



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

NEWS RELEASE

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Charges Dismissed Against FCSO Detective, Internal Investigation to Immediately Begin

BUNNELL, Fla. — The 7th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office on Monday filed an order of no information in the case against Flagler County Sheriff's Office Detective Ardit Coma, stating their intention not to prosecute the charge of fleeing or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer.

Now that the criminal allegation case has been completed, Sheriff Rick Staly has ordered the FCSO Professional Standards Unit to conduct an internal investigation to determine any violations of the agency's general orders, policies, procedures, rules, or regulations.

"As we said initially, we believe in the criminal justice system. The case was dismissed just like it would be for any citizen based on the evidence and facts of the case presented to the State Attorney's Office by the Ormond Beach Police Department," said Sheriff Staly. "I personally reviewed the arrest report and was surprised that an arrest was made based on the lack of evidence showing he was intentionally trying to flee, while driving an agency vehicle. Although the criminal charge was dismissed, the facts appear clear that Detective Coma was speeding in an agency vehicle. I believe in accountability for everyone in our agency and transparency with our community, and our internal investigation will determine what policies were violated, and he will be held accountable. In fact, he will likely be held accountable to a higher standard than an average driver committing a traffic infraction."

Detective Coma has been reassigned to administrative non-law enforcement duties while the internal investigation is completed.

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FCSO Detective Arrested in Ormond Beach for Traffic Violation

BUNNELL, Fla. — The Flagler County Sheriff's Office has been made aware that a member of the agency, Detective Ardit Coma, was arrested early this morning in Ormond Beach for fleeing or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer.

Detective Coma was in his unmarked assigned agency vehicle on his way to work when the incident occurred. In accordance with FCSO policy, Detective Coma was immediately suspended without pay.

"Sheriff Rick Staly expects our employees to follow the law and when a deputy's alleged actions rise to the level of an arrest, we act swiftly, as this type of behavior is not representative of the values or expectations of the Sheriff's Office," said Chief of Staff Mark Strobbridge. "We also believe in the criminal justice system which provides Detective Coma due process just like anyone else."

For further information on the arrest, please contact the Ormond Beach Police Department. Once the criminal case is completed, the FCSO Professional Standards Unit will conduct an internal investigation. Until that time, Detective Coma is suspended without pay and has no law enforcement authority.

Detective Coma joined the agency in June 2023 and currently serves in the Major Case Unit. He has received numerous commendations, including a Life Saving Award in 2024.

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