



***BROWARD COUNTY PBA
DAILY CLIPS***

September 23, 2016

MEDIA OUTLET: Sun Sentinel

HEADLINE: Sheriff's sergeant accused of falsifying work hours, suspended without pay

BYLINE: Rebeca Piccardo

LINK: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-bso-sgt-falsifying-document-arrest-20160922-story.html>

STORY: A veteran Broward Sheriff's sergeant was arrested Thursday after investigators say he falsified work hours for an off-duty detail at a Weston homeowner's association.

Sgt. Ivan Roiz, 47, was charged with organized scheme to defraud, grand theft and official misconduct, according to an arrest report.

Roiz, who has been with the agency for 14 years, has been suspended without pay, agency spokeswoman Keyla Concepcion said.

An investigation by the agency's public corruption unit revealed Roiz submitted invoices for working an off-duty detail at Isles at Weston Homeowners' Association from July to September, but never actually worked.

A tracker placed in his marked vehicle showed he was at home or at the Pompano Beach district office at the times he was supposed to have been working in Weston, according to an arrest report.

In the time his vehicle was tracked by investigators, Roiz was paid a little more than \$1,000 by the homeowners' association.

Roiz bonded out of jail Thursday evening and declined comment to awaiting reporters.

MEDIA OUTLET: Sun Sentinel

HEADLINE: Broward's new courthouse, more than 1 year late, still has no opening date

BYLINE: Brittany Wallman

LINK: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-new-broward-courthouse-20160924-story.html>

STORY: The new Broward County courthouse, which missed its planned completion by more than a year, still has no opening date.

The tower in downtown Fort Lauderdale hit a milestone on Sept. 13, when the city issued a certificate of occupancy. But the hopes of lawyers, judges, courthouse workers and any others ready to move in were quickly dashed. County officials said the building's not ready.

"Our focus has been on getting this building done for visitors, employees and residents of Broward County," assistant county administrator Alphonso Jefferson said. "It's not there yet. Have there been delays? Yes, there have been delays. But we're focused on making sure this building is done correctly."

Construction records show the project, which broke ground four years ago, was held back by a number of things, including unexpected utilities under Courthouse Drive, troubles with pedestrian crossovers and judges' requests for changes to all the courtrooms and hearing rooms.

Jefferson said he expects the courthouse to be open for business by year's end but has no specific date. Move-in will take an estimated 90 days.

Frustration over the long wait and the uncertainty is building. Judges, courthouse employees and the State Attorney's Office say there's an urgency to get out of the existing courthouse, where they have concerns about poor air quality.

"We no longer have any timeline of moving in," said Monica Hofheinz, an assistant state attorney who doubles as executive director for Broward State Attorney Michael Satz's office.

About 44 support staffers and prosecutors from his office met with county officials Sept. 19 to ask for air quality testing. County Risk Management Director John Burkholder said the county hired an outside firm and expects results in two to three weeks.

Hofheinz said one prosecutor developed a rash within two weeks of working in the courthouse. Another has been to the emergency room with respiratory problems, she said.

Courthouse escape raises safety concerns

"People are getting sick and there's no place to move them," Hofheinz said.

Chief Judge Peter Weinstein said judges and other courthouse employees have similar concerns and are anxious to move to the tower. The judges haven't been inside since they were invited to see mock-ups for courtrooms in 2013.

"Obviously, we are all hoping it's soon because of concern about the air quality," he said, "but I also respect that the county's trying to get it perfect."

The county was facing lawsuits from courthouse employees who said the building made them ill, when county commissioners voted in 2010 to build the tower. Its price tag stands at \$262 million. Voters had rejected in 2006 a costlier courthouse.

Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler, a member of the county's courthouse task force, said leaders in the legal community, including judges, have been kept in the dark about the building status. The task force hasn't met in nine months.

"This is a public building. It belongs to all the citizens of Broward County. I think the county needs to do a better job of keeping everyone informed and up to date," Seiler said. "It doesn't have to be a negative thing. Projects are delayed for a lot of reasons."

Jefferson said the county has tried to keep stakeholders informed.

The contractor, James A Cummings Inc., owned by Tutor Perini Corporation, says the county owes it \$11.3 million for the hundreds of changes and delays.

Danny Hoisman, the contractor's president and CEO, said delays "are the county's responsibility. The county hired the designers, and there were design errors and omissions in the documents," he said, adding that he hopes to get it "amicably" resolved.

Special orders

As with many major construction jobs, this one was filled with bad surprises.

Contractors encountered problems underground when digging, a pedestrian connector bridge brought all sorts of complications. And judges who viewed life-sized mock-ups of courtrooms complained that some rooms were too small, the judges' benches weren't high enough, the layouts were off.

Neighboring judicial assistants needed full wall partitions between them. Acoustical ceiling tiles were requested, and additional carpet tiles. A \$300,000 "wireless duress" system for judges' security was installed.

The result was alterations in all 75 courtrooms and hearing rooms on 12 floors, with some walls knocked out, according to construction documents. The alterations required new design, and threw off the schedule for made-to-fit millwork.

The requests from judges rang up to \$2 million, according to a county estimate. The contractor said it delayed the job by 179 days.

All told, there were 335 changes on the tower job, according to paperwork submitted to the county by Cummings. The company alleges in an April 1 report to the county that the county caused 305 days of delay and owes \$11.3 million for it.

Sobering grandeur

On the county Twitter account @courtnewsflash, the last Tweet was in May: "The wall paintings in the courthouse lobby are colorful and remind us of our history and how beautiful home is!"

