



**Rick Staly, Sheriff**

## **FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**Date:** Thursday, January 2, 2020  
**Prepared by:** Shannon Martin  
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**Release #:** 001

### **UPDATE: FCSO Detective to Return to Work after Suspension and Significant Disciplinary Actions following St. Augustine Arrest**

Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) Detective Richard Petkovsek will return to work after a six-week suspension without pay after being arrested by the St. Augustine Police Department for disorderly intoxication and resisting arrest on November 23, 2019. The State Attorney's Office offered Detective Petkovsek a Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA). A DPA is often provided to qualifying individuals charged with misdemeanor offenses who have no prior arrests and upon successful completion of all requirements the charges are dismissed. Petkovsek accepted the offer on December 11, 2019.

The FCSO then conducted an internal investigation into the incident which determined he had violated Agency standards and policies by his off-duty actions. As a result, Deputy Petkovsek received extensive discipline that included: A suspension without pay for 42 days; planned transfer to a specialize unit was rescinded; written apology to the FCSO, the St. Augustine Police Department and the White Lion Bar and Lounge; reimbursement of the costs of the investigation and prosecution; forfeiture of annual step pay increase for 2020; mandatory Employee Assistance Program; and will be on disciplinary probation for one year. During this time, any future policy violations can result in his termination from employment without recourse. The Agency discipline is in addition to his requirements from the State Attorney's Office.

"While the FCSO does not in any way condone Detective Petkovsek's actions, up until this incident he has demonstrated nothing but professionalism and passion for community service including being the 2017 Crime Stoppers of Northeast Florida Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for Flagler County," Chief of Staff Mark Strobridge said. "While he was not fired, significant discipline is being imposed. We believe that he will successfully complete his disciplinary probation agreement and live up to the standard of conduct expected of each FCSO employee."

***Original News Release below.***

**Date:** November 23, 2019  
**Prepared by:** Shannon Martin

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## **FCSO Detective Suspended without Pay after being Arrested in St. Augustine on Misdemeanor Charges following a Disturbance**

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) has suspended Detective Richard Petkovsek without pay after learning that he was arrested in the early morning hours today by the St. Augustine Police Department. He was arrested for disorderly intoxication and resisting without violence, both are misdemeanor crimes. The facts of the case will be reviewed to determine further personnel action.

"It is Sheriff's Office policy to immediately suspend any deputy without pay who is arrested," Chief Mark Strobridge said. "Sheriff Staly has directed that an internal investigation be conducted and is very disappointed in his conduct as reported by the St. Augustine Police Department."

Detective Petkovsek was hired by the FCSO in 2014. He is a Detective assigned to General Assignment Unit with the FCSO Investigative Services Division.

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