



RICHMOND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Richard Roundtree

Law Enforcement Center

400 Walton Way

Augusta, GA 30901

Phone: 706.821.1000 Fax: 706.821.1064

STANDARD COMPLAINT FORM

Your complaint will be forwarded to the employee's supervisor for inquiry or to the Internal Affairs Office. If your concern stems from an arrest or citation issued, it may not be investigated until the legal matter has been resolved. Questions concerning the complaint process may be directed to the Internal Affairs Office at (706) 821-1004.

Complaint Control #

22-10-15

Complainant's Name:

RCSO

Race & Sex:

Age:

Home Address:

Phone:

City:

State:

Email:

Witness's Name:

Race & Sex:

Age:

Home Address:

Phone:

City:

State:

Email:

Date/Time Incident Occurred:

Location:

How Complaint was received: In Person

Phone

Email

Mail

Deputy/Employee Involved:

Diana Santiago

Deputy/Employee Involved:

Deputy/Employee Involved:

Deputy/Employee Involved:

Give a brief narrative of events that lead to the complaint. You may add additional sheets if necessary.



Supervisor/Investigative Comments.

Disposition of Complaint:

Sustained

Complaint Received by:

Lt. K. Lee

Unit#

A12

Date:

10/26/2022



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Phone: 706.821.1000 Fax: 706.821.1064

DEPUTY: Diana Santiago

EMPLOYEE ID: 19846

DATE OF 05/20/2022 –

VIOLATION: 10/25/2022

VIOLATION OF S.O.P.

#: 4.25 Person(s) of Questionable Character

On Friday, October 21, 2022, it was brought to the Internal Affairs Division that Deputy Diana Santiago was involved in a romantic relationship with an incarcerated person that is currently housed in another Georgia county on pending charges out of Richmond County. On Monday, October 24, 2022, after positive identification and obtaining the subject's inmate records, it was confirmed through text messages, video visitation and visitation records that Deputy Santiago is in a relationship with an incarcerated subject. This subject was arrested and charged with felony drug charges on May 25, 2022, in Greene County (GA). This subject also has pending felony charges in Richmond County from a homicide that occurred in February 2021. It was also confirmed that this subject is a convicted felon.

On Tuesday, October 25, 2022, Deputy Santiago spoke with an Internal Affairs Investigator and confirmed that she was in a romantic relationship with an incarcerated person. Deputy Santiago met this subject while he was out on bond, and she denied she knew his status at the time they started talking. Deputy Santiago advised that she was informed by her partner that he was familiar with the subject she was talking to from G-Pod at the CBWDC. Deputy Santiago admitted to searching his profile in LERMS and she was aware of his pending charges. Deputy Santiago advised that a few weeks after they began talking, she was informed by an acquaintance of his that he was arrested. Deputy Santiago was fully aware of his current drug charges and continued her relationship with him because she felt that his charges had nothing to do with her. Deputy Santiago was informed by IA that her relationship was against RCSO policy. Deputy Santiago made the decision to terminate her relationship and to not have contact with him directly or indirectly.

Deputy Santiago, your decision to enter a consensual relationship with a person after you were aware of his pending and current felony charges goes against policy. Your actions have the tendency to destroy/erode the public's respect for employees and confidence in RCSO.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION INITIATED

BY:

INTERNAL AFFAIRS LT. KIM LEE

DATE: 10-25-2022

PROPOSED

ACTION:

1 DAY Suspension, 6 mts. probation, No Contact w/inmate, his co-defendants/associates or family members.



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REVIEWED BY: (IF APPLICABLE)

CORPORAL: _____

SERGEANT: _____

LIEUTENANT: _____

CAPTAIN: _____

MAJOR: _____

COLONEL: _____

CHIEF DEPUTY: _____

SHERIFF: _____

DATE: _____

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree

DATE: _____

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree

DATE: _____

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree

DATE: _____

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree

DATE: _____

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree

DATE: 10/28/22

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree

DATE: 10/31/22

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree

DATE: 10/31/22

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree

SHERIFF'S OR DESIGNEE RECOMMENDATION:

As Stated Above

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE: _____

Diana Rattray

Advised of 45 days Appeal rights
Given Lauderhill hearing for justification/
mitigation.

