

**VOLUSIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**

**REPORT NUMBER: IA-14-014**

**PERIOD COVERED:** January 2013 - October 2013  
**DATE REPORTED:** October 09, 2013  
**SUBJECT(S) NAME:** Deputy Julio "Oscar" Rodriguez #7757  
**INVESTIGATING OFFICER:** Lieutenant Jessica Paugh #6845

**BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION:**

On October 7, 2013, Investigator Matthew Vega received information of alleged law enforcement misconduct during an intelligence gathering interview. The allegations involved Deputy Rodriguez who worked the DeLeon Springs area of District II. The information gathered by Investigator Vega alleged that Deputy Rodriguez would receive sexual favors in exchange for not affecting an arrest or a reduction in criminal charges. The alleged sexual favors are from prostitutes that frequent the DeLeon Springs area identified to be Kayla Cox, Elizabeth Valenzuela, and Tonya Bennett. Deputy Rodriguez was also alleged to have reduced criminal charges against a defendant when a third party threatened Deputy Rodriguez with outing his exploits with these known prostitutes.

Investigator Vega had received a previous allegation against Deputy Rodriguez several months prior. That allegation involved turning a blind eye to narcotics activity in the DeLeon Springs area. After receiving a second allegation against Deputy Rodriguez, the intelligence was forwarded through the chain of command for review and further action. *(See Tab - C for Investigator Vega's notes)*

On October 23, 2013, Lieutenant Erik Eagan, Investigator Vega, FDLE Resident Agent in Charge John King and FDLE Special Agent Alphonso Williams met in the Sheriff's conference room at the County Administration building in DeLand, FL and discussed the allegations against Deputy Julio "Oscar" Rodriguez. FDLE adopted a public corruption case against Deputy Rodriguez and began a criminal investigation. An internal affairs investigation was not opened until the conclusion of FDLE's criminal inquiry. *(See Tab - C for Florida Department of Law Enforcement Investigative report; Case Number OR-48-0584).*

On December 12, 2013, SA Williams conducted interviews with Kayla Cox and Tonya Bennett while they were being detained at the Volusia County Branch Jail. SA Williams' supplement report indicated the following summary of his interview with Kayla Cox and Tonya Bennett:

*Cox knew Deputy Rodriguez from patrolling the area where she resided. Deputy Rodriguez has arrested Cox several times in the past. Deputy Rodriguez has never had sexual intercourse with Cox and or asked Cox for any sexual favors. Cox described Deputy Rodriguez as a "good cop." Cox has never heard any rumors about Deputy Rodriguez sleeping with and or offering prostitute's money for sexual favors. Deputy Rodriguez has never reduced any charges for Cox or Cox's associates. According to Cox, Rodriguez has never had any sexual encounters with Valenzuela or Cox's associates. Cox could not understand why someone would spread negative/false rumors about Deputy Rodriguez.*

*Tonya Bennett resides in the city of Deleon Springs and has been arrested by Deputy Rodriguez in the past. Deputy Rodriguez has never had sexual intercourse with Bennett and or asked Bennett for sexual favors. Bennett has never heard any rumors about Deputy Rodriguez sleeping with and or offering prostitute's money for sexual favors. Deputy Rodriguez has never reduced any charges for Bennett or Bennett's associates. At the conclusion of the interview, Bennett stated she was a convicted felon and does not like the police.*

After speaking with Cox and Bennett, SA Williams contacted Lt. Eagan and advised; based on the facts and circumstances surrounding the complaint, probable cause does not exist to warrant a criminal investigation, and the case would be closed. (See Tab - C for Florida Department of Law Enforcement Investigative report; Case Number OR-48-0584 / IR 26).

On December 20, 2013, Lt. Eagan contacted FDLE to request the furtherance of investigation after Deputy Rodriguez was alleged to be affiliated with subjects engaged in illegal activity, specifically his association with Michelle Segura of Deleon Springs. Deputy Rodriguez allegedly did not charge her with dealing in stolen property during a theft investigation, and may have received 5-6 chickens from her. Deputy Rodriguez was noted to have nominated Mrs. Segura and her five children to the Volusia County Sheriff's Office charitable event, 100 Kids/100 Deputies, escorting them to the function.

