VICTORIA COUNTY SHERIFF
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Cpt Wi

To: Chief Deputy Will Franklin	From: Captain Charles Williamson
Date: 08/04/2020	Re: Rick Alvarado, internal investigation

On 08/04/2020 Rick Alvarado was placed on Admin Leave pending the investigation of internal, E20-08042020. This was done in Captain Michael Behrends office since he is Alvarado's immediate supervisor.

After Alvarado read the admin leave paperwork and signed both copies I told him I would need to have his VCSO identification card, phone and badge. Alvarado removed his badge and identification card and handed both items to Captain Behrends. The phone was given to Captain Behrends after it was turned off.

Alvarado was told by me he did not represent the VCSO during this admin leave. I told him we needed a phone number to reach him at if needed and he said he didn't have one. That he has only used his county cell phone since working here.

I took possession of the phone and took it to my office. I turned the phone on in my office and set it to airplane mode to keep someone from logging in and deleting items on the phone.

I contacted Investigator Dan Boots and requested a forensics download of the phone. Investigator Boots sent me the request form and I filled it out. Investigator Boots came to my office and took possession of the phone.

08/05/2020

At or about 09:45 I went to the Victoria College Police Academy and spoke to the four cadets representing our agency. I needed to speak to them because I had received information Alvarado may have discussed the use of steroids to the class.

I spoke to all cadets and they told me there was no discussion about steroids but they did talk about the use of supplements. They did say Alvarado told them he had been accused of using steroids but hadn't ever used them.

I finished with the cadets and they returned to class.

I received an email at 10:11 from Investigator Boots and he explained while performing the forensics on the phone someone was trying to remotely log in to the phone. He denied them access and screen shot the messages sent. One was requesting a pin number and the other showed a message stating someone using your Apple Id was trying to sign in to an

IPhone near Victoria, Tx. The other information in this message was ralvarado@cityofbaycity.org, Alvarado worked for Baycity Police Department before coming to Victoria County. (See attached email and pictures)

08/07/2020

On 08/06/2020 I received an email from Investigator Dan Boots reference this case. The email contained his report. I printed the report and will attach to this case.

In his report he wrote while performing the forensic download someone in Victoria, Texas using the Apple ID ralvarado@cityofbaycity.org attempted to login to a device or was trying to set up a new device. When doing this you are prompted to enter a pin number provided by Apple. Investigator Boots denied access each time this happened. (See attachments)

Investigator Boots also noted there was several social media apps on the phone. Investigator Boots was unable to find a date when they were installed and then uninstalled. Inv. Boots did find info that the apps had been opened using the **Safari** internet browser.

The download found and we were able to login credentials to log into some of the apps. Even though they had been uninstalled you could access them because the device had been used to view them prior to the download.

Inv. Boots found a picture of someone holding a bottle of Endurabol at a desk that appears to be located in the VCSO CID unit. (Alvarado is an investigator for VCSO.) He also found numerous conversations related to (slang **Endurabol, RAD 140, Testolone, SARMS and test (Testosterone), juice (slang for steroids)**.

These conversations were with VCSO employee's Chris Carter, Jacob Valdez and former employee Michael Moyers. He also had these conversations with two former Victoria Police Academy cadets, Timothy Jackson and James Symonds. In the conversation with Jackson they discuss **"juice"** and how he, Alvarado had some serious muscle gain and how a man over 30, test starts to go down. Alvarado also said he uses Endurabol. Alvarado is the PT instructor for the academy.

In the contacts there was contact numbers for [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] is currently serving time in TDCJ for narcotics. [redacted] is deceased and [redacted] is currently out on bond and is a confirmed gang member with felony charges.

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08/07/2020

On this date I spoke to two VCSO deputies reference to the text messages found on the VCSO phone that Rick Alvarado.

At 1:11 p.m. I had Deputy Chris Carter come to my office and I explained to him I was working an internal and during a forensic phone download there was text messages found where he and Alvarado discussed certain supplement.

I told Chris they discussed Endurabol, RAD 140, Testolone, SARMS, test (Testosterone) and juice (slang for steroids). Chris told me he remembered the conversation. He said yes and he remembered them talking about 4 stack. I asked what that was and he told me it was legal and bought over the counter.

He said he asked because he wanted to know what it was. He said he doesn't use any type of steroids. I asked him how this conversation came up and he told me they work out together and he was inquiring about the substances. He wanted to figure out what Alvarado was taking.