IA CONTROL #

22-10-15

IA CONTROL #: 22-10-15

COMPLAINANT: RCSO

COMPLAINT: 4.25 Person(s) of Questionable Character

DEPUTY(S) INVOLVED: Diana Santiago

INCIDENT DATE: May 20, 2022 – October 25, 2022

INVESTIGATOR: Lt. Kimberly Lee

Friday, October 21, 2022

1639 hours

Lt. Kimberly Lee received a telephone call from Captain Gerald Metzler, and he advised that he was made aware that Deputy Diana Santiago may be in a relationship with an inmate (later identified as Rahim Brown) that was currently incarcerated in another county on pending Richmond County charges. Cpt. Metzler advised that the person that brought this to their attention may have text messages that corroborates the allegations. There was immediate concern because Rahim Brown has co-defendants housed at the Charles B. Webster Detention Center and Deputy Santiago may attempt to work extra duty so that she can have contact with them to pass messages to them. Lt. K. Lee verified that Deputy Santiago did not work the weekend and her regular shift starts Monday, October 24, 2022. Lt. K. Lee advised Cpt. Metzler that she would contact the CBWDC to see if she was on schedule to work and she would contact Sheriff Roundtree to notify him of the allegations.

1646 hours

Lt. K. Lee made telephone contact with Sheriff Roundtree and briefed him on the allegations. Sheriff Roundtree advised Lt. K. Lee to see if Deputy Santiago was scheduled to work at the CBWDC this weekend and if she was on the schedule that she works in an area where she would have no contact with male inmates. An IA investigation into the allegations could start on Monday, October 24, 2022.

1701 hours

Lt. K. Lee contacted Captain Everett Jenkins, and she inquired about Deputy Santiago and if she was on the schedule to work this weekend. Cpt. Jenkins advised that he did not see her on the schedule. Lt. K. Lee advised Cpt. Jenkins that if anything changes over the weekend to contact her and that Deputy Santiago is not to work in an area where she is in contact with male inmates.

Lt. K. Lee advised Sheriff Roundtree of this communication.

1752 hours

Lt. K. Lee contacted Cpt. Metzler and she advised him of the communication she had with Sheriff Roundtree and Cpt. Jenkins.

Monday, October 24, 2022

0900 hours

Lt. K. Lee met with confidential source and was advised that they had information that Deputy Santiago was in a relationship with Rahim Brown who they knew from G-Pod at the CBWDC. Lt. K. Lee searched Rahim Brown in LERMS and located a booking photograph and the confidential source verified that was the same Rahim Brown he knew Deputy Santiago to be in a relationship with. The confidential source also said that they knew that Deputy Santiago has had contact with Rahim Brown's co-defendants that are inmates at the CBWDC and Rahim Brown's father. The confidential source did not know their names but was aware that Deputy Santiago passed along case information. The confidential source stated that Santiago worked at the CBWDC as part of her normal shift not extra duty, and she could often be found outside of her assigned area on F-Pod and G-Pod. The confidential source advised that Rahim Brown is currently incarcerated at Greene County Sheriff's Office and Deputy Santiago met Rahim Brown in Augusta not while he was incarcerated at the CBWDC.

0930 hours

Lt. K. Lee concluded interview with confidential source.

Lt. K. Lee researched and learned the following information:

Deputy Diana Santiago was hired on 05/16/2020 and she is currently assigned on Road Patrol on Zone 2, Sgt. Trimmingham is her immediate supervisor. Deputy Santiago is not currently on probation and has only one DR - Reporting for Duty on 08/31/2020 where she received written counseling.