On December 30, 2013, the investigation was reactivated and SA Daniel Wallace of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement travelled to Federal Correction Institute, located at 2600 Highway 301 South, Jesup, Georgia 31599, to conduct an interview with Matthew Cosimini. According to SA Wallace's report, Mr. Cosimini advised of two (2) instances when Cosimini received second hand knowledge in reference to Deputy Rodriguez. The following are excerpts taken directly from SA Wallace's supplement:

*Cosimini was reportedly "getting high" with a friend named Kayla Cox. Cox told Cosimini that she had given Deputy Rodriguez oral sex. According to Cosimini, Cox did not provide any further details in reference to the incident with Deputy Rodriguez such as date, location, number of occurrences, or reason. Cosimini also stated that (2) of his friends Dave and Danielle (last names unknown) told Cosimini that Deputy Rodriguez arrested Dave for copper theft. According to*

*Cosimini, Dave and Danielle stated that Danielle "had something" on Deputy Rodriguez and that Danielle confronted Deputy Rodriguez. After Danielle confronted him, Deputy Rodriguez lowered Dave's charges from a felony to a misdemeanor. Danielle never told Cosimini what that "something" was. Cosimini did not have any further details on the incident.*

During the interview with Cosimini, photo lineups produced identification on David Alligood, Danielle Mills, and Kayla Cox. All the information obtained from Mr. Cosimini was documented by SA Wallace in report form and included in this report. *(See Tab - C for Florida Department of Law Enforcement Investigative report; Case Number OR-48-0584 / IR 41).*

On March 26, 2014, SA Williams conducted a sworn, recorded interview with Michelle Segura at her residence in DeLeon Springs. Below is the account of the interview documented by SA Williams in his report:

*Segura has known Deputy Rodriguez from patrolling her neighborhood. Segura viewed Deputy Rodriguez as a professional and down to earth. Segura has never heard any rumors about Deputy Rodriguez sleeping with and or offering prostitutes money for sexual favors. Deputy Rodriguez has never had sexual relations with Segura and or asked Segura for any sexual favors. When Segura was facing financial hardship, Deputy Rodriguez nominated Segura and her four (4) children for the Christmas package through VCSO. Segura owns a farm and sells animals for a living. Deputy Rodriguez had purchased chickens from Segura in the past for twenty (20) dollars.*

Upon concluding interviews that date, SA Williams documented none of the individuals were able to provide relevant facts surrounding Deputy Rodriguez. *(See Tab - C for Florida Department of Law Enforcement Investigative report; Case Number OR-48-0584 / IR 39).*

On May 29, 2014, Lieutenant Eagan received a copy of FDLE Special Agent Alphonso Williams' investigative report. Special Agent Williams concluded his investigative report on April 7, 2014, with a finding of the allegations being unfounded. The FDLE investigative finding was shared with Chief Deputy Mike Coffin and the case was assigned to the Internal Affairs Unit for administrative review and investigation based on the seriousness of the allegations. *(See Tab - C for Investigator Vega's notes and the FDLE Investigative Report)*

**OFFENSE:**

This investigation is relevant to an alleged violation of Department Standards Directive:

**Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations 86-453 (13)** - Any conduct, on or off duty, that reflects unfavorably on the County as an employer. This violation may be sufficient grounds for disciplinary action ranging from oral reprimand to dismissal, depending on the seriousness of the offense and other circumstances related to the situation. *(This violation may be sufficient grounds for disciplinary action ranging from oral reprimand to dismissal, depending on the seriousness of the offense and other circumstances related to the situation.)*

**INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY:**

On May 29, 2014, Chief Deputy Mike Coffin assigned the Internal Affairs Unit an investigation for allegations against Deputy Julio "Oscar" Rodriguez for allegation of exchanging sexual favors for special treatment while a deputy sheriff working road patrol in District 2 – DeLeon Springs, FL area. This report details the internal affairs investigation conducted by Lieutenant Jessica Paugh.