I asked if he knew what Endurabol was and he said yes it is a form of a steroid. I told him was an over the counter and he told me didn't what was or wasn't. I asked about RAD 140 and he didn't know anything about it. I asked about SARMS and he said it is a spinoff of steroids. He said he based that on his own research. I asked about the term juiced and he said that is obviously a steroid term.

I asked Chris if he knew the two academy cadets and he said no. I asked if he knew [redacted], [redacted] and he said yes. I asked was he a steroid user and he said yes. I asked if he was doing time, TDC, right now and he said yes.

I asked he knew [redacted] and he said yes. I asked if he was deceased and he said yes the PD worked a DOS. I asked if he used steroids and he said alleged. He said he never worked a case but when they worked the DOS they found some steroids in the room. I asked if he knew a [redacted] ([redacted]) and he said no.

I asked Chris if Rick had ever talked to him about using steroids and he said he has talked about what he used to do. He said he doesn't know if he still does or not.

I ended the conversation and Chris went back to his normal duties.

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08/07/2020 @ 2:05 p.m.

I explained to Deputy Jacob Valdez why he was in my office. I explained to him I had a forensic download done on Inv. Rick Alvarado's county phone and there was text messages between him and Alvarado.

I told him there was a conversation about Endurabol. I asked him to tell me what this was. Deputy Valdez told me it was sold at Complete Nutrition, it was something people that do CrossFit uses because it is supposed to give you more energy and stamina.

I told him they also talked about RAD 140, Testolone, SARMS, test (testosterone) and juice (slang for steroids). I asked if they discussed the taking of these supplements and if it was legal or illegal and he said yes.

I asked if he has ever heard Alvarado talk about taking Endurabol or testosterone and he said yes. I asked if he said where he got the testosterone from and he said Dr Branfman (Gary Branfman).

I asked Deputy Valdez if he was taking Endurabol not and he said yes. I asked if he was taking anything else and he said yes but he couldn't remember the name of it but could get it for me. I asked if he was taking any illegal substance and he said no. I asked if Alvarado had ever talked about taking illegal substances and he told me yes. I asked to get bigger and he said yes sir and get more muscle mass.

Deputy Valdez said while they were working patrol together he was openly talking about juicing taking steroids.

I told Deputy Valdez there were some contacts found in the phone. I told him one of the contacts was [redacted] and we all know him as [redacted] and he said correct. I asked if [redacted] was of good character and he said no sir. We discussed [redacted] being in TDCJ. I asked if [redacted] is a known steroid user and he said yes sir. I asked if he knew who was prescribing his stuff and he said no.

I asked if he knew [redacted] and he said yes sir. I asked how he knew [redacted] and he said when he worked out at DeTar. He said [redacted] openly talked about using steroids. I asked if [redacted] was deceased and he said yes.

I asked if he knew [redacted] and he said no.

I asked about an individual known as [redacted] and he said he knew him. I asked if he was a body builder and steroid user and he said yes. I asked if he was deceased and he said yes.

I asked how often the use of steroids came up in the conversations with Alvarado and he said he openly talked about it and couldn't give me a number of times they discussed it.

I told Deputy Valdez I had forgot to ask earlier if Alvarado had ever talked about receiving his stuff at the office or Baycity and he said no.

I asked if there was anything else he needed to tell me we hadn't talked about and he told me Alvarado was really open about his usage of steroids.

I asked Deputy Valdez if he knew Aaron Moeller and he said yes. I asked if Moeller was a user of steroids and he said yes sir. I asked how he knew this and he said Moeller told him. I asked if he ever knew of Moeller selling steroids and he said no.

I asked if Alvarado had ever talked about getting steroids from Moeller and he said he had mentioned it and Moeller was on some good stuff.

I asked again if there was anything else I needed to know and he said no. I ended the interview and Deputy Valdez returned to work.

08/12/2020 @ 08:38

Inv. Rick Alvarado came to the Sheriff's Office and I conducted an interview with him reference an internal, E20-08042020.

I explained to Rick I saw he had his phone out so I let him know I had my recorder going if this is what he was doing and he said yeah I have my "Garrity" pulled up.

I explained to him this was an internal and it was all civil not criminal. I also told Rick in 2018 I was assigned an internal because of a different issue. I told Rick the issue was resolved and unfounded. I explained a forensic download was performed on his county issued cell phone in 2018 and there was some things found. I told him it was forwarded to former Sheriff T. Michael O'Connor and Former Chief Deputy Roy Boyd but no action was taken by them and the internal was still open. I told him the reason I had this case was because of a new accusation of a discussion about steroids at the Victoria Police Academy. Rick responded, right.