The account gives a glimpse at some of the artistic flourishes: A state seal etched in glass on a courtroom door, a tile mosaic of the original courthouse, an acrylic photo of sea turtle tracks and eggs on the sandy beach.

In a video released on YouTube in February, former Commissioner Stacy Ritter, a lawyer and now county tourism president, said the old courthouse doesn't properly convey the importance of the justice system.

A person entering the new, 714,000 square foot tower, she said, should "be in awe of the grandeur, the majesty," and will know that "it matters to us in Broward County that you take the justice system seriously, that it is a sobering experience but it doesn't have to be unpleasant."

It will be more secure, with bullet-proof judges' benches, more security cameras, and better separation between the public and prisoners, and judges.

Courthouse visitors now clog the entrance, but Weinstein said the new courthouse will move people more quickly.

The courthouse is designed to allow sunlight to spill in on the terrazzo floor, glisten on the cherry woodwork and fill the lobby, with its soaring ceiling and, recessed into the woodwork, the 1915 courthouse bell.

It will offer 75 courtrooms and hearing rooms, about double the current number, and leaves the 17th floor open for later expansion.

The new tower stands at the corner of Andrews Avenue and Southeast Sixth Street, with the Main Jail behind it on the New River. Inmates will arrive via a new connector bridge.

When the courthouse opens, the block will remain a construction zone.

The mid-block building to the east of the tower that serves as the main courthouse entrance now will be demolished. That portion, with its history of water leaks, is the epicenter of the air quality concerns.

A pedestrian breezeway will replace the old courthouse, with a \$14.9 million secure parking garage for judges behind it.

On the block's east end, the office building will remain, though heavily renovated, and so will the office building behind it, on the New River.

A new pedestrian overpass will connect the old buildings to the new courthouse on the other end of the block. Across Southeast Third Avenue, where the public parking garage stands, the adjacent court office building will remain, also with renovations.

A \$30.7 million, 1,000 car courthouse-employee garage a block south on Andrews Avenue, is complete and in use.

Timeline

November 2006: Voters reject a property tax increase to build a \$450 million new county courthouse and to expand suburban courts.

June 2010: Broward County Commission votes 6-3 to commit \$230 million from a half-cent of the existing 6 percent sales tax toward a \$328 million courthouse and parking garage. Commissioners Lois Wexler, Sue Gunzburger and John Rodstrom voted no.

June 2012: County hires James A Cummings Inc., owned by Tutor Perini Corporation, to build the courthouse. Moss Construction was the low bidder, but after a dispute over subcontracting to small businesses and those owned by women or minorities, Cummings won the job, with 29 percent of the work going to those firms.

August 2012: Construction starts. A 500-car parking garage is demolished first to make way for the tower.

February 2014: Building's 20th floor is topped off. Construction still on schedule.

June 2015: Projected completion is not reached.

September 2016: Building receives certificate of occupancy. County says it's not ready for move-in. Total project cost is within budget, at \$307 million, including \$30.7 million for employee garage and land purchase, \$262.4 million for courthouse tower, \$14.9 million for planned judicial parking garage.

MEDIA OUTLET: Sun Sentinel

HEADLINE: Tulsa officer charged with manslaughter is booked, released on \$50,000 bond

BYLINE: Tribune News Services

LINK: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/nationworld/ct-betty-shelby-tulsa-police-20160923-story.html>

STORY: Less than a week after an unarmed black man was shot dead by a white police officer on a Tulsa street, prosecutors charged the officer with first-degree manslaughter, a decision that may prevent unrest in a city with a long history of tense race relations.

Tulsa officer Betty Shelby "reacted unreasonably" when she fatally shot 40-year-old Terence Crutcher on Sept. 16, prosecutors wrote in an affidavit filed with the charge on Thursday. Police also acted quickly to provide videos of the shooting to black community leaders and members of Crutcher's family and then released them to the public.

Shelby was booked in the Tulsa County jail at 1:11 a.m. Friday and was released at 1:31 a.m. after posting \$50,000 bond, according to jail records.

The swift action in Tulsa stood in contrast to Charlotte, North Carolina, where police refused under mounting pressure Thursday to publicly release video of the shooting of another black man this week and the National Guard was called in after two nights of violent protests. Demonstrations in Tulsa since Crutcher's death have been consistently peaceful.

Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett praised the police department for quickly providing evidence to District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler's office.

"These are important steps to ensure that justice and accountability prevails," Bartlett said in a statement. "We will continue to be transparent to ensure that justice and accountability prevails."

Phil Turner, a Chicago-based defense attorney and former federal prosecutor, said the motivation of prosecutors in Tulsa may have been partly to allay outrage and avoid the kind of violence Charlotte has seen.

"But I don't think the charge was only to give the crowd some blood. ... No. I think (prosecutors) must have thought charges were warranted," he said.

If convicted, Shelby faces between four years and life in prison.

Crutcher's twin sister, Tiffany Crutcher, said her family is pleased with the charge, but she and her attorneys want to ensure a vigorous prosecution that leads to a conviction.

Attorney Damario Solomon-Simmons said: "We are happy that charges were brought, but let me clear — the family wants and deserves full justice.

"Not only for this family, not only for Terence but to be a deterrent for law officers all around this nation to know that you cannot kill unarmed citizens."

Shelby's attorney, Scott Wood, did not immediately respond to telephone messages seeking comment on the charges.

Dashcam and aerial footage of the shooting and its aftermath showed Crutcher walking away from Shelby with his arms in the air. The footage does not offer a clear view of when Shelby fired the single shot that killed Crutcher. Her attorney has said Crutcher was not following police commands and that Shelby opened fire when the man began to reach into his SUV window.

