

# Florida sheriff to investigate Epstein's work release

The Associated Press

## MIAMI

A Florida sheriff launched an investigation Friday into whether his department properly monitored the wealthy financier Jeffrey Epstein while he was serving a sentence for soliciting prostitution from underage girls.

The inquiry will focus on whether deputies assigned to monitor Epstein in a work-release program violated any rules or regulations, Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw said in a statement. Under a 2008 plea deal, Epstein was allowed to spend most of his days at the office of his now-defunct Florida Science Foundation, which doled out research grants, rather than in the county jail.

"All aspects of the matter will be fully investigated to ensure total accountability and transparency," Bradshaw said.

Epstein, 66, was convicted on one count of procuring a person under age 18 for prostitution and one count of solicitation of prostitution. He served a 13-month sentence, registered as a sex offender and paid restitution to victims. While only convicted on two counts, prosecutors alleged that Epstein had been involved with dozens of underage teenage girls.

His plea deal helped him avoid more serious federal charges. But news reports of the deal sparked a public outcry, and federal prosecutors in New York charged him with sex trafficking involving underage victims. The charges led to the resignation of President Donald Trump's labour secretary, Alex Acosta, who was Miami U.S. attorney when the deal was signed. Epstein has pleaded not guilty. If convicted, he could be sentenced to up to 45 years in prison. A judge on Thursday denied bail, saying the financier is a flight risk and a danger to the community.

After a little more than three



AGGIE KENNY VIA AP

In this courtroom sketch, Judge Richard M. Berman speaking as he denies Jeffrey Epstein bail during a hearing in federal court, Thursday in New York. Judge Berman denied bail for the jailed financier on sex trafficking charges, saying the danger to the community that would result if the jet-setting defendant was free formed the "heart of this decision."

months in a Florida county jail, Epstein spent most of his days at his office, according to Palm Beach County sheriff's records released to The Associated Press. The terms of his work release program allowed him to be out of jail from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., six days a week, but records show that on some occasions his personal limousine dropped him off as early as 7:15 a.m. or picked up as late as 10:40 p.m.

Sex offenders are now banned from participating in the county's work release program, but apparently weren't in 2008, according to a copy of the rules at the time.

Brad Edwards, a lawyer for several of Epstein's accusers, held a news conference in New York this week saying said he had been in contact with a woman who had "sexual contact" with Epstein in his office while he was still serving his sentence. Edwards wouldn't identify the woman. Epstein's lawyers did not respond to numerous emails requesting comment throughout the week.

One of the deputies who had been assigned to guard Epstein at

his office for several days told the AP he did recall young women visiting, but couldn't say whether there was any inappropriate contact because he was stationed in the lobby, with two doors between himself and Epstein's private office.

"I do remember young women coming in and going back into the office area," the now-retired deputy, Jeffrey Rice, said in an interview Thursday.

"Early 20s, maybe. They just kind of said they were office assistants."

Epstein was not allowed to leave the office unless he was returning to jail, but records show sheriff's deputies escorted Epstein to his Palm Beach mansion on at least eight occasions.

Rice said when he escorted Epstein home, he stood guard outside the house, but wasn't aware of what Epstein was doing or if anyone else was inside. He contacted a sergeant for clarification on what he was supposed to do.

"I didn't do an interior sweep of the residence," he said. "I followed instructions to the letter."

# Besieged Puerto Rico governor goes quiet amid protests

The Associated Press

## SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico

In the Spanish colonial fortress that serves as his official residence, Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello is under siege.

Motorcyclists, celebrities, horse enthusiasts and hundreds of thousands of ordinary Puerto Ricans have swarmed outside La Fortaleza (The Fort) in Old San Juan this week, demanding Rossello resign over a series of leaked online chats insulting women, political opponents and even victims of Hurricane Maria.

Rossello, the telegenic 40-year-old son of a former governor, has dropped his normally intense rhythm of public appearances and gone into relatively long periods of near-media silence, intensifying questions about his future.

For much of his 2 1/2 years in office, Rossello has given three or four lengthy news conferences a week, comfortably fielding question after question in Spanish and English from the local and international press. And that's on top of public appearances, one-on-one interviews and televised meetings with visiting politicians and members of his administration.

But since July 11, when Rossello cut short a family vacation in France and returned home to face the first signs of what has become an island-wide movement to oust him, the governor has made four appearances, all but one in highly controlled situations.

New protests began Friday afternoon, with unionized workers organizing a march to La Fortaleza from the nearby waterfront. Horseback riders joined them with a self-declared cavalry march, while hundreds of other people came from around the city and surrounding areas. A string of smaller events was on the agenda across the island over the weekend, followed by what many expected to be a massive protest on Monday.

The chorus calling for Rossello's resignation was joined Friday by Puerto Rico's non-voting member of Congress, Jennifer Gonzalez; U.S. Sen. Rick Scott of Florida; and New York congresswomen Nydia Velazquez and Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez.

The crisis has even cut back Rossello's affable online presence. The governor normally started every day by tweeting "Good morning!" to his followers around 5 a.m. The last such bright-and-early message came on July 8. The tweets from his account have dwindled to a trickle since then, and each one is met by a flood of often-abusive responses from Puerto Ricans demanding he resign.