I told Rick this information was forwarded to Sheriff Justin Marr and Chief Deputy Will Franklin and they had asked me to look into the new allegation. I told Rick I had gone to the Academy and spoke to our four cadets and they all told me they discussed supplements not steroids.

Rick told me this was part of his curriculum and a power point.

I asked Rick about a set of text between him and someone about a party at the Loft. Rick explained this was his cousin and it was reference his bachelor party.

I read part of the text about "you can bring alcohol but no meth". I asked him what this meant. Rick explained to me his cousin and friends give him a hard time about being an officer and throw jabs at him all time. He told me he could tell me how many times he has drank and been to a strip club. He told me the hardest pill to swallow but he hasn't eaten donut in fourteen years because he refuses to be a statistic. He told me he and his wife have a crazy relationship and he refuses to get a divorce because he doesn't want to be a statistic. He refuses to drink alcohol after a rough day at work. He said he tries to hold himself to higher standard because he is an officer and has pride.

I told him there was some text between him and former officer Aaron Moeller. I read him some of the text. I read him one of the text making reference to **"TREN".** Rick explained TREN is a steroid but there is different versions. I read Aarons text **"Get on some Tren" Ricks** reply to Aaron, **"That how I dropped from 225-230 when I started academy with you. Member but the only bad thing it is it taxes my cardio".**

I read more incoming text from Aaron, **"How about PRIMOBOLAN".** Ricks reply, **"Yeah no contact anymore. The last guy I ordered some EQ and shipment got seized. He actually gave my money back but haven't tried again".**

Incoming text from Aaron**, "I got you, homie, but there's a five vial minimum". "Not my rule".** Outgoing text from Rick, **"Ok I'll let you know when I finish this one".** Incoming from Aaron, **"I can order a couple to lighten the load".**

I asked Rick what the five vial minimum meant and he said the actual supplement itself. I asked if it was a steroid or supplement. He replied either or, you can go online and buy any of those items that are not illicit steroids.

I told Rick I looked up the names of the steroids. I also asked if he ordered steroids from Aaron Moeller and he said no. I said and this is not what this text is about and he replied, he is under the assumption that I might have taken different supplements throughout my law enforcement career. Rick said he is available to take any type of test, what so ever.

Rick said his limited anabolic steroid use is Testosterone replacement therapy, I've been on SARMS and legal steroids. He said you can get online, legalsteroids.com and you can get, Primobolan, Anabar and etcetera, these are all non-injectable. The come in vials, droppable's and just like now I'm taking a quadstac, which is a SARM and it comes in a vial. He said you can buy it in a five vial or one or two vials. He said it is the same concept as anabolic.

I asked if they were prescription drugs and he said no they are all droppers. I asked again if they were prescription or over the counter. **He said the Testosterone is prescription**

and all the legal steroids and SARMS are over the counter non anabolic but they are considered anabolic there just not in the chart of anabolic steroids that are in the Health and Safety Code. He said there not FDA approved but there not banned.

I reminded Rick about coming in on 08/04/2020 and I took his phone. I told Rick we were performing a forensic download and asked if he tried to log into his county phone and he said no he was going to activate his new apple phone but wasn't able. I showed Rick a screen shot of the message on the phone which included his identifier, ralavarado@cityofbaycity.org and he said yeah this is my apple id. He said he had to by an Android because he couldn't log into an Apple account because every time I tried to login it sent a verification code. I interrupted Rick and told him it was a pin code and then showed him one from the screen shot. I told him it was declined because they were trying to download the phone.

I told Rick the reason the last policy violation was listed was because he tried to login. I explained to him he couldn't do this and it appeared as though he was trying to interfere with the investigation. I told Rick we knew the google app on the phone had pictures in it but they were deleted. I told him we didn't know if at some point he got logged in and he said yeah right because he switched everything over to the new phone. He said it was based on the cloud not transferred over to the phone.

I told Rick we got logged in and looked but didn't find anything negative. I told Rick the biggest issue was the steroid conversations and purchases between him and Aaron Moeller. I told Rick there was another conversation that went along with the Aaron Moeller conversation.

