



---

**Date: 11-28-22****NEWS RELEASE****NR# 22-12**

---

**Detention Deputy arrested for Smuggling Controlled Substances into the Correctional Facility**

Seminole Co. Fla., (November 29, 2022) – The Seminole County Sheriff's Office today arrested Starr Ariel Muhammad, a Detention Deputy employed by the agency and assigned to the John E. Polk Correctional Facility, on felony charges of Sale, Manufacture or Delivery of a Schedule III Controlled Substance and Smuggling or Introduction of Contraband into a County Detention Facility.

The Sheriff's Office self-initiated a criminal investigation on Friday, November 25, after multiple illegal controlled substances, two electronic vape devices, and three vape cartridges containing suspected THC oil were discovered in an inmate's cell. The preliminary investigation has revealed that Muhammad concealed the contraband and delivered it to an inmate.

Muhammad was placed on Administrative Suspension on November 28, when an Administrative Investigation was initiated. Muhammad was booked in the John E. Polk Correctional Facility on a total of \$20,000 bond this evening. Additionally, Muhammad, who has been employed with the agency since March 28, 2017, has been served a Notice of Proposed Discipline initiating the termination of her employment from the Seminole County Sheriff's Office.

In regards to the investigation and arrest, Sheriff Dennis Lemma said: "Muhammad's actions are out of line with the norms, customs, and values of our organization, and she has completely violated the public trust and oath that she took. I am proud of the swift work that our investigators did to get to the bottom of this case. We will continue to investigate this matter internally and address any policy or procedure changes if needed."

Photos of active or former sworn, certified, or civilian law enforcement personnel are exempt from public disclosure.

The criminal and Administrative investigations are open and ongoing, and the Office of the State Attorney, 18th Judicial Circuit, will prosecute the case.

**For more information contact:**

Mgr. Kim Cannaday (kcannaday@seminolesheriff.org)

(407) 665-6978

(407) 402-3319

###