Rahim Brown is a suspect in homicide case (2021-034423) and was arrested along with Ashton Rouse and Devonte West on 02/05/2022 and charged with Murder, Armed Robbery, Aggravated Assault and Possession of Marijuana (felony). On 08/27/2022, Rahim Brown was released on bond and used the address 3614 Malborne Drive (30906) on his bond paperwork. Rahim Brown's address on the warrant and incident report is 125 Wisham Road, Thomson, GA; neither address is connected to Deputy Santiago. Ashston Rouse and Devonte West are both housed at the CBWDC and assigned to G-Pod.

1207 hours

Lt. K. Lee made telephone contact with Major Stevie Griffin, Greene County SO Detention Center. It was confirmed that Rahim Brown is an inmate at their facility. Lt. K. Lee later spoke with Lt. Vivian Ashley-Mayweather, and she was able to provide text messages from inmate's tablet, video visitation from inmates HomeWav account and his booking information. The calls and text records can only go back 90 days and any request prior to those

records, they would have to be obtained through a subpoena. Lt. K. Lee found that Rahmin Brown was arrested and booked at the GCSO on 05/25/2022 at 1951 hours. Rahim Brown was arrested on the following charges: Trafficking in Cocaine, Illegal Drugs, Marijuana, or Methamphetamine, Fentanyl (1ct); Possession of Cocaine (1ct); Purchase, Possession, Manufacture, Distribution, or SA of Marijuana (mis) (1ct), Possession of THC Oil Cartridges (1ct) and Possession of Methamphetamine (1ct).

Diana Santiago is listed as an active visitor, and she is listed as Rahmin Brown's Wife.

In speaking with Lt. Ashley-Mayweather, it was advised that it was known around the jail that Rahim Brown was in a relationship with a deputy. A review of the text messages it was clear that Deputy Santiago was involved in a romantic relationship with Rahim Brown. There was no evidence that Deputy Santiago used her position to provide Rahim Brown any confidential or privileged information in his case. It appeared that she was putting money on his account and made or tried to contact his attorney.

After a review of video visitation, Deputy Santiago is in uniform on some calls. She was working a road race on one call where she turned the camera so that Rahim Brown could view the streets, she was also working a special at a skating rink. She also was on a video call where it appears she had cleared from a call where she shared details of that call to Rahim Brown. Other times Deputy Santiago is at her residence. On the calls, there was no discussion of contacting any co-defendant or any request for Deputy Santiago to be involved in any illegal activity.

An audit on Rahim Brown's LERMS profile found Deputy Santiago viewed it on 05/20/2022, Rahim Brown was out on bond at this time. The next time she viewed his profile was on 05/27/2022, after he was incarcerated at the GCSO and on 05/31/2022 and 06/05/2022. Deputy Santiago viewed Ashston Rouse's LERMS profile on 06/21/2022. Deputy Santiago had not viewed Devonte West's LERMS profile.

A Criminal history check confirmed Rahim Brown's current and pending charges and confirmed his convicted felon status.

Lt. K. Lee advised Sheriff Roundtree of her finding and he advised to set up an interview with Deputy Santiago.

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

0900 Hours

Lt. K. Lee made telephone contact with Lt. Adams and asked that he contact Deputy Santiago and have her report to IA at 1500 hours.

1445 hours

Lt. K. Lee met with Deputy Santiago in her office. Lt. K. Lee introduced herself and advised Deputy Santiago that there were allegations that she was in a relationship with someone

incarcerated. Lt. K. Lee allowed Deputy Santiago to read the following before continuing with the interview:

Association with Undesirables - Employees will avoid regular association with persons who are convicted felons, whom they know or should reasonably know to be persons under criminal investigation or indictment or who have a reputation in the community for present involvement in criminal behavior, except as necessary for the performance of official duties or where unavoidable because of other personal relationships. No employee will knowingly become a member of or become connected with any subversive organization, as defined by the U.S. Department of Justice, except, when necessary, in the performance of duty and then only under the direction of the Sheriff. Employees will refrain from joining or affiliating with any organization, association or group whose constitution or bylaws in any manner enact allegiance which would prevent a full performance of duty.

