

Andrew A. Bain STATE ATTORNEY

NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ORANGE AND OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

M. Ryan Williams CHIEF ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY

Jamie McManus DEPUTY CHIEF ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY

Kamilah Perry EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GENERAL COUNSEL

October 21, 2024

City of Kissimmee Mike Steigerwald Chief Betty Holland Deputy Chief Wilson Munoz 8 North Stewart Avenue Kissimmee, FL 34741

Dear Mr. Steigerwald, Chief Holland, and Deputy Chief Munoz:

I am writing today to raise concerns about the truthfulness and conduct of specific Kissimmee Police Department ("Department") personnel and to request formal internal investigations into these matters.

The Office of the State Attorney ("Office"), under the leadership of State Attorney Andrew Bain, instituted a *Brady* Identification System in response to our obligations as prosecutors under *Brady* v. *Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963) and Florida Statute § 112.536 (2024). The *Brady* Identification system requires our Office to "inform defense counsel via notice of the existence of information [including] . . . all sustained findings in personnel records for untruthfulness" and "any other information the SAO9 learns and believes affects the credibility and/or truthfulness of a recurring state witness." Together, these obligations require the Office of the State Attorney to notify a law enforcement agency if such information about its employees comes to our attention.

Last week you received the Osceola County Grand Jury's presentment with facts, findings, and recommendations resulting from the Grand Jury's investigation into your department. The investigation began due to Officer Andrew Baseggio's use of force in April of 2023, but, as additional evidence came to light, expanded its focus into systemic issues within the Department. The State Attorney's Office eventually conducted twenty (20) interviews with current and former members of the Department. We obtained evidence in the form of sworn testimony, forensic cell data, and records obtained from requests made pursuant to Chapter 119.

We believe that some of the evidence obtained in the investigation described above potentially affects the credibility of recurring state witnesses employed by the Department. Rather than making unilateral credibility determinations, and to allow the Department to comply with Florida Statute §§ 112.533(4) and 112.536(b), we are notifying you of the officers about whom concerns exists. Included in this letter is a brief description of the evidence supporting these concerns. Once you review the list below, please reach out to either me or *Brady* Administrator David Allmond and we will provide you with the interviews or other evidence described as to each employee so you may conduct the appropriate investigation.

The list of recurring witnesses and evidence is as follows:

- (1) **Deputy Chief Camille Alicea:** Deputy Chief Alicea provided testimony in a sworn interview recorded on September 5, 2024, regarding her initial review of the Response to Resistance ("RTR") involving Andrew Baseggio in April of 2023. Emails received in response to public records requests and addressing this topic call the accuracy or veracity of her statements in the interview into question.
- (2) Lieutenant Omar Berrio: Lt. Berrio was asked about his role in the Baseggio use of force review and his submission of the Initial Notice of Inquiry ("INOI") in a sworn interview conducted on July 17, 2024. In his testimony, Lt. Berrio stated unequivocally that he immediately recognized that Baseggio's use of force was not within Department policy. Emails received in response to public records requests call the accuracy or veracity of his statements in the interview into question.
- (3) Officer Andrew Baseggio: Officer Baseggio admitted in his sworn proffer interview that he falsified information in his initial report documenting his involvement in the April 2023 use of force on Sean Kastner. Officer Baseggio further admitted that he solicited a fellow officer to commit perjury. Officer Baseggio's proffer interview should be reviewed further for additional truthfulness matters.
- (4) *Corporal Takeya Close:* Some of Corporal Close's statements in her sworn interview conducted on August 14, 2024, regarding her RTR Report on Officer Baseggio's use of force are inconsistent with responses to public records requests received by the Office of the State Attorney in the form of emails and other documents. These statements and documents call the accuracy or veracity of her statements in the interview into question.
- (5) Sergeant Moises Diaz: Sergeant Diaz deliberately locked his agency phone to deny access to it by the Office of the State Attorney despite being directed by Chief Holland to provide said access. Sergeant Diaz also provided sworn testimony in his August 13, 2024, interview that is inconsistent with testimony provided by other members of the Department, calling the accuracy and veracity of his statements under oath into question.
- (6) **Detective Jonathan Fernandez:** In his June 27, 2024, sworn interview, Detective Fernandez denied knowledge of several conversations and interactions with other members of the Department regarding Officer Baseggio's use of force. Detective Fernandez sat for a second interview on July 23, 2024, wherein he admitted to providing untruthful testimony during his first interview.
- (7) **Sergeant Raquel Fernandez:** Text messages recovered from the phone of Officer Milagros Sanchez indicate Sergeant Fernandez instructed Officer Sanchez not to cooperate, or cooperate fully, in her interview with the Office of the State Attorney.
- (8) Chief Betty Holland: Chief Holland gave a voluntary, sworn interview on September 27, 2024. Statements she made in her interview are inconsistent with other sworn testimony received from witnesses, most specifically, Lieutenant Brandin Suarez.

These inconsistencies call the accuracy or veracity of her statements in the interview into question.

- (9) Corporal Justin Lunsford: Corporal Lunsford provided sworn testimony in recorded interviews conducted on August 19, 2024 and September 19, 2024. Corporal Lunsford acknowledged that he took actions in his role in Internal Affairs that demonstrated poor judgment considering the sensitive matters he is charged with handling. He also omitted important facts in his first interview that he only provided upon specific questioning in his second interview in September.
- (10) Officer Milagros "Millie" Sanchez: Officer Sanchez provided sworn testimony in two recorded interviews conducted on July 3, 2024 and September 16, 2024. Officer Sanchez acknowledged in her second interview that she had intentionally provided false, misleading, or incomplete answers during her July interview. Text messages recovered from Officer Sanchez's phone contain statements that may constitute criminal conduct. Additionally, text messages found in Officer Sanchez's phone contain language and references to citizens that demonstrate a bias that calls into question her fitness to conduct criminal investigations.
- (11) *Officer Michael Strickland:* Text messages found in Officer Sanchez's phone from Officer Strickland contain language and references to citizens that demonstrate bias that calls into question his fitness to conduct criminal investigations.

Once our office receives the results of your investigations, we will determine whether any of the Department witnesses listed above should be included in the *Brady* Identification System. The absence of any investigation will result in our office making these decisions with the evidence currently in our possession.

Sincerely.

M. Ryan Williams

Chief Assistant State Attorney

Ninth Judicial Circuit