But Crutcher's family immediately discounted that claim, saying the father of four posed no threat to the officers. And police said Crutcher did not have a gun on him or in his vehicle.

The affidavit filed Thursday indicates that Shelby "cleared the driver's side front" of Crutcher's vehicle before she began interacting with Crutcher, suggesting she may have known there was no gun on the driver's side of the vehicle.

The affidavit says Shelby told police homicide investigators that "she was in fear for her life and thought Mr. Crutcher was going to kill her. When she began following Mr. Crutcher to the vehicle with her duty weapon drawn, she was yelling for him to stop and get on his knees repeatedly."

Prosecutors offer two possible theories in charging documents: That Shelby killed Crutcher impulsively in a fit of anger or that she wrongly killed him as she sought to detain him. Lee F. Berlin, a Tulsa-based defense lawyer and a former assistant district attorney in Oklahoma, said prosecutors could present both theories or may decide to move forward with only one and let jurors decide.

Berlin also said he thought ongoing tests by the state medical examiner's office would be enough to delay the filing of criminal charges.

"So, yes, I was surprised it came back quickly," he said, adding that he and other Tulsa attorneys he spoke with thought any charges against Shelby were unlikely.

Shelby, who joined the Tulsa Police Department in December 2011, was en route to a domestic violence call when she encountered Crutcher's vehicle abandoned on a city street, straddling the center line. Shelby did not activate her patrol car's dashboard camera, so no footage exists of what first happened between the two before other officers arrived.

The police footage shows Crutcher approaching the driver's side of the SUV, then more officers walk up and Crutcher appears to lower his hands and place them on the vehicle. A man inside a police helicopter overhead says: "That looks like a bad dude, too. Probably on something."

Police Sgt. Dave Walker has said investigators found a vial of the drug PCP in Crutcher's vehicle. Shelby's attorney, Wood, has said that Shelby completed drug-recognition expert training and thought Crutcher was acting like he might be under the influence of PCP.

Attorneys for Crutcher's family said the family didn't know whether drugs were found in the SUV, but that even if they were, it wouldn't justify the shooting.

In the videos, the officers surround Crutcher and he suddenly drops to the ground. A voice heard on the police radio says: "Shots fired!" The officers back away and Crutcher is left unattended on the street for about two minutes before an officer puts on medical gloves and begins to attend to him.

Crutcher's shooting followed a long history of troubled race relations in Tulsa, dating to the city's 1921 race riot that left about 300 black residents dead. As recently as 2013, a City Council vote to rename the city's glitzy arts district, which had been named after the son of a Confederate veteran and Ku Klux Klan member, drew vehement opposition.

Earlier this year, a white former volunteer deputy with the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office was sentenced to four years in prison after he was convicted of second-degree manslaughter in the shooting death of Eric Harris, who was also black and unarmed.

But Kunzweiler, the Tulsa prosecutor, emphasized the city's peaceful reaction in the aftermath of Crutcher's shooting.

"It's important to note that despite the heightened tensions felt by all, which seemingly beg for an emotional response and reaction, our community has consistently demonstrated the willingness to respect the judicial process," he said.

MEDIA OUTLET: Sun Sentinel

HEADLINE: Hallandale Beach commission at it again, sparring this time at budget hearing

BYLINE: Susannah Bryan

LINK: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-budget-hallandale-final-vote-20160922-story.html>

STORY: Commissioners did their duty Thursday night and approved next year's budget, but not without the usual sniping and sparring for which City Hall has become known of late.

Three of the city's five commissioners are under investigation by prosecutors.

Bill Julian stands accused of accepting favors from a developer. A second investigation was launched by the Broward State Attorney's Office after Mayor Joy Cooper accused Keith London and Michele Lazarow of violating the state's Sunshine Law.

The fallout has not been pretty.

During Thursday's budget hearing, London told Cooper in a booming voice to "shut up!"

London's outburst came after the mayor spoke directly to a woman in the audience she later accused of heckling her. The woman, Anabelle Taub, is challenging Julian in the Nov. 8 election.

A police officer approached Taub to remove her from the meeting, but was called off at the last minute by Police Chief Dwayne Flournoy.

The drama continued after the meeting, with the mayor questioning whether Taub lives in Hallandale Beach.

"She's sitting here like she knows city business," said Cooper, who backs Julian in the election. "We have no idea where she's from."

Taub called the mayor a liar.

"You don't know government," Cooper told Taub before heading for the door.

The meeting was fiery from the start, with London saying he'd pushed for a lower tax rate but was outvoted.

"The budget keeps exploding up here," London said. "It's other people's money. Nobody wants to tighten any belts up here."

Commissioner Anthony Sanders accused London of playing to the camera and reminded him that the commission had spent months discussing next year's budget.

In the end, the commission majority voted for the \$69.7 million budget and a slightly higher tax rate.

London voted no on the budget and tax rate.

Lazarow voted no on the tax rate, saying she too wanted it lowered.

Many homeowners will see higher tax bills next year because of an 11 percent increase in property values and a \$58.5 million parks bond approved by voters two years ago.

The base property tax rate will remain at \$519 per \$100,000 in assessed value. But the overall tax rate will go up by \$61 for every \$100,000 in assessed value to cover the parks bond.

Hallandale plans to use \$4.5 million in emergency reserves to balance the budget.

