



DESCHUTES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ty E. Rupert, Sheriff

Proudly Serving Our Community

July 14, 2026

To: Lieutenant James McLaughlin

From: Lieutenant Blair Barkhurst

Ref: IA 2026-6

Lieutenant McLaughlin,

This letter is to serve as official notice that you will be interviewed for IA 2026-6 on July 28th, 2026, at 9:00 AM in the Human Resources Conference Room at the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office by Investigator Jim Band.

Respectfully,

Lieutenant Blair Barkhurst

Received by: _____

Lieutenant James McLaughlin

Date and Time: _____

Cc: Sheriff Ty Rupert

DCSEA

Personnel File



DESCHUTES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ty E. Rupert, Sheriff

Proudly Serving Our Community

Date: 06/05/2026

To: Lieutenant James McLaughlin
From: Captain Mike Sundberg
Ref: Notice of IA 2026-6

Hand Delivered

Lieutenant James McLaughlin,

The Deschutes County Sheriff's Office received an external complaint from multiple citizens at the Deschutes County Adult Jail on or about April 22, 2026. During the complaint review process, evidence was discovered to support the investigation of additional allegations. This letter is to serve as official notice of an investigation being conducted for the following allegations:

- The complaint alleges you made statements that were captured on a Ring camera video on February 25th, 2026, that were unprofessional and damaging to the reputation and/or operations of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office.
- The complaint alleges that you and the people you supervise went outside of the scope of the search warrant during the search of the residence at 17821 Trader Lane in Bend, Oregon on or about February 25th, 2026.
- It is alleged that you took a complaint on February 26th, 2026, regarding the above Ring camera video that captured inappropriate comments by Deputy [REDACTED] and yourself. You subsequently handled and investigated the complaint yourself.
- It is alleged you issued discipline to Deputy [REDACTED] that was inappropriate based on progressive discipline standards.
- It is alleged you did not produce a document outlining Deputy [REDACTED] discipline regarding his conduct on the Ring camera video to a shift supervisor as instructed and agreed upon with supervision. It is further alleged that as of the date of this Notice, you have still not produced a document outlining Deputy [REDACTED] discipline, despite additional requests that you do so.
- It is alleged you were not forthcoming and were untruthful regarding the facts of a citizen complaint to other Lieutenants and Command in a meeting in early March. Your conduct on the Ring video was only revealed to



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Command Staff when the complainants filed a new formal complaint with a Deschutes County Adult Jail Lieutenant, on April 22, 2026.

- It is alleged you did not share the Ring Camera video showing your inappropriate conduct with Command when you received it.
- It is alleged that you collaborated with Sergeant [REDACTED] regarding [REDACTED] entering the Deschutes County Adult Jail on or about April 2nd, 2026 to influence or coerce Inmate Paul Akehurst to trade possession of the Ring video in question, (or to refrain from not releasing in) in exchange for reduction or elimination of criminal charges and assistance with or cessation of involvement with proceedings concerning the custody of his children.
- It is alleged that you disobeyed a direct order(s) to cease participation with the US Marshal Service Task Force and continued to work with them after the order was issued.

If these allegations are sustained, you may be in violation of the following DCSO Policies:

DCSO Policy 1.01 Ethics and Professional Standards

VIII. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

B. Integrity

The public demands that the integrity of its law enforcement officers be above reproach, and the dishonesty of a single deputy may impair public confidence and cast suspicion upon the entire office. A deputy must scrupulously avoid any conduct that might compromise their integrity, their fellow deputies, or the Sheriff's Office. We cannot maintain the public's trust in upholding the law if we are found to have violated it ourselves. It must be clearly understood that violations of state or federal law by members of the Sheriff's Office, regardless of sworn or represented status, can and will carry severe consequences, up to and including termination. This standard applies to all members regardless of their sworn or represented status.

DCSO Policy 1.02 Sheriff's Office Standards

VII. PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

D. Orders

Members shall respond to and obey the lawful order of supervisors and other proper authority.



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VIII. GENERAL CONDUCT

Members shall obey all federal, state and local laws.