On November 24, 2014, Lieutenant Paugh served Deputy Rodriguez with his Notice of Internal investigation and a copy of the Law Enforcement Rights at the Deland Courthouse, 101 Alabama Avenue, Deland, FL. *(See Tab - B for Official Correspondence)*

**Danielle Mills**

On August 1, 2014, Lieutenant Eagan and Sergeant Tom Tatum conducted a sworn, recorded interview with Ms. Mills at her home, 231 Williams Ave., Daytona Beach, FL. The following is a summary of the interview:

Ms. Mills is a stay at home mother who is currently serving a three year probation sentence for trafficking in stolen property. She told investigators she had a drug addiction problem when she previously lived in DeLeon Springs, FL. Ms. Mills said she met Deputy Rodriguez through her relationship with her ex-boyfriend David Alligood. She explained that Deputy Rodriguez had arrested Mr. Alligood several times and was friendly with him and her. She said Deputy Rodriguez would stop by her residence on Grand Ave and talked about what was going on in the neighborhood, how they were doing, etc. Ms. Mills admitted that Deputy Rodriguez had arrested her previously for a warrant. Records indicate that Deputy Rodriguez arrested Ms. Mills on May 16, 2013, on an open warrant for dealing in stolen property.

Ms. Mills was asked specifically about an arrest made by Deputy Rodriguez involving her boyfriend, David Alligood, after he was caught stealing copper. Ms. Mills was asked if she had confronted Deputy Rodriguez at the time of arrest about the allegations she had heard. Ms. Mills stated the following:

*" so I told Rodriguez he said his boss or somebody was coming so I told Rodriguez I said well then you wouldn't mind me telling your boss this, this and that of what I heard. About him seeing people shooting up and letting 'em go 'cause I'm like how come you can do that but you can't let him go for copper which I understand is all bad but at the moment I was upset. So I said you know about that and sleeping with somebody or sleeping with women around here."*

Ms. Mills stated Deputy Rodriguez seemed shocked she was speaking to him that way but he did not confirm or deny the allegations. Ms. Mills stated Deputy Rodriguez ultimately gave Mr. Alligood a "ticket" and did not take him to jail. Ms. Mills stated she believed there must be truth to the allegations commenting:

*"right I mean why else would he just get a ticket. I mean if you just get, if you seen a guy cut copper off of the main pole on a highway wouldn't you just take him to jail. He got a ticket so it was kind of like ok. He got a ticket and he didn't go to jail so I don't know if it's something I said or if it was just he was being lenient on David but..."*

Ms. Mills was asked if anyone had told her directly that they were having a sexual relationship with Deputy Rodriguez. Ms. Mills stated no one had told her directly, but that she had the feeling based on comments she heard. Ms. Mills stated she had been back on drugs at the time of the incident and that it was hard to remember. *(See Tab – E for Official Transcript)*

### **Kayla Cox**

On September 18, 2014, Lieutenant Paugh and Sergeant Tatum conducted a sworn, recorded interview with Kayla Cox, at Brewton Park, Deland, FL. The following is a summary of the interview:

Kayla Cox is currently unemployed, residing at 5605 Front Street, Deleon Springs, FL. Cox is admittedly a drug addict, and currently earns money by prostitution. Ms. Cox advised that she has been arrested by Deputy Rodriguez on several occasions and is familiar with him from patrolling the Deleon Springs area. Ms. Cox described Deputy Rodriguez as a good cop and treated her with respect. Ms. Cox denies having any sexual relationship with Deputy Rodriguez, and also denied discussing a sexual encounter involving Deputy Rodriguez with Matthew Cosimini. Ms. Cox stated she believed Mr. Cosimini was not being truthful in his report to law enforcement commenting:

*"I think he just bluntly made it up. Because maybe because he sees Rodriguez and how Rodriguez probably can't stand; Rodriguez probably can't stand him. He probably can't stand Rodriguez so I don't know why do people make up stuff so he probably master minded this or something. I mean shit I have no shame in my game. If I would have slept with him I*

*would have slept with him but no I didn't sleep with him."*

Ms. Cox stated that she was being truthful and that she would have disclosed any sexual interaction between her and Deputy Rodriguez commenting:

*"Hell yeah I'd tell y'all. Hell yeah I'd love to get a fucking cop in trouble. Shit...I actually think it's ridiculous you know what I'm saying like shit I'm a fucking prostitute. I'm gonna trick you know what I'm saying. I would have no problem being like yeah, fuck yeah I tricked with him. No I didn't. I would love to be able to say that. Y'all don't know how bad I would love to say that. To tell you that I'd be like yeah I fucked one of your officers. You know, no. Well I'm telling you it's not true you know what I'm saying. Like, like I said I would love to fucking tell you it was true. I wish I could. I wish it did happen you know to get one of y'all in trouble just for the way these men talk to you, you know like..."*