MEDIA OUTLET: Sun Sentinel

HEADLINE: Shot by deputy, fleeing man pursued in three cities before crash, capture, report says

BYLINE: Linda Trischitta

LINK: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fort-lauderdale/fl-broward-deputy-arrest-shooting-folo-20160922-story.html>

STORY: With a bandage covering a gunshot wound on his right arm, Michael A. Mainolfi stood at a bond court podium Thursday to hear multiple charges the Broward Sheriff's Office will present to prosecutors after they say he knocked down a detective with his car.

Broward County Judge Michael Davis called the charges "very serious," adding, "I'm very concerned about the safety of the community."

Davis ordered a \$162,500 bond and said if Mainolfi leaves jail, he will be subject to house arrest and pretrial GPS monitoring.

An outstanding warrant for theft and fleeing law enforcement charges brought Mainolfi to the attention of Detective Franklin Castor on Wednesday, when Mainolfi is accused of trying to make a break for it again, according to court documents.

The arrest attempt left both men injured after Mainolfi's open car door pushed Castor to the ground and the detective fired his gun and struck Mainolfi's arm, the sheriff's office said.

"The subject chose a path of resistance and backed his vehicle not only into the deputy's vehicle, but struck our deputy," Broward Sheriff Scott Israel said Wednesday.

Detective Brann Redl joined Castor and saw Mainolfi, 51, of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, walk to his 2012 white Ford Focus sedan that was parked in the 4200 block of North Ocean Drive.

Castor walked up to the Focus, its engine running, and ordered Mainolfi to step out and get on the ground. Castor reached inside the car to try and remove Mainolfi, who swung his arms and kicked at Castor to avoid arrest, Redl wrote in a complaint affidavit.

Mainolfi backed the Focus up and the open driver's door hit Castor, who fired his gun once, according to Redl.

Wounded in his right upper arm, Mainolfi continued driving in reverse, Castor fell to the ground and the Focus crashed into Castor's police car, moving it several feet, the report states.

Mainolfi drove south on Bougainvillea Drive, leading a 5 mile, U-shaped chase that continued parallel to the ocean, onto a busy commercial boulevard in Oakland Park and along North Federal Highway before ending with a bang in a parking lot in Fort Lauderdale.

Redl followed in his unmarked patrol car, with lights flashing and sirens blaring. The Focus drove south along North Ocean Drive and ran red lights and over a construction barrier on its way to East Oakland Park Boulevard, according to the report.

The Focus made several U-turns and traveled west in eastbound lanes of the boulevard, eventually reaching North Federal Highway. It traveled north, turned at Northeast 48th Street into the parking lot of Holy Cross Hospital and crashed into two parked cars, the sheriff's office said.

Mainolfi was taken into custody, treated at the scene and taken to Broward Health Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale, the report states.

Castor was taken for treatment at Broward Health Imperial Point, also in Fort Lauderdale. The men's injuries were not life-threatening, officials said.

This is the third time this month the Broward Sheriff's Office has reported that a deputy fired a gun while on duty. In those incidents, one man was killed, a 17-year-old boy was wounded and a deputy was injured.

"We live in a violent world and these things are happening all over America," Israel said Wednesday. "Each shooting, each use of force, needs to be looked at and investigated on its own merit."

In bond court Thursday, Assistant Public Defender Faisal Afzal asked that photographs be taken of Mainolfi's injuries.

Mainolfi works for an electrical contractor, according to court testimony. He was arrested on suspicion of committing aggravated battery with a deadly weapon; resisting an officer with violence; reckless driving; having a driver's license that was expired more than six months; and aggravated fleeing with injury or damage.

Assistant State Attorney Eric Linder sought a bond of \$160,000. Linder said there were two occasions when Mainolfi allegedly fled law enforcement and that he was twice arrested on suspicion of failing to appear in court.

"I think any person that would go to these lengths to avoid arrest, there has to be a concern about their future appearance in court," Linder said.

Assistant Public Defender Gisele Pollack said of Mainolfi, "He is innocent until proven guilty. He was shot, your honor, and he was in fear for his life."

MEDIA OUTLET: Broward Beat

HEADLINE: Latest Courthouse Snafu: Contractors Hang Wrong Seal In Courtrooms Again Delaying New Bldg

BYLINE: Buddy Nevins

LINK: <http://www.browardbeat.com/latest-courthouse-snafu-contractors-hang-wrong-seal-in-courtrooms-again-delaying-new-bldg/>

STORY: The opening of the Broward County's new courthouse has been delayed again and one of construction snafus involves the wrong seal hung behind the judge's benches.

Contractors installed the seal of Broward County.

The court system is a branch of state government, not the county.

The \$262.4 million courthouse tower was supposed to open in the summer of 2015.

It is still uncompleted due to snags with the utilities hookups, difficulties completing a elevated pedestrian walkway, many changes the judges requested and now the seals

And now the wrong seals.

Chief Judge Peter Weinstein confirmed the mistake and said he has demanded they be corrected before the judges move into the building.

"We are a separate but equal branch of state government and not part of the county," Weinstein told Browardbeat.com. "I told them to replace all those seals or I will have to order seals of the State of Florida and paste it over the Broward seals."

One source told Browardbeat.com that not only was the wrong seal installed, but the contractor misspelled "Broward."

Other than the reported misspelling, the problem could have been because Broward County government is paying for the construction of the new building, which it will own. Contractors may have assumed that the county seal was the correct one because their checks were coming from the county.

The building is just east of South Andrews Avenue and Southeast Sixth Street.

"They own the real estate which they are required by the state to provide," Weinstein said. "We are established by the Constitution as a separate entity that is not controlled or part of the county government."

No completion date has been announced and Weinstein has no clue yet when the building is due to be open.

The move in will take approximately three months.

“Judges learn patience because trials take a long time,” Weinstein said. “...When the county is satisfied with the building, we will move it. If its another one or two or three months.”

