

CITY OF SUNRISE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE - ANTHONY W. ROSA



January 18, 2022

Sergeant Steven Negrón
FOP Lodge 80 President
PO Box 450086
Sunrise, FL 33345

Dear President Negrón and FOP Lodge 80 Executive Board Members,

I am in receipt of your letter dated January 17, 2022 regarding FOP concerns related to the internal affairs investigation into an incident of alleged misconduct that was brought to the Department's attention.

As you are aware, it is the responsibility of the Chief of Police to ensure that the City of Sunrise community has full faith and confidence in our ability to provide professional and transparent policing. This responsibility is not only to the residents of Sunrise but also to the men and women of our police department. It is also the responsibility of the Chief of Police to ensure that all Department members are protected against workplace violence that includes both physical and emotional attacks.

For many years our practice has been to be open and transparent with our employees whenever possible. This has included the chief and/or his staff attending briefings and speaking with everyone when controversial situations arise within the department. Many times, the things discussed during these briefings are intended to address those who might otherwise openly talk about situations that they did not witness. These briefings are an attempt to inform and control the spreading of misinformation and rumors before they become so egregious that those spreading the misinformation may also violate our policy.

Immediately after being informed of and seeing the video in question, I initiated an investigation into the matter. As you are aware, that investigation is on-going and any subject members will be afforded all due process and an opportunity to explain their actions.

As we have in prior situations, myself and my staff also attended briefings to control the spreading of misinformation and rumors within the Department due to the nature of the incident and due to the emotional responses relayed to me by some Department members which created a concern for the safety and wellbeing of several officers. This concern was heightened by some statements made by other officers during my visit to at least one of the briefings. I want to emphasize that it



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is one of my highest responsibilities to ensure safe working conditions for all employees and I will not waiver from that obligation no matter who is involved.

The facts provided by myself and my staff during the briefings included information that was successful in quelling some of the rumors and false information that was previously spreading. Unfortunately, confidential information was leaked to the media by someone. This information was placed into the public realm and therefore required a response to address the public records request about an issue that has created and undoubtedly will remain of great public concern.

It is important to also note that the Sunrise Police Department has had a duty to intervene since at least 1987 in various written forms. As mentioned in your letter, in May of 2021, the Department updated policy and procedures and Department members acknowledged receipt of the most recent version that includes policies related to the duty to intervene, which include but are not limited to the following policies:

19.6.3.21. Officers will not allow a prisoner in their custody, or the custody of another, to be physically or emotionally abused.

19.6.3.22. Upon a member witnessing the application of unnecessary and/or excessive force, or the application of force when it is no longer required, the member shall immediately intervene to either stop or attempt to stop the act when it is safe and reasonable to do so.

19.6.3.22.1. Members shall intervene to stop any other action by another law enforcement officer or department member that violates state or federal law or Department policy, rule or regulation when it is safe and reasonable to do so.

19.6.3.22.2. Members shall report any unnecessary force, excessive force and any other action that violates state or federal law or Department policy, rule or regulation to their supervisor, as soon as practical following the incident.

In addition to members receiving the policy and associated training, during the 2021 training cycle members of the Sunrise Police Department were provided direct and specific training regarding de-escalation and their duty to intervene during a class that was taught primarily by the Internal Affairs Lieutenant.

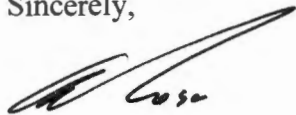
I am also confident that the Department's Field Training Officer program is appropriately training about our duty to intervene since policy training is integral to the development of new employees. If you continue to have any concerns regarding any training, please be assured that the Department has already been preparing to provide additional advanced training to supplement previously provided de-escalation and duty to intervene training.

Your letter, however, also included rather troubling language that, in light of the above-noted Department records about the training provided in 2021 on the updated duty to intervene policies, is at best inaccurate and at worst seemingly less than honest, where your letter stated in part: "Chief Rosa provided a knowingly false public statement to WSVN..." regarding training the Department provided. Please be assured that I am committed to providing you or any FOP member with any information you feel would be helpful to show that Department members attended training on those subjects/policies.

I am confident that the training provided has had a positive impact on the members of the Department. The video showing an officer intervene in what appears in that video to be an extremely troubling situation is an example of someone following Department training and policy to intervene at the exact moment it appeared to be required.

I am proud of all members of the Department who embrace a culture of collaborative policing and community engagement. I call upon the FOP Lodge 80 to remain a partner with me in my commitment to continuing to foster a guardian culture within the Sunrise Police Department and ensuring that all members are able to provide professional policing services to our community while working in a safe and violence free workplace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Rosa", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Anthony W. Rosa
Chief of Police

AWR/ts