# Iran's seizure of UK tanker in Gulf seen as escalation

The Associated Press

## LONDON

Iran seized a British-flagged oil tanker Friday and briefly detained a second vessel in the Strait of Hormuz, intensifying tensions in the strategic waterway that has become a flashpoint between Tehran and the West.

The seizing of the British tanker marked perhaps the most significant escalation since tensions between Iran and the West began rising in May. At that time, the U.S. announced it was dispatching an aircraft carrier and additional troops to the Middle East, citing unspecified threats posed by Iran.

The ongoing showdown has caused jitters around the globe, with each manoeuvre bringing fear that any misunderstanding or misstep by either side could lead to war.

Details of what took place Friday remained sketchy after Iran reported that it had seized a British oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz. The strait at the mouth of the Persian Gulf is a shipping channel for one-fifth of all global crude exports.

The Stena Impero was taken to an Iranian port because it was not complying with "international maritime laws and regulations," Iran's Revolutionary Guard declared.

A statement from Stena Bulk, which owns the seized tanker, said it was unable to make contact with the ship after it was approached by unidentified vessels and a helicopter in international waters. A spokesman for the company's owners said the tanker was in "full compliance with all navigation and international regulations."

The company said the tanker had 23 crew members of Indian, Russian, Latvian and Filipino nationalities and there were no reports of any of them were injured.

The U.K. has featured prominently in the recent tensions with Iran. Britain's Royal Marines assisted in the seizure of an Iranian oil super-tanker on July 4 by Gibraltar, a British overseas territory off the southern coast of Spain.

Britain said it would release the vessel if Iran could prove it was not breaching European Union sanctions on oil shipments to Syria.

Gibraltar's government said Friday that its Supreme Court had extended by 30 days the detention of the Panama-flagged Grace, which was loaded with over 2 million barrels of Iranian crude oil.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

**DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED  
JULY 11 TO JULY 17, 2019  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

## RESIDENTIAL

- 171 SOMERSIDE WAY SE** (Lot 27, Block 9, Plan 0912931) DP15054. Garage (Shed).
- 22 RANCHMAN COURT NE** (Lot 35, Block 13, Plan 0714516) DP15055. Single Detached House (Enclosed Deck) Including Rear Setback Variance.
- 112 CYPRESS WAY SE** (Lot 22, Block 7, Plan 7410539) DP15057. Garage (Gazebo).
- 361 16 STREET NE** (Lot 46, Block 3, Plan 1828LK) DP15061. Garage.
- 58 - 1600 STRACHAN ROAD SE** (Lot 3, Block 1, Plan 9812805) DP15063. Single Detached House (Covered Deck).
- 49 SOMERSET WAY SE** (Lot 3, Block 5, Plan 0612243) DP15065. Single Detached House (Covered Deck).
- 1121 5 STREET SE** (Lot 3, Block K, Plan 5618FQ) DP15068. Garage Including Gross Floor Area Variance.
- 35 IRELAND COURT NW** (Lot 40,41, Block 2,2, Plan 6641JK,6641JK) DP15069. Garage.

## COMMERCIAL

- 164 - 3292 DUNMORE ROAD SE** (Lot 10, Block 1, Plan 9610407) DP15060. One Fascia Sign.

## HOME OCCUPATION

- 126 PERRY CRESCENT NE** (Lot 27, Block 7, Plan 0012155) DP15036. Office Use With Storage On Site. Landscaping.

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Officer or the Municipal Planning Commission may appeal to the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by completing and submitting to the City Clerk Department, the required Notice of Appeal form within twenty one (21) days of this publication. Notice of Appeal forms are available from the City Clerk Department, Third Floor, City Hall or on the City's website at [www.medicinehat.ca](http://www.medicinehat.ca).

All Development Permits listed are subject to conditions. Further information on any Development Permit may be obtained from the Planning & Development Services Department, Second Floor, City Hall during normal business hours (Telephone 403.529.8374).

## 8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

Electric Outages.....	403.529.8260
Gas Emergency.....	403.529.8191
Water & Sewer Emergency.....	403.502.8042
After Hours Special Services.....	403.526.2828



**Medicine Hat**  
The Gas City

## WATER MAIN FLUSHING & FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTIONS

Environmental Utilities performs regular, routine maintenance to uphold the water quality and system infrastructure by annually flushing water mains and inspecting fire hydrants.

During these operations, there may be some discoloration in the water which is not harmful to consume and will disappear when flushing is complete. Please note that discoloured water should not be used for laundry and that fluctuating water pressure may also be noticed.

Should discoloration persist beyond three hours, turn on your cold water tap or an outside sprinkler and let the water run for several minutes until the water runs clear.

For additional information or to confirm whether crews are working in your zone, refer to the Water Flushing Programs page on the City's website at [www.medicinehat.ca/eu](http://www.medicinehat.ca/eu) or contact Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.

## DEFECTIVE STREETLIGHTS Resident Alert

If you reside in the City of Medicine Hat, Redcliff or Dunmore and you notice a streetlight that is not operating properly, please notify Electric Utility at:

[www.medicinehat.ca/reportaproblem](http://www.medicinehat.ca/reportaproblem)

Or, call **403.529.8262**. If after hours, please leave a message.

Please provide the following information when submitting your report:

- streetlight number
- street address or nearest house number, office or store
- nature of problem (i.e. cycling between on and off, always off etc.)
- number of lights out (single light, multiple lights, sequence of lights)



**Medicine Hat**  
The Gas City