MEDIA OUTLET: Miami Herald

HEADLINE: Cop suspended after accidentally firing weapon, striking maintenance worker

BYLINE: Charles Rabin

LINK: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/crime/article103531492.html>

STORY: Raynier Miranda had committed no crime. He was no threat. And he was in the hallway of his building when he was shot by a cop — who had no idea she'd shot him.

Now the South Miami-Dade maintenance worker is recovering at home after surgery and Miami-Dade police Sgt. Wanda Roman has been suspended.

Last week, the South Miami-Dade maintenance worker was cleaning the hallway at the West Kendall apartment complex where he also lives. At the same time, Roman was inside her apartment cleaning her revolver. The gun went off.

The bullet went through the front door and struck the unsuspecting cleaning man. It wasn't until he reached the hospital that Miranda learned he'd been shot — the bullet piercing the aortic artery in his left arm and passing through his chest half an inch from his heart.

"I had no idea what happened. I didn't see anybody around. I had no idea," Miranda said Thursday, speaking in Spanish. "I was bleeding. I saw a lady coming and I started yelling for help."

Miami-Dade police had little to say about the shooting, calling it an open investigation. They did say Roman is a 10-year veteran and has been suspended with pay pending a criminal investigation into the shooting. Her personnel file wasn't available Thursday.

A source familiar with the investigation, however, said Roman wasn't suspended because of the accidental discharge. She was relieved of duty because she delayed telling her supervisor that her gun went off. That happened, the source said, because Roman had no idea Miranda had been shot until the incident was investigated.

Miami-Dade police officers are trained and required to unload their weapons before taking them apart for cleaning.

"She breaches the primary rule," said Miranda's attorney Glenn Goldberg. "Take the bullets out of the revolver."

The bullet that almost killed Miranda passed through his body and came out his back. He underwent surgery to close the artery in his arm and is now recovering at home. A sling holds up his left arm. Stitches run through his chest.

He said he was wearing a mask when he was shot because he was using bleach. At first, he had no idea it was a bullet. He felt a stinging sensation and thought he'd been electrocuted. He made it to a stairwell before a woman found him lapsing in and out of consciousness.

Miranda only learned he'd been shot after he got to Jackson South Hospital.

Married and the father of a 2-year-old, Miranda has been working at the apartment complex where he lives for three years. He moved to Miami from Cuba about five years ago. He has no plans to move because of the Sept. 15 incident and said he intends on returning to work after he recovers.

Miranda said he only knows Roman from exchanging pleasantries when they pass in the hallway. He said Roman hasn't spoken with him since the shooting. If she did, Miranda said, he wouldn't know what to say.

"I'm very frustrated. She's caused me a lot of frustration," he said. "It was very bad. I was in a lot of pain."

MEDIA OUTLET: Miami Herald

HEADLINE: Suspect charged in hit-and-run deputy-involved shooting

BYLINE: David J. Neal

LINK: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/broward/article103416722.html>

STORY: The suspect in a chase and shooting in Boward faces five new charges on top of two other charges that led to Wednesday's drama.

Michael Mainolfi and a deputy were released from the hospital on Wednesday night. Mainolfi was shot in the arm. The deputy was hurt when he was hit by Mainolfi's car, according to the Broward Sheriff's Office. The deputy hasn't been identified.

Mainolfi, 51, of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea was charged with aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, aggravated fleeing with injury and/or damage, reckless driving, resisting an officer with violence, and driving with a driver's license expired over six months.

Broward Sheriff Scott Israel said one of his deputies spotted Mainolfi, wanted on petit theft and aggravated fleeing charges from May, in the parking lot of Dolphin Harbor Inn, a modest Lauderdale-by-the-Sea hotel. Once Mainolfi got into his Ford Focus, the deputy used his car to block Mainolfi's way out of the parking lot.

Israel said Mainolfi reopened the way by backing his Focus into the deputy's car and the deputy. That's when the deputy opened fire, Israel said.

Mainolfi, 51, wheeled away, BSO cars in pursuit. He is accused of hitting two cars in front of Holy Cross Hospital before being apprehended.

In May, a woman whose purse was snatched while she was in line at an Oakland Park Publix (she lost \$100 and her concealed weapons permit) gave BSO a description that matched Mainolfi and girlfriend Victoria Zapinsky. They ran from Publix, leaving Zapinsky's Ford Focus in the parking lot. BSO picked up Zapinsky while a deputy waited for Mainolfi to return to the car. Just after midnight, Mainolfi did.

The deputy says he cut off a parking lot exit with his unmarked Dodge Charger. When Mainolfi approached, he got out with "Stop Police." The deputy wrote Mainolfi jammed the Focus into reverse and stood on the gas while trying to turn. That led to a crash into the curb. Mainolfi zoomed out another exit and down Commercial Boulevard.

MEDIA OUTLET: CBS Miami (Channel 4)

HEADLINE: Dade Cop Suspended After Shooting Maintenance Worker

BYLINE: CBS Miami

LINK: <http://miami.cbslocal.com/2016/09/23/dade-cop-suspended-after-shooting-maintenance-worker/>

STORY: MIAMI (CBSMiami) – A ten year veteran of the Miami-Dade police force has been suspended with pay after she accidentally shot a maintenance man in her West Kendall apartment complex.

Last week Raynier Miranda was in the hallway outside of police Sgt. Wanda Roman's when he was shot. Roman said she was cleaning her revolver when it went off, according to CBS4 news partner The Miami Herald.

