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STATE OF ALASKA

ALASKA POLICE STANDARDS COUNCIL

In the Matter of)	
)	
Christopher R. Ritala,)	APSC No. 2014-16
)	
Respondent,)	
_____)	

ORDER OF REVOCATION

The Alaska Police Standards Council of the State of Alaska, having duly convened on the 9th day of July, 2015, and having reviewed and discussed the Accusation against the Respondent, which was served March 30, 2015 in accordance with AS 44.62.380, takes official notice that a Notice of Defense or a Request for Hearing has not been received from Respondent as required by AS 44.62.390. The Council also takes official notice that under AS 44.62.530, if the Respondent does not file a Notice of Defense, the Council may take action based upon other evidence and an Accusation may be used with notice to the Respondent.

Accordingly, the Council has considered the Accusation dated March 31, 2015.

Based on the Council's consideration of the facts recited in the referenced Accusation,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED

1. That the allegations made in the Accusation against the Respondent dated March 31, 2015, are hereby adopted and the Accusation is made, by reference, a part of this Order as though set forth fully herein.
2. That the Respondent's police officer certificate in the State of Alaska is hereby revoked; and
3. That this Order of Revocation shall take effect in accordance with AS 44.62.520(a).

DATED this 13th day of July 2015.



Sheldon Schmitt, Chairman
Alaska Police Standards Council

*State of Alaska
Alaska Police Standards Council
Box 111200
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1200*

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STATE OF ALASKA

ALASKA POLICE STANDARDS COUNCIL

In the Matter of,)
)
 Christopher R. Ritala,) No. APSC 2014-16
)
 Respondent)
 _____)

ACCUSATION

Kelly Alzaharna, Executive Director of the Police Standards Council (APSC), Department of Public Safety of the State of Alaska, is seeking to revoke the police certificate of Respondent Christopher R. Ritala under the legal authority of AS 18.65.240(a) and (c), the Council's regulations in 13 AAC 85.110, and under the procedures governed by the Administrative Procedure Act in AS 44.62.330, *et. seq.* The Executive Director alleges as follows:

1. On or about October 16, 1995, the Respondent was hired by the Anchorage Police Department as a police officer.
2. On or about October 11, 1996 the Respondent was certified by APSC as a police officer in the State of Alaska.
3. On or about April 3, 2014, as a result of an ongoing administrative investigation, the Respondent was sent home as his directed duty assignment and ordered to leave his patrol car in the Anchorage Police Department headquarters parking lot.

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2 4. On or about April 4, 2014, the Respondent contacted on-duty
3 Anchorage police officer Schaeffer and requested Officer Schaeffer to “get rid of
4 some stuff”, including a bat and a bottle of booze located in the trunk of the vehicle.
5 The Respondent told Officer Schaeffer that the items needed to disappear because he
6 expected his vehicle was going to be searched in connection with an internal affairs
7 investigation. Officer Schaeffer reported the request to his supervisor.
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11 5. Later on April 4, 2014, the Respondent’s vehicle was searched and
12 the following items were found: one half-full bottle of R&R whiskey (in trunk), one
13 sealed airline bottle of vodka (inside front passenger door pocket), brass knuckles (in
14 Crown Royal bag in the trunk), one butterfly knife (in Crown Royal bag in the
15 trunk), one December 2000 Penthouse magazine (in file box in the trunk), 21 various
16 ID cards (in file box in the trunk), and one AR-15 firing pin (in Plano tackle box in
17 the trunk).
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21 6. On or about April 15, 2014, the Respondent told Sgt. John Richtarsik
22 that he most likely kept the half-full bottle of R&R whiskey and put it in his trunk,
23 after taking it off a drunk. He used the bottle to pay people for information and had
24 done so once before with another bottle of alcohol.
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28 7. During the same interview, the Respondent told Sgt. Richtarsik that
29 he didn’t remember putting the bottle of vodka in his car door, the brass knuckles
30 and butterfly knife were his to be used as training aides when teaching recruits to
31 conduct searches, the Penthouse magazine was his and he read it in the car, the IDs
32 were likely suspended, revoked, or cancelled that he just threw in the box as a
common practice early in his career, and the AR-15 firing pin belonged to his
personal rifle.

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8. On or about April 23, 2014, IA 14-0277 sustained findings against the Respondent for violations of department policy by intending to subvert an internal investigation, possessing and transporting alcohol in his patrol vehicle, keeping and viewing pornographic material on-duty in his patrol vehicle, and failing to properly document and dispose of seized items.

9. On or about May 20, 2014, the Respondent was discharged from his employment as a police officer with the Anchorage Police Department.

10. AS 18.65.240(c) provides that the APSC may deny or revoke the certificate of a police officer who does not meet the standards adopted under (a) (2) of this section.

11. 13 AAC 85.110(a)(2) provides that the council will, in its discretion, revoke a basic, intermediate, or advanced certificate upon a finding that the holder of the certificate has been discharged from employment as a police officer for cause for conduct that is detrimental to the reputation, integrity, or discipline of the police department where he works.

12. 13 AAC 85.110(a)(3) provides that the council will, in its discretion, revoke a basic, intermediate, or advanced certificate upon a finding that the holder of the certificate does not meet the standards in 13 AAC 85.010(a) or (b).

13. 13 AAC 85.110(b)(3) provides that the council shall revoke a basic, intermediate, or advanced certificate upon a finding that the holder of the certificate has been discharged from employment as a police officer for cause for conduct that would cause a reasonable person to have substantial doubt about an individual's honesty, fairness, and respect for the rights of others and for the laws of this state and

1
2 the United States or that is detrimental to the integrity of the police department
3 where the police officer worked.
4

5 **COUNT I**

6 Paragraphs 1-13 are incorporated by reference. Based upon the facts
7 described above, the Respondent was discharged from employment as a police
8 officer for cause for conduct that is detrimental to the reputation, integrity, or
9 discipline of the Anchorage Police Department, which is grounds for discretionary
10 revocation under 13 AAC 85.110(a)(1).
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14 **COUNT II**

15 Paragraphs 1-13 are incorporated by reference. Based upon the facts
16 described above, the Respondent does not meet the minimum standards for a
17 certified police officer established under 13 AAC 85.010(a) (3). The Respondent's
18 conduct would cause a reasonable person to have substantial doubts about his
19 honesty, fairness, and respect for the laws of this state and the United States and
20 lacks good moral character, which is grounds for discretionary revocation under 13
21 AAC 85.110(a) (3).
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26 **COUNT III**

27 Paragraphs 1-13 are incorporated by reference. Based upon the facts described
28 above, the Respondent was terminated from the Anchorage Police Department for
29 cause for conduct that would cause a reasonable person to have substantial doubt
30 about an his honesty, fairness, and respect for the rights of others and for the laws of
31 this state and the United States or that is detrimental to the integrity of the Anchorage
32 PD, which is grounds for mandatory revocation under 13 AAC 85.110(b) (3).

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DATED this 20th day of March, 2015 at Juneau, Alaska.

Kelly C. Alzaharna
Kelly Alzaharna, Executive Director
Alaska Police Standards Council

*State of Alaska
Alaska Police Standards Council
Box 111200
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1200*