable cause affidavit for supervisory review.

During the review, the supervisor identified inconsistencies between Deputy Sellers' verbal account of the incident and the information documented in the affidavit. The supervisor subsequently reviewed the holding cell video footage, which revealed conduct that raised concerns regarding a potential violation of agency policy.

The footage showed the driver, who was handcuffed behind his back, being escorted into the holding cell after using the restroom. Shortly afterward, Deputy Sellers entered the room and engaged in a brief verbal exchange with the driver. Deputy Sellers then grabbed the driver by the neck area and forcefully threw him toward a chair in the corner of the room. After the driver stood up, another verbal exchange occurred, during which Deputy Sellers again grabbed the driver and pushed him toward the chair. As the physical confrontation continued, another deputy entered the room and assisted in escorting the driver to a patrol vehicle. Deputy Sellers subsequently transported the driver to the Lee County Jail.

Upon reviewing the footage, the supervisor immediately notified the on-duty Watch Commander. Both supervisors initiated a comprehensive review of the incident. Detectives with the Major Crimes Unit responded and began an investigation, ultimately presenting their findings to the State Attorney's Office.

In accordance with agency policy, Deputy Sellers was placed on administrative leave with pay pending the outcome of the investigation.

On November 17, the State Attorney's Office issued a summons charging Deputy Sellers with misdemeanor battery.

Following the criminal investigation, Internal Affairs initiated a separate administrative investigation into potential policy violations, specifically Unlawful Conduct and Conduct Unbecoming of an Agency Member. Prior to the conclusion of the Internal Affairs investigation, Deputy Sellers resigned.

Deputy Sellers had been employed with the Lee County Sheriff's Office since 2018 and had no prior disciplinary history.

In this incident, our supervisory oversight and accountability processes worked as intended. We quickly identified the misconduct, took immediate action, and held our employee accountable. As an agency, we fully support our members who use force when justified and appropriate in the performance of their duties. However, the actions in this case were neither justified nor consistent with our policies, training, or the standards we expect of our members.

I believe in transparency, accountability, and principle that no one is above the law. Our actions in this matter reflect that commitment. Let me be crystal clear: no badge, no title, and no position of authority places anyone beyond accountability. We hold our members to the highest standards, and any conduct that violates the public's trust or the integrity of this agency will be addressed immediately. This behavior will not be tolerated, under any circumstances.

—Sheriff Carmine Marceno