The bullet, which pierced the aortic artery in Miranda's left arm, hit him in the chest about a half an inch from his heart.

"I had no idea what happened. I didn't see anybody around. I had no idea," Miranda told the Miami Herald. "I was bleeding. I saw a lady coming and I started yelling for help."

Miranda said he had no idea he had been shot. He said he felt a stinging sensation and thought he'd been electrocuted. He made it to a stairwell before a woman found him lapsing in and out of consciousness.

Miranda said he only learned he'd been shot after he got to Jackson South Hospital.

The Miami Herald reports that a source close to the investigation said that Roman wasn't suspended for the shooting but for not informing her supervisor right away that her gun had gone off while cleaning it. She didn't realize she had shot Miranda until the police investigation.

Miami-Dade police protocol is for officers to unload their weapons before cleaning them to prevent accidental discharge.

MEDIA OUTLET: FOX Miami (Channel 7)

HEADLINE: BSO officer accused of falsifying work hours bonds out

BYLINE: Nicole Linsalata

LINK: <http://wsvn.com/news/local/bs0-deputy-arrested-for-falsifying-work-hours/>

STORY: FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. (WSVN) - A Broward Sheriff's Office sergeant has bonded out of jail after being accused of falsifying his work hours on multiple occasions.

Forty-eight-year-old BSO Sgt. Ivan Roiz, who works out of Pompano Beach, was arrested Thursday and placed behind bars.

7News cameras captured Roiz as he walked out of the Broward County Jail later that same day and got into an awaiting car. He declined to comment on the allegations.

According to police, for several months, BSO Internal Affairs investigated Roiz after he claimed to be working a security detail at the Isles of Weston community when he was actually home.

Isles of Weston residents were outraged by the allegations. "Are you kidding me? No, that needs to be taken care of," said Penny Rhahansa.

BSO investigators have charged Roiz with organized scheme to defraud, grand theft and official misconduct.

It all began when a supervisor realized Roiz wasn't calling into dispatch while working his off-duty detail in Weston, as he was supposed to. According to the arrest affidavit, "[The public corruption unit] placed a mobile tracking device on the defendant's BSO vehicle ... to track the vehicle movements in 'real time.'"

After reviewing a dozen three-hour details from late July to early September, investigators found "the defendant submitted invoices for additional police services (detail vouchers) purporting to have worked the Isles at Weston HOA detail, while the tracker showed his BSO vehicle to be at the defendant's home address."

Isles of Weston resident Shari Perez said she is not happy. "I think we pay enough in homeowners association fees for accurate security, and it makes me very angry," she said.

"If we're paying him, he should have been doing his duty, and that's kind of ripping us off," said Rhahansa.

The arrest affidavit states, for all of those security detail shifts, the Isles of Weston homeowners association paid about \$1,500. Roiz got about \$1,100 of that amount.

He posted \$3,000 bond and is currently suspended without pay.

MEDIA OUTLET: FOX Miami (Channel 7)

HEADLINE: Local leaders, police hold roundtable discussion on violence among children

BYLINE: Walter Morris

LINK: <http://wsvn.com/news/local/local-leaders-police-hold-roundtable-discussion-on-violence-among-children/>

STORY: HOLLYWOOD, FLA. (WSVN) - Community leaders and officials met, Thursday, to develop new strategies in the wake of escalating violence among children in the neighborhood.

Police, prosecutors and civic leaders met at WEDR 99Jamz studios in Hollywood after six children were shot in less than a week. The message of their meeting was “enough is enough.”

Representatives for the State’s Attorney’s Office, Miami-Dade Schools and police also discussed how they can help parents.

“That’s why we’re here. We’re gonna connect those dots and try to get these people served,” said event host Shelby Rushin. “There’s gotta be a way that we can serve our listeners. When we get the phone calls and those emails, we want to have the resources and services to send them to get the help that they’re looking for.”

“In order to correct it, we’ve got to know how to connect the dots,” said Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Miami-Dade County Public Schools vice chair.

The roundtable discussion comes a day after 19-year-old Eric Williams-Bell appeared in bond court. According to police, Williams-Bell was driving a white Mercedes-Benz on Tuesday when the passenger opened fire near Brownsville Middle School and hit 13-year-old Cedrick Pernell in the back. The 19-year-old has been charged with first-degree attempted murder.

A 15 and 17-year-old were also arrested after the car crashed into a pole.

“We have to address this violence,” said Miami-Dade Police Department Director Juan Perez. “We have to be more efficient in how we address it.”

Meanwhile, six kids are recovering from a drive-by shooting at a sweet sixteen party on Saturday. The victims were between the ages of 12 and 17 years old. “It’s breaking me,” said one of the victims’ mother, Tomeka Smith. “It’s really breaking me to see my 13-year-old son like this for nothing.”

According to Miami-Dade Police, someone inside an SUV opened fire on the teens who were attending the party. Smith’s son was shot six times, including twice in the back.

Two 18-year-olds and a man in his 20s face charges for that shooting.

Miami-Dade Police took to the streets during a peace walk on Wednesday. That same evening, concerned community members and parents came together for children at the South Dade Regional Library to brainstorm ways that they can prevent other children from getting hurt.

Parents whose children were killed hosted a rally, Thursday evening, at Northwest 95th Street and 17th Avenue.

Rosalind Brown wiped away tears as she spoke about her 8-year-old daughter, Jada Page, who was fatally shot in Northwest Miami-Dade nearly a month ago. "I raised her, you know, my job was to protect her, and I couldn't protect her," Brown said.

Santonio and Monica Carter know Brown's pain. Their 6-year-old son, King Carter, was killed by a stray bullet in February. "The wound is back open. Everything is back open, it starts all over again," Monica said.