Ms. Cox denied any knowledge of Deputy Rodriguez giving special treatment to anyone in exchange for sexual favors. (See Tab - F for Official Transcript)

#### **Elizabeth Valenzuela**

On October 1, 2014, Lieutenant Paugh conducted a sworn, recorded interview with Elizabeth Valenzuela at the 101 N. Alabama Ave. (Deland Courthouse) Deland, FL. The following is a summary of that interview:

Ms. Valenzuela advised she was currently residing in a court appointed drug rehabilitation program, a sanction of her last arrest. Ms. Valenzuela acknowledged that she knew Deputy Rodriguez from seeing him patrol the Deleon Springs area and has been arrested by him in the past. Ms. Valenzuela stated that prior to her court appointed rehab, she was addicted to drugs and earning a living as a prostitute. Ms. Valenzuela advised she had never had a sexual relationship with Deputy Rodriguez and no knowledge of Deputy Rodriguez participating in any inappropriate behavior with prostitutes or drug dealers. Ms. Valenzuela advised Deputy Rodriguez was not known to give special treatment to anyone advising the word on the street was "watch out" because he would put you in jail.

Ms. Valenzuela advised Kayla Cox was her cousin and that she was known as a liar. Ms. Valenzuela stated that if Kayla had told anyone she had a sexual relationship with Deputy Rodriguez it would be to earn Kayla "street fame", commenting:

*"I could see her saying something like that though. I don't think she would say it to me because she's always like honest with me but I could see her saying it to like to get a little street fame or to look cool in front of other criminals."*

At the conclusion of the interview Lieutenant Paugh asked Ms. Valenzuela if she had any

additional comments or questions. Ms. Valenzuela stated the following:

*"No, just that I mean I don't believe it for a second. He's always like I said if he sees me he's like go home or like if he sees that I'm just like going through it been up for days. If he has confiscated cigarettes in the truck he'll give one like that's the most he's ever like but he's never asked for anything for it or never he just happens, I'll ask him I'll be like hey did you confiscate any cigarettes today you know just I've never he's always been like go home why are you out here? I would love for him to see me sober. I would. I would love for him to see me like this now because him and a couple of others have been a big part of it, me wanting to be sober."  
(See Tab – G for Official Transcript)*

### **Tonya Bennett**

On October 1, 2014, Lieutenant Paugh conducted a sworn, recorded statement with Miss Bennett at the 101 N. Alabama Ave. (Deland Courthouse) Deland, FL. The following is a summary of that interview:

Ms. Bennett advised she was currently residing in a court appointed drug rehabilitation program, a sanction of her last arrest. Ms. Bennett acknowledged that she knew Deputy Rodriguez from seeing him patrol the Deleon Springs area and has been arrested by him in the past. Ms. Bennett stated that prior to her court appointed rehab, she was addicted to drugs and earning a living as a prostitute. Ms. Bennett advised she had never had a sexual relationship with Deputy Rodriguez and no knowledge of Deputy Rodriguez participating in any inappropriate behavior with prostitutes or drug dealers. Ms. Bennett stated she had heard rumors about Deputy Rodriguez commenting:

*"I've heard stuff but I don't think it's true. But I don't think it's, I don't know, I don't believe it because he never tried me in any way so... In any sexual way or anything so.... I mean he just arrested me all the time and wanted any information on any other arrest is all what he discussed with me."*

Ms. Bennett advised the only person she heard say they had a sexual relationship with Deputy Rodriguez was Kayla Cox. Ms. Bennett indicated she did not believe Kayla commenting:

*"She would like brag about it but I didn't, I didn't believe her. I don't know we was high. I really don't remember. I just remember her bragging about it. I don't know like he would screw her in the cop car just shit like that. I don't, I don't believe her though. Like I don't believe, I don't believe any word she says so I never really like let my mind wonder with that so. I don't know. She says a lot of shit that ain't true so I don't believe her. I don't, She lies; I've caught her lying about anything and everything. Like her cousins got into a car accident. It wasn't true. Like just stupid shit*

