

STATE OF ALASKA

ALASKA POLICE STANDARDS COUNCIL

In the Matter of)
CLIFFORD E. CHRISTENSEN,)
Respondent.)

No. APSC 84-1

ORDER

The Alaska Police Standards Council (hereafter: Council) of the State of Alaska, having duly convened on the 13th day of March, 1986, and having reviewed and discussed the Accusation against the respondent which was served on December 21, 1985 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 Affidavit may be used as evidence without notice to the respondent.

Accordingly, the Council has considered the attached Affidavit of Jack W. Wray, Administrator of the Council.

Based upon the Council's consideration of the facts recited in Mr. Wray's Affidavit:

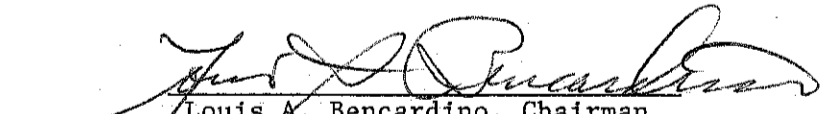
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED

1. That the allegations made in the Accusation against respondent dated December 16, 1985 are hereby adopted; the Accusation is made by reference a part of this Order as though set forth fully herein.


2. That respondent's police officer certificate in the State of Alaska is hereby revoked.

3. That this Order of Revocation shall take effect in accordance with AS 44.62.520(a).

DATED this 13th day of March, 1986 at Juneau, Alaska.


Louis A. Bencardino, Chairman
Alaska Police Standards Council

I hereby certify that 7 members out of 9 members were present at the time this Order was considered, and that 7 members voted Yes and 0 members voted No.


Louis A. Bencardino, Chairman
Alaska Police Standards Council

State of Alaska
Alaska Police Standards Council
Pouch N - Juneau, Alaska 99811

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In the Matter of)
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CLIFFORD E. CHRISTENSEN,)
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Respondent.)

No. APSC 84-1

ACCUSATION

Jack W. Wray, Administrator of the Alaska Police Standards Council of the State of Alaska, moves to revoke the certificate of Clifford E. Christensen as a police officer pursuant to AS 18.65.240(a)(2), AS 18.65.240(c), AS 18.65.270, AS 44.62.330 et. seq., former 13 AAC 85.010(a)(4), former 13 AAC 85.100(a)(3), 13 AAC 85.010(a)(3), and 13 AAC 85.110-(a)(3).

The Administrator alleges as follows:

1. On or about April 14, 1975, respondent submitted an application to the Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) for a police officer certificate. Respondent was at that time employed as the Chief of the Unalaska Police Department, Unalaska, Alaska.

2. On or about October 3, 1975, respondent was certified as a police officer in the State of Alaska.

3. On or about January 20, 1981, respondent's police officer certificate lapsed since he had not held employment as a police officer for over a year.

4. On or about April 16, 1981, respondent was hired to be the Chief of the Haines Police Department, Haines, Alaska.

5. On or about March 28, 1983, respondent applied for reinstatement of his police officer certificate.

6. On or about April 1, 1983, respondent's police officer certificate was reinstated.

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7. On or about September 29, 1981, respondent purchased, with funds belonging to the City of Haines, \$604.95 worth of camera equipment. This equipment was of a size and design compatible with a camera owned by respondent. Respondent routinely used this camera, and the accessory equipment purchased with city funds, for personal use. He also used the camera for police business, but he was the only person who used it. Through his actions and statements, respondent led other officers, specifically Officers Zorn Yankovich and Thomas Allen, to believe that both the camera and the associated equipment belonged to respondent. For example, respondent on one occasion agreed with another officer's statement that the City of Haines needed to buy its own camera gear, but expressed his opinion that the city would never authorize such a purchase.