IX. VIOLATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

B. Insubordination

Members shall promptly obey any lawful order of a superior, including orders relayed from a superior. Failure to obey a lawful order shall be judged to be insubordination. Insubordination is non-compliance with county or Sheriff's Office directives, rules, policies, assignments, or procedures; provided the individual has been instructed either directly or indirectly in what is expected. Any act of dissension, resistance or disrespect to any superior authority shall be deemed insubordination, unless it is in response to an unlawful order.

F. Dishonesty

Dishonesty in any form is incompatible with maintaining the public's trust and is unacceptable. When distinguishing between conduct that is dishonest and that which is poor judgment, the Sheriff may assess factors that include, but are not limited to, context, the member's intent, the gravity of the act or omission of information, and what a reasonable person would consider dishonesty under the totality of the circumstances. In personnel investigations, findings of deceitfulness, dishonesty, and/or untruthfulness will result in severe consequences, up to and including termination. This standard applies to all employees regardless of their sworn or represented status.

X. OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT

A. Official Actions

At all times, members shall conduct Sheriff's Office business within the laws they are sworn to uphold, and within the constraints of the ethical codes and standards set forth by the Sheriff's Office.

1. Arrest, Search, and Seizure: Deputies shall not make any arrest, search, or seizure that they know is not in accordance with law and agency standards and procedures.

C. Conflicts of Interest

Members shall not create conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest with the duties and obligations of their positions within this agency.

XI. VIOLATIONS OF PERSONAL CONDUCT

A. Unbecoming Conduct



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Members shall conduct themselves both on and off- duty in a manner that does not damage or have the probable expectations, in the mind of a reasonable and prudent person, of damaging or bringing the agency's public image, integrity or reputation into discredit or disrepute.

1. Members, at all times, shall conduct themselves in such a manner as reflects favorably on the Agency. Conduct unbecoming includes any act or conduct that brings discredit upon the member or the agency or impairs the effective operations or efficiency of the agency.

B. Controversial Conduct

1. Members shall not engage in controversial conduct or behavior (committed on or off-duty) that brings about public criticism and causes administrative staff or supervisory personnel to spend an atypical amount of time and management cost to investigate or respond to criticism.

DCSO Policy 3.01 Complaint Review

IV. PROCEDURES

2. Supervisors assessing complaints shall enter the complaint information into the AIM (Administrative Investigations Management) system. Supervisors shall forward any documents, photographs or other evidence related to the complaint to their division captain via the chain of command. Supervisors shall contact the complainant and conduct basic fact finding regarding the allegation(s) to include:
 - a) Approximate time frame and name of member involved;
 - b) A brief description of the alleged conduct; and,
 - c) Basic fact verification (was the member scheduled for duty when the alleged conduct took place, was the member assigned to the unit or post involved, etc...).

This investigation will be to determine if the allegations involve violations of Sheriff's Office policy and if further action should be taken, to include if during the investigation any non-reported or new allegations are discovered those will also be reviewed, evaluated, and properly investigated. This investigation may include contacting and interviewing any and all parties who have knowledge and/or participated in the alleged conduct. This investigation has been assigned to Jim Band Investigations and Consulting.

While this matter is being investigated, you must refrain from any conduct that affects the integrity of the investigation. This includes any communication of any kind with any witnesses that would tend to influence their recollections of and/or statements regarding the subject matter of the investigation. We recommend you consult with your union representative before you contact any such witnesses.



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You are also directed to not contact any witnesses to this matter while they are on duty with the County. If any witness indicates they do not want any contact with you, you must honor that request whether on or off duty. Please note that these directions are not intended to limit your ability to provide information on your behalf; nor are they intended to limit your right to obtain representation or defend yourself against the claims made against you. You will have an opportunity to provide information and to respond to any charges against you before any disciplinary action is taken against you.

This letter is to serve as official notice that you will be interviewed for IA # 2026-6 at a future date determined by the investigator.

Captain Mike Sundberg

Received by: _____

Lieutenant James McLaughlin

Date and Time: _____

Cc: Sheriff Ty Rupert
DCSEA
HR/Personnel File