*that she randomly lies. A compulsive liar and I don't believe anything she says so and he's never like came at me sideways so I kind of believe that it's not true."*

Ms. Bennett indicated in her interview that Deputy Rodriguez may have been sexually involved with two other acquaintances "Shoni" and "Jo Jo" based on things the two had said in the past. When asked to clarify Ms. Bennett stated:

*"They didn't say they were having sex with him but they would just say that he stopped by the house all the time. I mean I don't know I think he was probably out there trying to get dirt on people 'cause that's alls he ever wanted from me was for me to tell on people. And that was it."*

Ms. Bennett advised Deputy Rodriguez would always impose the charge of the crime she committed without leniency, commenting:

*"He always hit me with anything he could. That's why I'm in the STOP program with a ten year suspended sentence right now so he's, I mean he's always been a cop to me. I don't know about the other girls. I've heard allegations but..."*

Ms. Bennett confirmed that she had no firsthand knowledge of any of the allegations brought up in the interview, and anything she was familiar with was as a result of rumors being spread on the street. (See Tab – H for Official Transcript)

### **Mildred Laubenstein**

On November 13, 2014, Lieutenant Paugh and Sergeant Tatum conducted a sworn, recorded interview with Mildred Laubenstein, aka "JoJo", at the residence of 5605 Front Street, Deleon Springs, FL. The following is a summary of that interview:

Ms. Laubenstein stated she was currently in a romantic relationship with Shoni Maurelis, and the two reside together at 746 Johnson Lake Road, Deleon Springs. Ms. Laubenstein advised that she knew Deputy Rodriguez from being arrested by him in the past, and by his presence patrolling the area around her residence. Ms. Laubenstein advised that Deputy Rodriguez would come to her residence on different occasions, always acting in an official capacity. Ms. Laubenstein stated there were times Deputy Rodriguez would stop to speak with her and Shoni, but it was always while he was on duty, in his uniform. Ms. Laubenstein advised that Deputy Rodriguez would always attempt to ascertain information on criminal activity in the area when he stopped at her residence. Ms. Laubenstein stated Deputy Rodriguez never went into the home of 746 Johnson Lake Road, unless he was there to handle a disturbance or a call for service. Ms. Laubenstein described Deputy Rodriguez's visits as brief encounters, more of a community policing approach commenting:

*"I've never seen him outside of his uniform. I kind of want to know what*



*he looks like but I've never seen him. I'm sure he's always been on-duty I mean he's always had his car and his outfit on. I mean he never just stopped by to say hey how you doing? It was always a reason; a purpose to come by say you know this is what's going on or this is what's going on.*

Ms. Laubenstein stated she did not have any firsthand knowledge of Deputy Rodriguez having any inappropriate relationships with area prostitutes, but had heard that information as rumors on the street. Ms. Laubenstein believed Deputy Rodriguez to be professional commenting:

*"He's always been professional and always you know just asked us to get off the streets and said you know or asked us what's going on? The crime, did we want to talk? But he's never ever propositioned us. Never told us he'd take us in or wipe off our record or nothing. He's never ever done that. Never."*

Ms. Laubenstein stated she was never in a situation involving Deputy Rodriguez where he failed to criminally charge her for a crime she committed; however, advised that one of the rumors on the street involved Deputy Rodriguez reportedly not arresting Cassandra Taylor after catching her using illegal narcotics. Ms. Laubenstein stated she did not witness this, but had only heard this second and third hand. Ms. Laubenstein gave Lieutenant Paugh the current information on Cassandra Taylors' whereabouts to clarify the information. (See Tab - I for Official Transcript)

#### **Shoni Maurelis**

On November 13, 2014, Lieutenant Paugh and Sergeant Tatum conducted a sworn, recorded interview with Shoni Maurelis at the residence of 5605 Front Street. The following is a summary of that interview:

Ms. Maurelis advised she and Ms. Laubenstein were currently in a romantic relationship and reside together at 746 Johnson Lake Road, DeLeon Springs. Ms. Maurelis stated she knew Deputy Rodriguez from being arrested by him in the past, and by his presence patrolling in the area of her DeLeon Spring's residence.

