

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 6/1/2022

RE: Sergeant Brandon Smart disciplinary action.
Grandstand Casino incident

On January 15, 2022, Yellowstone County Sheriff's Sergeant Brandon Smart was involved in a disturbance at the Grandstand Casino in Billings. Sergeant Smart was off duty at the time of the incident and was not in uniform or acting in his official capacity as a Deputy Sheriff.

Upon learning of the incident, I ordered an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident. The investigation was conducted by a Lieutenant in the Sheriff's Office Training and Professional Standards Division. Currently, an investigation to determine if any criminal activity occurred during the incident is being conducted by the Montana Department of Criminal Investigations.

Our internal investigation concluded that Sergeant Smart had violated Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office Policy on Ethics and Conduct.

Sheriff's Office **Policy 2-1 CODE OF ETHICS** States:

I. Law Enforcement Code of Ethics:

H. Character:

Deputies will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to their agencies or themselves. A deputy's character and conduct while off duty must always be exemplary, thus maintaining a position of respect in the community in which he or she lives and serves. The deputy's personal behavior must be beyond reproach.

Sheriff's Office **Policy 2-3 RULES OF CONDUCT** States:

- A. Deputies will not engage in any activity or commit any act that would tend to bring discredit or impair the efficiency or reputation of the Sheriff's Office or its Deputies.***

1. *Actions of Deputies that are inconsistent, incompatible or in conflict with the standards established by the Sheriff's Office negatively affect its reputation and that of its Deputies. Such actions (and inactions) will not be tolerated as they distract from the Sheriff's Office overall ability to effectively and efficiently protect the public, maintain peace and order, and conduct other essential business.*

Disciplinary Action Taken

Formal Letter of Reprimand

Removal from Special duties and prohibition from re-applying for special duties for 1- Year
Additional training on or pertaining to Ethics and Conduct.

Sergeant Smart has been a Deputy Sheriff in the Patrol Division and other assignments for the past 11 years. Before that he was a Sergeant at the Yellowstone County Detention Facility.