It's been 26 days, and Jada's killer hasn't been found. Brown has started a GoFundMe to increase the Crime Stoppers reward.

"Somebody knows, somebody needs to tell, and for the ones that are not telling, you are just as bad," Rushin said.

"It won't bring her back, but it will give some comfort," Brown said. "You know, just finding out who did this and why? Because I don't know, I don't understand."

A community forum is planned for 7 p.m., Friday, at the Overtown Performing Arts Center.

If you have any information on this crime, call Miami-Dade Crime Stoppers at 305-471-TIPS. Remember, you can always remain anonymous, and you may be eligible for a \$1,000 reward.

MEDIA OUTLET: ABC Miami (Channel 10)

HEADLINE: Lawsuit claims BSO detective accepted vacations, payments from businessman

BYLINE: Bob Norman

LINK: <http://www.local10.com/news/bob-norman/bs0-detective-accepts-improper-vacations-payments-from-businessman-source-says>

STORY: FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. - On any given day, deputies with the Broward Sheriff's Office can be found working a special security detail at the Festival Flea Market Mall in Pompano Beach.

The service is paid for by Festival Flea Market Mall owner Daniel Shooster, who also happens to be a member of the Broward Sheriff's Advisory Council and one of Sheriff Scott Israel's top campaign donors.

Shooster is responsible for at least \$37,000 in contributions to Israel's campaign, political committee, and legal defense fund in the past few years. An Israel campaign ad even plays on a loop on the flea market's electronic billboard on Sample Road.

There's no doubt that Shooster has a close relationship with the BSO, but a lawsuit filed in Broward County circuit court this week alleges that some deputies became cozy with the businessman.

The lawsuit alleges that Detective Robert Rutkowski accepted vacations and payments from Shooster "off the books" while routinely conducting errands and doing other jobs for the businessman. The lawsuit, filed by the flea market's former chief financial officer, Harlene Zweig, contains allegations that Shooster provided deputies improper gifts that violate BSO policy and had been doing so for years.

The lawsuit also alleges that Detective Robert Rutkowski accepted vacations and payments from Shooster "off the books" while routinely conducting errands and doing other jobs for the businessman.

"Officer Rutkowski would pick up the mail at his house in Boca Raton and bring it back to the Festival," Zweig said. "He would escort (Shooster) to the bank and also on other errands. He would drive (Shooster) and his wife to the airport when they went on vacations."

Zweig, who said she left her position at Festival in November due to work conditions, alleges in the suit that Rutkowski received a lot more than gift certificates from Shooster.

She said the detective went on numerous vacations to Las Vegas and the Bahamas with Shooster and that he came to her about paying him extra money for the work he was doing, which the lawsuit alleges includes cleaning out a warehouse. Zweig said she told him that he would have to put the detective on the Festival payroll and give a W-2 tax form.

"Dan said that that couldn't be done, that Officer Rutkowski would get in trouble if that happened," she said, adding that at one point Rutkowski complained to her that he was upset because Shooster was calling him in to run errands while he was on duty.

Zweig said Shooster later told her that he was paying Rutkowski out of a personal Bank of America checking account. Zweig, who worked side by side with Shooster for more than 20 years, said she

repeatedly warned Shooster that the gifts were in violation of policy and possibly Florida law but that he ignored her advice.

"He just kept doing it," she said.

Zweig's attorney, Michael Moskowitz, alleges in the lawsuit that the certificates, some of which he said were in the hundreds of dollars and were at times exchanged for cash, constitute a violation of the law and of BSO's policy that forbids deputies from receiving anything of value connected to detail work. The lawsuit does not name any additional deputies.

"Taking gifts automatically creates an appearance of impropriety," Moskowitz said. "What's expected in return? That's the key question."

That question hasn't been answered conclusively, but the BSO confirmed it is now investigating the allegations in the lawsuit.

Rutkowski did not return a phone message, but his attorney, Alvin Entin, acknowledged that the detective did run errands and do large jobs on the side for Shooster, including asphalt work, but denied that he ever did any of the work while on regular duty. He said the errands were predominantly done while the detective was on the special detail.

Entin also said Rutkowski did go on vacations with Shooster, for which the businessman may have picked up the cost, and that he received pay from Shooster as well. Entin said Rutkowski "may not" have gotten required permission from the agency to do the work and acknowledged that his client may have violated BSO policies, but insisted he broke no laws because he never took money to conduct any official duties.

The lawsuit does allege that unnamed deputies ran checks on BSO databases for Shooster but doesn't accuse Rutkowski personally of doing that.

When questioned about it, Shooster said he couldn't discuss it because his attorney has advised him not to. He did say that Rutkowski is a dear friend and pointed to the fact that Zweig's lawsuit is a counter-claim to a lawsuit he filed earlier this year against Zweig's husband, Murray Zweig, in a business deal gone bad, indicating that the allegations were made in retaliation.

Zweig acknowledged that her lawsuit was made in direct response to Shooster's lawsuit, saying she decided to fight against the wealthy flea market owner, who was her boss for so many years.

In addition to the whistleblower allegations concerning BSO, she argued Shooster created an intolerable work environment and is demanding more than \$1 million in damages.

The lawsuit also alleges Shooster spoke of his close relationship with Sheriff Israel, who refused an interview request on the lawsuit, saying Shooster "would brag that he couldn't get a traffic ticket because of his relationship with BSO."