Ms. Maurelis revealed during the interview that she did not personally care for Deputy Rodriguez and felt that he was "fake". Ms. Maurelis couldn't understand why he would stop by her house and ask questions, even after advising that she had given him information about people and crimes on several different occasions. Ms. Maurelis commented:

*"Sometimes he'd just be coming by to see how I was doing and to see what hey how are you? It was weird to me. I told you he's weird. He would pull up in the driveway over there on Johnson Lake and he would just pull up what are doing? How have you been? You staying out of trouble? Yeah I never, I don't know, he's just fake to me. I didn't ever*

*understand, understand him. I didn't know what he was doing. He's weird to me. I don't know if it's because my mental health issues or what but it's just he's weird to me."*

All the information relayed by Ms. Maurelis was second and third hand information gathered through rumors being spread on the street. Ms. Maurelis did not have any firsthand knowledge of Deputy Rodriguez engaging in inappropriate relationships with prostitutes, or failing to charge criminals with appropriate crimes. Ms. Maurelis made statements about Deputy Rodriguez trying to date women Michelle Segura was prostituting from a "Back Page" internet site, but again stated this was hearsay.

*(See Tab - J for Official Transcript)*

### **Cassandra Taylor**

On November 13, 2014, Lieutenant Paugh conducted a sworn, recorded interview with Cassandra Taylor at her residence of 4907 Billings Avenue, Deleon Springs, FL. The following is a summary of that interview:

Ms. Taylor advised that she knew Deputy Rodriguez from his presence patrolling in the Deleon Springs area and he had arrested her in the past. Ms. Taylor stated she was familiar with the allegations made against Deputy Rodriguez regarding inappropriate relationships with prostitutes, only learning of them after being contacted by investigators from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). Ms. Taylor advised that she has never had any sexual contact with Deputy Rodriguez, nor had any firsthand knowledge of Deputy Rodriguez having inappropriate relations with any known prostitutes.

Ms. Taylor did confirm that there was an incident involving Deputy Rodriguez where he walked into the female bathroom of the Valero gas station in Deleon Springs just after she had injected herself with Dilaudid. Ms. Taylor stated Deputy Rodriguez did not witness her inject the drug and that she was placing the needle and spoon in her purse as he entered the restroom. Ms. Taylor stated she did not have any additional drugs on her when he made contact with her. Ms. Taylor stated that she had just got all her teeth pulled and had advised Deputy Rodriguez of that. Ms. Taylor stated Deputy Rodriguez lectured her and told her that he should take her to jail, but instead told her to go home, which she did. Ms. Taylor advised that she had a prescription for the Dilaudid but it was not on her at the time, and that injecting it was not the recommended manner of ingestion.

Ms. Taylor advised that after FDLE had interviewed her there were multiple rumors circulating on the streets about Deputy Rodriguez but nothing she could confirm, or had knowledge of firsthand.

Ms. Taylor stated all contacts she had with Deputy Rodriguez were professional, commenting:

*" he was always in his cop car. He was always in uniform. It was always*

*in public so it's not like you know if anything was said there was other people around that can you know what I mean." (See Tab – K for Official Transcript)*

### **Jason Puckett**

On November 18, 2014, Lieutenant Paugh and Sergeant Sawicki conducted a sworn, recorded interview with Jason Puckett at his residence of 809 Black Welder Road, Deleon Springs, FL. The following is a summary of that interview:

Mr. Puckett advised that he knows Deputy Rodriguez from seeing him patrol the Deleon Springs area. Mr. Puckett advised that he has never been arrested by Deputy Rodriguez and does not believe he has arrested any of his friends. Mr. Puckett described Deputy Rodriguez as "fair" commenting:

*"He's always been you know pretty fair with me being a cop. He's not being with the bullshit you know what I mean not, not being petty. Not harassing us and stuff like that he's always fair. You did something wrong you knew he was coming you know he was fair.*

Lieutenant Paugh asked Mr. Puckett if he recalled speaking with Investigator Vega about Deputy Rodriguez. Mr. Puckett did in fact recall the conversation and advised he was just saying what he thought would help his situation at the time commenting:

