



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Thursday, February 15, 2018

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Sheriff's Deputy Injured by Suspect Resisting Arrest

Deputies responded to 135 Florida Park Drive just before 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening regarding a violation of injunction in a stalking case. Deputy Phil Conway was on scene to take Leslie Pitter, 42, into custody for the violation. Pitter would not follow commands from the deputy and refused to place his hands behind his back.

Deputies Conway and George Bender attempted to secure Pitter in handcuffs when he began violently resisting arrest. As Pitter pulled away from deputies, Deputy Conway tried to restrain Pitter and Pitter threw Conway over him and both fell to the ground. Deputy Conway's left shoulder struck the pavement and was dislocated. He also sustained a laceration to his chin. Both deputies continually gave verbal commands for Pitter to stop resisting arrest and eventually deployed a Taser at Pitter. Deputy Bender guided Pitter to the ground where he was then secured in handcuffs. After he was secured Pitter began taunting Deputy Conway. Deputy Conway was transported by ambulance to Florida Hospital Flagler for treatment.

Pitter was arrested on the violation of injunction charge and was additionally charged with resisting arrest with violence and aggravated battery on a law enforcement officer. He is being held in the Flagler County Detention Facility on no bond.



Leslie Pitter, DOB 2/13/1976, in FCSO Booking Photo.

Sheriff Staly, who was having Valentine's Day dinner with his wife, was notified and responded to the hospital. "Deputy Conway is an outstanding Deputy and was in a lot of pain but was being strong," said Sheriff Staly. Deputy Conway is expected to make a full recovery but will be out for some time.

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Pitter has been arrested by Flagler Deputies 11 other times since 2007. Previous charges have ranged from violation of injunctions for protection to resisting arrest and domestic violence.

“Let me make this clear, if you think you can attack my deputies, we’re going to go after you with the full force of the law,” Sheriff Staly said. “This was a simple misdemeanor arrest and he violently resisted and is now charged with two additional felony charges because he thought he was a tough guy. I hope the prosecutor and the courts throw the book at him and this dirtbag goes away for a long time.”

The entire incident was recorded on the deputies’ AXON body cameras.

Deputy Bender’s AXON can be viewed by following this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/a32ttag0pectmd6/Leslie-Pitter-AggBatLEO.mp4?dl=0>

Deputy Conway’s AXON can be viewed by following this link:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/1q0bajqoalyg9bx/Leslie_Pitter-ConwayAXON.mp4?dl=0

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