Lt. K. Lee advised Deputy Santiago that the interview would be audio recorded and the Garrity Warning was read to Deputy Santiago, and she agreed to speak with Lt. K. Lee. A synopsis of that interview is as follows:

Deputy Santiago advised that she met Rahim Brown while at the Augusta Mall about 5-6 months ago but stated that she does not remember exactly when they met and that they exchanged telephone numbers and they started talking on the telephone. Deputy Santiago stated that she told her partner about Rahim Brown, and he told her that he was familiar with Rahim Brown from G-Pod. Deputy Santiago stated that Rahim Brown disappeared about two weeks into them talking and three weeks later a friend of Rahim Brown advised her that "KB" (Brown) was locked-up.

Deputy Santiago was aware that Rahim Brown was arrested in Greene County on Trafficking charges, but that charge had nothing to do with her. When asked about the pending charges in Richmond County, Deputy Santiago admitted to looking Brown up in LERMS but again stated that the charges were unrelated to her, so she continued her relationship. Deputy Santiago stated that she does not know of his guilt or innocence.

Lt. K. Lee advised Deputy Santiago that she has read text messages and viewed video calls between her and Rahim Brown that it was evident that they were in a romantic relationship. Deputy Santiago did not deny. Lt. K. Lee advised Deputy Santiago that at this point it appears that she has violated policy and nothing criminal. Lt. K. Lee advised Deputy Santiago that it was known that she looked up Rahim Brown and Ashton Rouse in LERMS. Deputy Santiago was asked if she looked up Rahim Brown or any of his co-defendants in GCIC and Deputy Santiago denied. Deputy Santiago advised that she looked up Rouse because of an article she saw. Lt. K. Lee asked her about any personal contact with any co-defendant or associate at the CBWDC of Rahim Brown and she denied. Deputy Santiago later corrected herself and said that she does go to other POD mainly in the towers to speak to other Deputies. She stated that she also assisted with a call on G-Pod. When asked, Deputy Santiago said that she would not be seen on the pod speaking directly to any co-defendant or associates of Rahim Brown.

For further details – refer to the audio recording.

Note: Lt. K. Lee escorted Deputy Santiago outside of the office and met with Sheriff Roundtree and Colonel Calvin Chew and briefed them on the interview. Lt. K. Lee was instructed to see if Deputy Santiago wanted to continue to pursue her relationship with Rahmin Brown. After speaking with Deputy Santiago, she advised that she was going to break-up with Rahim Brown but asked if she could have a closure, break-up call.

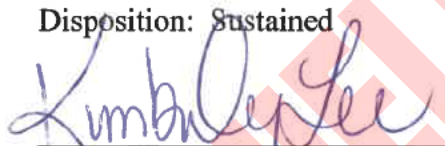
Lt. K. Lee consulted with Sheriff Roundtree and Col. Chew, and they instructed Lt. K. Lee that Deputy Santiago could have her closure call in the presence of Lt. K. Lee and that after she cannot have any further contact with Rahim Brown. Lt. K. Lee advised Deputy Santiago and she attempted to contact Rahim Brown via text message and asked him to call her. Deputy Santiago waited in Lt. K. Lee's office for approximately 15-20 minutes waiting on Brown to call. At 1558 hours, Deputy Santiago advised that she had to pick up her daughter for school. Lt. K. Lee provided Deputy Santiago her business card and advised her that she is to have no further contact directly or indirectly with Rahim Brown and if she changed her mind or have any questions to call Lt. K. Lee.

1559 hours

Lt. K. Lee attempted to make telephone contact with Lt. Ashley-Mayweather to advise her that Deputy Santiago was to have no contact with Brown directly or indirectly but received her voicemail. Lt. K. Lee later emailed Lt. Ashley-Mayweather in case any incidents occurred at their detention center because of this action.

Policy: 4.25 Person(s) of Questionable Character: An employee will not fraternize with or associate themselves in a personal, social, or financial relationship with any person(s) of questionable character. An employee will not idle or loiter in or around a place of ill-repute or a place of questionable reputation.

Disposition: Sustained


Lt. Kimberly Lee A-12


10/26/2022