*"As far as him being affiliated with drug cartel and all that. He use to come up to the house that I was staying at. There was some Mexicans up there. I guess he talked to a few of them. It doesn't mean he was affiliated. I was trying to get out of trouble. I have sale and delivery of cocaine. They wanted me to tell them stuff and Matt wanted this information, I had part of the information and I was sticking other things it could have been, but might not have been and I might have said some things that weren't exactly um... Weren't accurate. I don't want to say they were truthful. In my mind it's just what might have been you see I'm trying to paint a picture for them to get out of jail. "*

Mr. Puckett stated that he never saw Deputy Rodriguez engage in any criminal activity and that he was familiar with the rumors being spread about Deputy Rodriguez. Mr. Puckett commented:

*"Yeah, yeah it's all bullshit. Yeah it was just the people lying. He never did. He was friendly with them yeah 'cause that's how he got his information I guess from the area. He would be nice to the prostitutes and stuff but nah he never, nah never, never. I would have heard. The girls would have said for sure. They never did. Not one of them did."*

Mr. Puckett stated Deputy Rodriguez was always professional and when he saw him it always appeared he was on duty, in a uniform, and in a marked patrol car. *(See Tab – L for Official Transcript)*

### **Michelle Segura**

On November 15, 2014, Lieutenant Paugh and Sergeant Sawicki conducted a sworn, recorded interview with Michelle Segura at her residence of 1525 Reynolds Road, Deleon Springs, FL. The following is a summary of that interview:

Mrs. Segura advised she knew Deputy Rodriguez from patrolling her neighborhood. Mrs. Segura denied any sexual contact between her and Deputy Rodriguez, and that she had heard rumors that Deputy Rodriguez was sleeping with area prostitutes. Mrs. Segura stated Deputy Rodriguez never solicited her for sex, and had no firsthand knowledge of Deputy Rodriguez ever foregoing an arrest to personally benefit from it.

Mrs. Segura was asked about her involvement in a stolen property investigation Deputy Rodriguez conducted regarding two stolen televisions. Mrs. Segura advised she was a State's witness in that case and had provided a sworn witness statement that she had no direct knowledge the televisions were stolen, and had not engaged in any form of drug transaction with the suspects as alleged by Shoni Maurelis.

Mrs. Segura was asked about her participation in the 100 Kids/100 Deputies program put on by the Volusia County Sheriff's Office. Mrs. Segura advised she overheard Deputy Rodriguez talking to another selected family and asked Deputy Rodriguez if he could submit her name since her family was on hard times. Mrs. Segura stated she was surprised that she was able to attend since Deputy Rodriguez initially told her that he would submit her name, but believed it may have already been too late.

Mrs. Segura was asked about Deputy Rodriguez purchasing livestock from her. Mrs. Segura stated that on one occasions Deputy Rodriguez purchased five (5) chickens from her for twenty (20) dollars. Mrs. Segura stated Deputy Rodriguez came to her home at the end of his shift, she placed the chickens in a small cage and he was reportedly purchasing them for his uncle.

Mrs. Segura stated that she had no knowledge of a "back page" ad, and that Deputy Rodriguez never solicited her to set him up on a date. Mrs. Segura stated that she would describe the relationship she had with Deputy Rodriguez as professionally based, and had seen him one time while he was off duty in Target. Mrs. Segura stated she wasn't sure if he even recognized her. *(See Tab – M for Official Transcript)*

### **Deputy Julio "Oscar" Rodriguez**

On December 16, 2014, Lieutenant Paugh and Sergeant Sawicki conducted a sworn,

recorded interview with Deputy Rodriguez within the Sheriff's conference room, in the County Administration building, DeLand, FL. The following is a summary of the interview:

Deputy Rodriguez has been with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office for approximately four years and is currently assigned to Judicial Services responsible for prisoner transport within the Deland Courthouse.

Deputy Rodriguez stated that between the dates of January 2013 and October 2013, he was assigned to District 2 patrol, working predominately in the DeLeon Springs area (22 zone). Deputy Rodriguez stated that he was familiar with all of the subjects named in this investigation, and that he has had contacts with them through the course of official business.

Deputy Rodriguez denied any sexual contact between himself and Kayla Cox, Tonya Bennett, Elizabeth Valenzuela, Shoni Aurelis, Mildred Laubenstein, or Michelle Segura. Deputy Rodriguez advised that he had multiple contacts with these subjects while assigned to 22 zone in effort to obtain information about criminal activity within Volusia County, or to effect arrests. Deputy Rodriguez denied ever receiving sexual favors in lieu of making an arrest, and had never witnessed a crime that he elected not make an arrest on.

