

Mesa County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Todd Rowell



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July 23rd, 2025

To: Lt. David "Bucky" Holdren
From: Art Smith, Operation Division Chief
Re: AXON Standards EVT-00001149
CC: Professional Standards Unit
Mesa County Human Resources

Letter of Reprimand

The above referenced Professional Standards Unit (PSU) investigation revealed misconduct on the part of K9 Deputy Alex Zwinck and K9 Deputy Erik Olson beginning prior to 05/20/25 and running through 06/13/2025. Sgt. Joe Lemoine was the direct supervisor of Deputy Zwinck and Deputy Olson at all times relevant to this investigation. You were the direct supervisor of Sgt. Joe LeMoine at all times relevant to this investigation.

The investigation revealed a series of incidents, beginning prior to 05/20/25, in which Deputy Zwinck and Olson assisted, detained and/or provided direction of travel and vehicle identification information to HSI/ICE personnel after having learned HSI/ICE officers wished to contact subjects of their traffic stops solely for the purpose of enforcing civil immigration violations.

The actions undertaken by Deputy Zwinck and Olson, were in violation of two separate directives, issued on 02/08/24 and 01/30/25, respectively. There is a preponderance of evidence their actions were in violation of C.R.S 24-76.6-102 prior to the passage of SB25-276. There is a preponderance of evidence their actions were in violation of provisions of SB25-276, post its passage on 05/23/25.

Their actions were contrary to our agency's years old policing philosophy and practice of **not** investigating, enforcing or assisting in the enforcement of civil immigration violations.

In January of 2025, there was a well-publicized federal/federal law enforcement prioritization change aimed at border security and immigration enforcement. Many of the personnel and teams in your section regularly partner with and cooperate with federal law enforcement officers for the purposes of furthering local criminal investigations and participating in joint criminal investigations.

Beginning in January of 2025, you received verbal direction, from multiple members of your chain of command, to the effect of:

- Insuring none of the personnel/teams in your section, assist any federal law enforcement officers with the enforcement of civil immigration violations.

Findings:

I find between January 2025 and 06/13/25 you were in violation of the following Mesa County Sheriff's Office policy:

- ***Standards of Conduct 320.5.7 – Efficiency***
 - *(b) Unsatisfactory work performance including but not limited to failure, incompetence, inefficiency, or delay in performing and/or carrying out proper orders, work assignments, or the instructions of supervisors without a reasonable and bona fide excuse.*

Appeal Rights:

Pursuant to MCSO Policy 1011, this Letter of Reprimand is not specifically subject to appeal. None-the-less, I grant you the right to appeal this discipline. Any such appeal, must be submitted in writing to Undersheriff King, no later than 1600 hours on 07/26/25.

Conclusion

You are a well-respected, veteran leader with a successful track record in our agency. I am sincerely hopeful for your continued success at the Mesa County Sheriff's Office. Any future similar incidents may subject you to progressive discipline.

Respectfully,



Art Smith
Operations Division Chief