I told him it was a conversation with Jason Boyd and James Monroy. I told Rick they went to Round Rock Texas and this is where Aaron Moeller works. I told him they brought back a package to him. I asked if he remembered what was in the package and he said no. He said he never got a package from Aaron Moeller. I said "so they didn't pick up anything and he replied hell no".

I told Rick with all the text and discussions that everything he is using is legal and he replied yes. He also said it wasn't FDA approved but it was all legal.

I asked where do you get all this and he said Complete Nutrition, Nutra Bio, GNC and any supplement store. Rick looked at his phone and said he could pull it up on his apps. He said the reason it frowned upon is because of competitions because it is in the WADA code not to use.

Rick said the reason he takes what he does is because of the Academy PT, SWAT training and workouts.

I told Rick in the new phone download Endurabol came up and he said yeah, it is a Quadstac. I asked if that was for people that did CrossFit and he said yeah. He also named off several other supplements and said they were all SARMS. I asked about the RAD 140 and he said that is a testosterone buster.

I asked about Testolone and he said he didn't know what that was. I told him it was in one of his conversations. He told me if it had "test" in the name it was probably a way to mimic testosterone.

I told him in the conversation he also mentioned the word test which is short for Testosterone and he agreed. I told him he also used a term "juice" and he said it stood for anabolic steroid.

I told him this came up in one of the conversations with [redacted] and he said yeah it is one of my little cousins. **I told Rick, [redacted] mentioned so you are on juice. I asked what he meant and Rick said he asked if I was on the cycle like taking something other than my testosterone.**

I asked could [redacted] have meant are you taking illegal substance, illegal steroids. Rick said in his context, he's like a little brother, it could mean anything.

I asked Rick if he has ever had a conversation with anyone about using illegal steroids. He said illegal to them if they are not under a doctor's care and he said yeah.

I asked if he had ever used illegal steroids at any time and he said no. I asked if he had ever told anyone he had used it and he asked are you talking about my law enforcement career or entire life. I said during your career and he said no.

He said he was on pro hormones and towards the end of 2008 or 2009 all the supplements they used to take all got added to the Health and Safety Code and they were then called steroids. He said when he talks to people he says yeah. He then went into when he went to work in Baycity he **weighed 175 and bulked up well yeah juiced up and it is considered juiced now. He said he was on methastradrol, superdrol and all these other drols that you could buy at any of the supplement stores.** He said all these got moved so they started on SARMS and now they are on the verge of being moved to the HSC.

He said as soon as this happens he will no longer take it. He said he is not going to put anything in his system or body to jeopardize fourteen years. I asked how long he has worked for VCSO and he said six years.

I told Rick there was other conversations but we weren't going to discuss it. I told him it was conversations and comments being made about other people. I told him the main focus was the steroids.

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Rick asked why he wasn't asked to give a blood test or pull his medical records. He told me some of the supplements are on his medicine list. He had lab work done every ten months. I told Rick this was above my pay grade and couldn't ask him to take a test. I told him it would have to come from higher up. I told Rick he could ask that question later.

I asked Rick if there was anything else we needed to talk about and he said yeah in the conversations in 2018, he said he understood it's not criminal law it's civil or internal and he was aware of the allegations of steroids. He said it was even presented to the point the Sheriff wanted to fire him because of the steroid use but he was handed a document by the Chief saying he was cleared of the internal investigation.

He said his question was, why would the stuff from 2018 be brought up in 2020. I asked if he had a copy of the letter and he said yes. I told him he needed to present that because there is nothing in his file. I told him I don't have that. I told him there is nothing there and the current admin can't see. I told him if he does have it he needs to present it. I told him it might have an impact on this investigation.

I asked could he get me a copy of the letter and he said yes it was in his office. I told him I would discuss it with the Chief. I also told Rick there was other internals that I had done and they are gone as well.

I told Rick the only part of my internal in 2018 was for the TV and the rest was turned over to someone else because they didn't want me working it.

Rick asked if he was still on the list for review board a Lieutenant spot. I told him I thought he was and I explained the reason he couldn't log into his computer was because we performed a dump on the work computer and there was nothing there.

I ended the interview and walked Rick to Capt Michael Behrends office. Capt Behrends allowed Rick to enter his office to try and retrieve the letter mentioned.

I later was able to read a copy of the letter signed by former Chief Roy Boyd and it only mentions the internal involving the TV.

This internal is complete and will be forwarded to eh Chief Deputy for review.

8/13/2020