



NowRick Staly, Sheriff  
**FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

## NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** January 21, 2020  
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**Release #:** 021

### **Woman Resists Arrest, Bites Deputy and is Now Facing Felony Charges**

Deputies responded to 58 Brookside Lane in Palm Coast on January 17 due to a domestic disturbance. Deputies made contact with 38-year-old Cherie Saunders (DOB 4/8/1981) in the driveway of her residence with her make-up smeared, no shoes, slurred speech, and a heavy scent of alcohol coming from her person.

During the investigation into the disturbance it was determined that Saunders had slapped a male resident inside the home. While deputies were attempting to resolve the situation, Saunders became extremely argumentative and would not cooperate with the investigation. Saunders approached a deputy in a threatening manner. Saunders began kicking and screaming when deputies attempted to secure her in handcuffs.

During the struggle one deputy was bit by Saunders on his right calf and she refused to release her bite hold until another deputy was able to free her grip on his leg. The bite resulted in a two-inch mark which immediately showed broken skin, swelling, and bruising. Moments later, the deputy who was bitten began to feel ill and lost consciousness momentarily. He was transported to the hospital for a medical evaluation.



Left: Injury to deputy's leg. Right: Booking photo for Saunders.

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“Rather than let us handle the investigation in a civil manner, this woman actively fought our deputies and bit one deputy resulting in a trip to the hospital,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “If you attack my deputies you will not win and you will go to the Green Roof Inn facing serious charges. This is a prime example of how dangerous domestic violence calls are for our deputies to handle. Thankfully the deputy was not seriously injured by her actions.”

AXON Body Camera footage of the incident can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9UU7-PiC7M>

Saunders was arrested and charged with Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer, Domestic Battery, Resisting an Officer with Violence. On the way to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility for booking, Saunders vomited in the patrol vehicle. It was determined that she would need to be medically cleared by the hospital prior to booking due to her level of intoxication. She was released from jail after posting a \$5,000.00 bond.

Saunders was arrested previously in 2018 for Resisting an Officer without Violence.

Domestic disturbances are historically dangerous calls for law enforcement to respond to. In 2018, the FBI collected assault data from 11,788 law enforcement agencies that employed 546,247 officers. Those agencies reported that 58,866 officers were assaulted while performing their duties in 2018. 31 percent of these assaults were on officers responding to disturbance calls (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/leoka/2018/topic-pages/officers-assaulted.pdf>).

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