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SHERIFF MARCO LOPEZ DECLARED UNFIT

STATE ATTORNEY ADDS OSCEOLA COUNTY SHERIFF MARCO LOPEZ TO BRADY SYSTEM

The State Attorney's Office for the Ninth Judicial Circuit added Osceola County Sheriff Marco Lopez to its Brady Identification System.

The Brady Identification System is a list handled by a prosecutor's office that contains the names of law enforcement officers who have a history of misconduct or credibility issues.

According to a memo sent out to Lopez on Dec. 30, 2024, from State Attorney Andrew Bain, it cited Lopez' public statements following the "accidental" posting of Madeline Soto's body on social media.

"In this instance, the sheriff's public statements, particularly regarding the release of a confidential and sensitive photograph, raised concerns about consistency and truthfulness," a spokesperson for the state attorney's office said in a statement. "As a witness in an ongoing case, inclusion in the Brady System ensures transparency and allows defense counsel and the courts to evaluate the admissibility and relevance of this information."

WESH 2 reached out to the Osceola County sheriff's office but has not heard back.

Lopez entered a plea agreement and was fined \$250 for publishing the photo of Soto after the state attorney's office said Lopez violated public record laws. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement opened an investigation into the incident.

SOURCE:



Mike Gramajo
Assignment Editor



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The memo sent out by Bain went on to say, "To be clear, the concerning statement in your interview is your assertion that 'no one ever came out directly and said it [the photograph] was the victim.' You made this statement in



direct response to a reporter's question about your agency issuing an apology 'for apparently posting the photo of a body on social media believed to be that of [a minor victim].'"

Lopez is listed as a witness in the Stephan Sterns case, the man accused of murdering 14-year-old Soto in March 2024, but according to the memo, **"This leaves us no choice but to include you in our Brady Identification System so defense counsel may evaluate your statements for impeachment** and, if appropriate, a court may make a determination as to their admissibility for that purpose."

TO READ MORE ON HOW SHERIFF MARCO LOPEZ ABUSED HIS POSITION CLICK BELOW

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