8. On or about September 21, 1982, respondent received a check in the amount of \$850 from the Haines Fair Board for security services provided at the fair by members of the Haines Volunteer Police Reserve. Before depositing the check, respondent asked the acting secretary of the Police Reserve, Officer Thomas Allen, if he could borrow a portion of the money to purchase a personal firearm. Respondent promised to pay the money back; Officer Allen did not object to respondent's proposal. Respondent took \$557.00, in cash, out of the \$850, and deposited the remaining amount in the Police Reserve account. Respondent purchased a .357 Colt Python with the money he "borrowed." It was not until January 13, 1984, when respondent was being interviewed by the Alaska State Troopers about allegations of other possible criminal activity, that he promised to pay at least one-half of the amount due on his next payday, January 15, 1984, with the balance to follow on the subsequent payday. The \$557 "borrowed" to purchase the .357 Colt Python was paid in full

1 on January 31, 1984, one year and four months after respondent
2 obtained the money.

3 9. On or about September 20, 1983, respondent
4 received two checks payable to the Haines Volunteer Police
5 Reserve, one in the amount of \$304 and one in the amount of
6 \$900. Respondent deposited both checks, but kept \$250 in cash
7 for himself. Respondent did this without the authorization of
8 the required co-signer, Officer Thomas Allen, or the approval
9 of the other members of the Police Reserve; this was contrary
10 to established Police Reserve procedure. Respondent used the
11 \$250 to purchase a .22 caliber model 63 Smith and Wesson gun
12 for his son's Christmas present. On January 31, 1984, after
13 an investigation regarding respondent's alleged criminal
14 activity had begun, respondent repaid the \$250 which he had
15 "borrowed" without authorization.

16 10. On or about February 1, 1984, Haines city
17 officials met with respondent, and told him that if he did not
18 resign from the police department immediately the allegations
19 against him would be reported and considered at a public
20 meeting of the Haines City Council. Respondent then resigned.

21 11. On or about February 16, 1984, a three-count
22 misdemeanor criminal complaint was filed against respondent in
23 the District Court at Juneau (Case No. 1JU-84-313 Cr.). The
24 complaint charged respondent with three class A misdemeanor
25 offenses: Theft by Failure to Make Required Disposition of
26 Funds Received, in violation of AS 11.46.210(a)(2) and AS 11.-
27 46.140(a)(1); Theft in the Third Degree, in violation of
28 AS 11.46.140(a)(1) and AS 11.46.100(a)(1); and Misapplication
29 of Property, in violation of AS 11.46.620(a). All three
30 counts are based upon respondent's unauthorized taking of \$250
31 in cash from the two checks which he deposited in the Police
32 Reserve account on September 20, 1983.

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12. On or about February 16, 1984, respondent left Haines with his family. Respondent departed before the criminal complaint was available in Haines to be served upon him. At the time he left Haines respondent knew that he was the subject of a criminal investigation, and that it was likely that criminal charges would be filed against him.

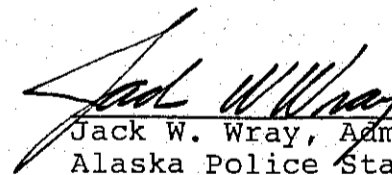
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13. On or about February 17, 1984, a warrant for respondent's arrest on the misdemeanor charges was issued by District Court Magistrate Carl Heinmiller of Haines.

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14. Although respondent is aware that a criminal complaint has been filed against him, and that a warrant for his arrest has been issued, he has not appeared to answer the charges against him. Respondent is now believed to be residing in Oregon.

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15. The conduct described in paragraphs 7, 8, 9, 12, and 14 demonstrates that respondent lacks good moral character. He therefore does not meet the minimum standards for a certified police officer established under AS 18.65.240(a)(2), former 13 AAC 85.010(a)(4), former 13 AAC 85.100(a)(3), 13 AAC 85.010(a)(3) and 13 AAC 85.110(a)(3), and his police officer certificate should be revoked.

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Wherefore, the Administrator prays that Clifford E. Christensen's certificate as a police officer in the State of Alaska be revoked.

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Dated this 16th day of December, 1985.

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Jack W. Wray, Administrator
Alaska Police Standards Council