Deputy Rodriguez was able to recall the arrest he made on David Alligood for the theft of copper. Deputy Rodriguez explained that he charged Mr. Alligood with misdemeanor theft, and issued a Notice to Appear (NTA). Deputy Rodriguez elected not to transport him to the Volusia County Branch Jail at his own discretion. Deputy Rodriguez does not recall Danielle Mills ever claiming to have information about Deputy Rodriguez that she wanted to divulge to his supervisor. Deputy Rodriguez stated his supervisor; Sergeant Maddox, was on scene during this call. Deputy Rodriguez advised that he did not see Mr. Alligood commit the crime; however, Mr. Alligood admitted to the crime and has always been a good source of information in the past.

Deputy Rodriguez stated that he considered his relationship with the subjects named in this investigation professionally based. Deputy Rodriguez advised these subjects were not his friends and were a source of information to help prevent and solve crime. Deputy Rodriguez stated that all contacts made with these subjects were always in an official capacity and never while off duty.

When questioned, Deputy Rodriguez had the following responses as to whether he felt he violated the following policies:

**Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations 86-453 (13)**  
*(See Tab - N for Complete Transcript)*

No

An AVL history for Deputy Rodriguez did not reveal any impropriety or segment of concern. Deputy Rodriguez was shown in the various locations stated in this investigation, but proved to be at said locations, conducting official business.

*(See Tab – P for Digital Media)*

**CONCLUSION:**

On January 15, 2015, this investigation was presented to the Sheriff and his administrative staff. After review, the Sheriff determined the violation of the below listed Department Standards Directive to be:

**Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations 86-453 (13)** - Any conduct, on or off duty, that reflects unfavorably on the County as an employer. This violation may be sufficient grounds for disciplinary action ranging from oral reprimand to dismissal, depending on the seriousness of the offense and other circumstances related to the situation. *(This violation may be sufficient grounds for disciplinary action ranging from oral reprimand to dismissal, depending on the seriousness of the offense and other circumstances related to the situation.)*

**Unfounded**

**EXHIBITS:**

- A. Report Of Investigation
- B. Official Correspondence
- C. Complaint – Investigator Vega’s Notes and FDLE Investigative Report
- D. Advisement Administration Of Oath/Perjury Warning/Garrity Warning
- E. Official Transcripts Of Danielle Mills
- F. Official Transcript Of Kayla Cox
- G. Official Transcript Of Elizabeth Valenzuela
- H. Official Transcript Of Tonya Bennett
- I. Official Transcript Of Mildred Laubenstein
- J. Official Transcript Of Shoni Maurelis
- K. Official Transcript Of Cassandra Taylor
- L. Official Transcript of Jason Puckett
- M. Official Transcript of Michelle Segura
- N. Official Transcript Of Deputy Julio Rodriguez
- O. Miscellaneous Documents
- P. Digital Media

**Witnesses:**

Danielle Mills  
4900 Grand Avenue  
Deleon Springs, FL

Kayla Cox  
5605 Front Street  
Deleon Springs, FL

Elizabeth Valenzuela  
311 Lake Mamie Rd.  
Deland, FL

Tonya Bennett  
4704 Blue Heron Place  
Deleon Springs, FL

Mildred Laubenstein  
746 Johnson Lake Rd.  
Deleon Springs, FL

Shoni Maurelis  
746 Johnson Lake Rd.  
Deleon Springs, FL

Cassandra Taylor  
4907 Billings Ave.  
Deleon Springs, FL

Jason Puckett  
809 Black Welder Rd.  
Deleon Springs, FL

Michelle Segura  
1525 Reynolds Rd.  
Deleon Springs, FL



I, the undersigned, do hereby swear, under the 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 suspect of the investigation of any rights contained in ss. 112.532 and 112.533, Florida Statutes.

INVESTIGATOR:  DATE: 1-16-15  
Lieutenant Jessica Paugh  
Internal Affairs Investigator

APPROVED BY:  DATE: 1/16/15  
Chief Deputy Mike Coffin  
SHERIFF BEN E. JOHNSON  
VOLUSIA COUNTY FLORIDA