MEDIA OUTLET: ABC Miami (Channel 10)

HEADLINE: BSO sergeant paid for off-duty detail he never performed, affidavit says

BYLINE: Peter Burke

LINK: <http://www.local10.com/news/crime/bso-sergeant-arrested-on-grand-theft-misconduct-charges>

STORY: FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. - A Broward Sheriff's Office sergeant was arrested Thursday after billing a Weston community for off-duty detail work that he never performed, according to an arrest affidavit.

Sgt. Ivan Roiz faces charges of grand theft, organized scheme to defraud and official misconduct.

The BSO's Public Corruption Unit began investigating Roiz after learning that the sergeant failed to report to BSO communications, as required by policy, while working an off-duty detail in the Isles at Weston, Detective John Calabro wrote in his affidavit.

According to the report, Roiz claimed to have worked off-duty detail at the Weston community 25 times between March 1 and June 6. However, a review of the off-duty records showed that Roiz never called BSO communications to inform dispatchers of his presence there.

BSO's Public Corruption Unit placed a mobile tracking device on Ruiz's patrol vehicle in July, Calabro wrote.

Roiz submitted 12 invoices between July 25 and Sept. 7 paid by the Isles at Weston, claiming that he had worked off-duty detail there, but a review of the tracking charts showed that his vehicle was at home on all those dates except one, when he had a loaner vehicle without a tracking device, Calabro wrote.

Records show that Roiz was paid more than \$1,000 for his purported off-duty detail during that time.

Roiz was released from jail on bond Thursday night. He had nothing to say to Local 10 News as he got into a waiting car that sped away.

MEDIA OUTLET: ABC Miami (Channel 10)

HEADLINE: Miami Gardens police chief resigns to spend time with ill mother, family

BYLINE: Paradise Afshar

LINK: <http://www.local10.com/news/miami-gardens-police-chief-resigns-to-spend-time-with-family-ill-mother>

STORY: MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. - Miami Gardens Police Chief Antonio Brooklen is set to step down from his post on Oct. 1 in order to focus on his mother's "fragile health condition" and his family.

"The last few months have been challenging because I have been dealing with my mother's fragile health condition and I feel that my attention and time is needed elsewhere," Brooklen wrote in his resignation letter. "Life is fleeting and it was evidenced when my officer's wife died suddenly while working out recently. Situations such as this help put life into perspective. At this time, my family must come first. My mother, wife and children are my heart and I live for them."

Brooklen, who has worked in law enforcement for 22 years, calls working in Miami Gardens a "dream come true."

Brooklen grew up in Miami Gardens and has been with the city's police department since it began in 2007. He promised in his resignation letter to continue to serve his community as a volunteer.

"I have dedicated my life to public service, while losing precious time with my four daughters and family, so I feel it is time for me to take control of my career and its trajectory," he wrote.

Brooklen said he prays that his work in Miami Gardens has "raised the bar in policing," and calls the men and women in his department "simply the best."

"While I have my challenges and have made some mistakes, these officers have continuously stepped up to the plate to ensure positive change," he wrote. "I salute and thank them for working with me while also allowing me to lead them."

Brooklen worked with the Miami-Dade County Police Department early in his career before being hired in Miami Gardens.

In 2009, allegations of sexual harassment caused Brooklen to be demoted from major to captain following an internal affairs investigation. That same year, Brooklen was suspended for 30 days without pay after an internal affairs investigation revealed he'd had relations with a former colleague, according to a Miami Herald report.

Brooklen became chief in 2015 after taking over for former chief Stephen Johnson, who'd been arrested in a prostitution sting and was subsequently fired.

Assistant Chief Cynthia Dawson Machanic will serve as the acting chief while the department searches for a new police chief.

MEDIA OUTLET: ABC Miami (Channel 10)

HEADLINE: Miami-Dade police step up to support officer battling kidney failure

BYLINE: Erica Rakow

LINK: <http://www.local10.com/community/miami-dade-police-step-up-to-support-officer-battling-kidney-failure>

STORY: MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, Fla. - A Miami-Dade police officer has dedicated his life to law enforcement, spending the last eight years protecting Port Miami. But this past year, he has been forced to step away from his job while he fights for his life.

Officer Eddy Duarte, who has worked in law enforcement for 32 years, went for an annual physical at the doctor's office two years ago, but the visit turned out to be anything but routine.

It was then that he learned that he was suffering from kidney failure.

"He said, 'It's failing, and it's going fast,' and our world just changed," Duarte said. "We went from having a normal life to, basically, I got real sick."

Duarte's physical health has deteriorated since his diagnosis. Wednesday marked one year of having boxes of medical supplies stocked up at his home and a year of dialysis treatments every day.

"The machine has kept me alive, and hopefully, someday, I can get a transplant and be normal again," Duarte said.

Three potential donors, including the officer's wife, fell through. But the Duarte family is feeling new hope, thanks to their law enforcement family.

A message was sent out by the police officer assistance trust, soliciting any officers who are interested in helping Duarte.

"The first day, two people already called me," Duarte said. "Two police officers, one that I haven't seen in more than 20 years, and he said, 'Ed, I'm going to go get tested,' and I'm like blown away."

The spirit of giving life seems to be in the air within the department. Just a few weeks ago, Officer Diana Castillo donated a kidney to her colleague, Officer German Alech.

"I've always known it's a family, but this has proved it, and when you have someone you haven't seen in 20 years come step forward or someone, I believe the second officer he doesn't even know, that says a lot," Duarte's wife, Ivette, said.

"Now it's a waiting process and hopefully some day something comes up or somebody that matches me," Duarte said.

The first step to becoming a donor is a simple blood test, which is free.

Anyone who has questions about donating a kidney is asked to call 305-355-LIFE.