



NEWS RELEASE

Fort Bend County Sheriff's
Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2025

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Concludes Internal Affairs Investigation

(FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS) – The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office (FBCSO) Internal Affairs Division has concluded its investigation into a January 2025 incident involving Deputies Jonathan Lopez and Mason Koehler. The investigation determined that Deputy Lopez failed to use sound judgment, resulting in a violation of FBCSO policy, while Deputy Koehler was found to have acted within policy guidelines.

On January 22, 2025, Deputies Lopez and Koehler were dispatched to the intersection of Ginger Run Way and West Airport in response to a reported armed robbery. The caller stated that the suspects fled on foot, heading left on West Airport, but disconnected before providing further details to the dispatch center.

Two days later, on January 24, 2025, Ms. Deshonda Penn and Ms. Marie Hanks filed a formal complaint regarding an interaction that followed the above-referenced call, involving Ms. Penn's son and Ms. Hanks' nephew. The subsequent Internal Affairs investigation determined the following:

- Upon arriving in the area on January 22, 2025, Deputy Lopez observed two individuals running east on West Airport. Based on reasonable suspicion, he attempted to stop them for questioning, but they did not comply. Deputy Lopez did not pursue them and continued to the location where the victim was last reported to be.
- Deputy Lopez then relayed his observations to Deputy Koehler, stating that he believed the two males were involved in the robbery. However, Lopez's communication lacked the necessary precise language required by FBCSO policy.
- Deputy Koehler then based his actions on the information given to him by Deputy Lopez and detained both individuals for further investigation. They were released shortly after the robbery victim provided a photo confirming the actual suspects.

The investigation determined that Deputy Lopez failed to use sound judgment in his communication, violating **General Order #02-01, Core of Standards of Conduct, IV. Details and Procedure, 23, Sound Judgment**. As a result, Lopez received discipline and all of patrol will receive re-training on investigatory stops.

Regarding Deputy Koehler's actions, the investigation concluded that he acted within FBCSO policy. Based on the information received, Koehler had reasonable suspicion to conduct an investigatory stop. While Koehler did not explain the reason for the detainment immediately, he explained it to them as soon as was feasible which is in line with what policy states.

"The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office remains committed to transparency, accountability, and adherence to professional standards in serving the community," said Sheriff Eric Fagan. "When concerns are raised, we take them seriously and conduct thorough investigations to ensure our deputies are upholding the highest standards. Our priority is to build and maintain trust with the residents we serve, while continuing to provide fair and effective law enforcement."

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About the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office was founded in 1837 and is the largest and most diverse law enforcement agency in Fort Bend County. The Sheriff's Office has over 900 employees, including 615 sworn peace officers and 22 reserve volunteer deputies dedicated to protecting and serving nearly 900,000 Fort Bend County residents. Among the 10 fastest-growing counties in the nation, Fort Bend covers 885 square miles and includes 21 unincorporated communities.

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