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STATE OF ALASKA

ALASKA POLICE STANDARDS COUNCIL

In the Matter of)
)
 Louden Wright,) **APSC No. 2021-07**
)
 Respondent,)
 _____)

ORDER OF DISQUALIFICATION

The Alaska Police Standards Council of the State of Alaska, having duly convened on the 5th day of May, 2022, and having reviewed and discussed the Statement of Issues against the Respondent, which was served February 14, 2022, 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 a Statement of Issues may be used without notice to the Respondent.

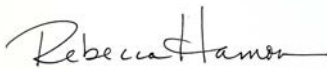
Accordingly, the Council has considered the Statement of Issues dated February 14, 2022.

Based on the Council’s consideration of the facts recited in the referenced Statement of Issues,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED

1. That the allegations made in the Statement of Issues against the Respondent dated February 14, 2022, are hereby adopted and the Statement of Issues is made, by reference, a part of this Order as though set forth fully herein.
2. That the Respondent is hereby disqualified for certification as an Alaska Municipal Correctional Officer; and
3. That this Order of Disqualification shall take effect in accordance with AS 44.62.520(a).

DATED this 5th day of May, 2022.



Rebecca Hamon, Chairman
Alaska Police Standards Council

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STATE OF ALASKA

ALASKA POLICE STANDARDS COUNCIL

In the Matter of,)
)
Louden Wright,) APSC No. 2021-07
)
Respondent)
_____)

STATEMENT OF ISSUES

Sarah Hieb, Administrative Investigator, on behalf of Joseph Gamache, Executive Director of the Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC), State of Alaska, is stating the issues which led to the determination by the Council that Respondent, Louden Wright, is disqualified for certification as a Correctional Officer under the legal authority of AS 18.65.240(a) and (c); the Council’s regulations in 13 AAC 85.215 and 13 AAC 85.260; and under the procedures governed by the Administrative Procedure Act in AS 44.62.330, *et. seq.* The Administrative Investigator states as follows:

1. On or about July 1, 2019, Respondent was hired by the Kodiak Police Department as a municipal correctional officer.
2. On or about September 27, 2020, Respondent stole items from the local department store. The Kodiak Police Department was contacted and advised of the theft.
3. On or about December 20, 2020, during the interview as part of the criminal investigation, Respondent admitted to the theft. He then resigned from his position at the Kodiak Police Department, effective immediately. He was subsequently charged with a count of Theft in the Fourth Degree.

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4. On or about December 21, 2020, The Kodiak Police Department submitted an APSC Personnel Action Form which indicated Respondent had resigned in lieu of termination.

5. On or about March 25, 2021, Respondent was convicted of Theft in the Fourth Degree¹ after pleading guilty. Theft in the Fourth Degree is a crime of dishonesty per APSC regulation 13 AAC 85.900(27).²

6. On or about June 16, 2021, the Executive Director found that Respondent was disqualified for APSC Certification because he had been convicted of a crime of dishonesty after being hire as a municipal correction officer and notified him via email with an attached packet that contained the letter of determination; a draft consent agreement, a Notice of Appeal consistent with 13 AAC 85.260(c), and copies of the APSC Statutes and Administrative Procedures Act.

7. On or about June 20, 2021, APSC received Respondent’s notice of appeal of the Executive Director’s decision to the full Council.

8. On or about December 6, 2021, the Executive Director presented Respondent’s case and documentation to the Council and Respondent appeared telephonically before the Council. After evaluating the documentation, discussion, and deliberation, the Council voted to uphold the Executive Director’s decision that the Respondent was disqualified for certification.

¹ AS 11.46.150(a): Theft 4- Less than \$250 (Class B Misdemeanor)
² 13 AAC 85.900(27) “crime of dishonesty” means a crime under AS 11.46; or a crime under a similar statute or ordinance of this state or another jurisdiction.

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

10. 13 AAC 85.260(b)(1)(B) provides that the council will deny a basic certificate upon a finding that the applicant, after hire as a municipal correctional officer, has been convicted of a misdemeanor crime listed in 13 AAC 85.215(b)(2) or (3).

11. 13 AAC 85.260(b)(5) provides that the council will deny a basic certificate upon a finding that the applicant for the certificate has been discharged, or resigned under threat of discharge, from employment as a correctional officer in this state or any other state or territory 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 the United States or that is detrimental to the integrity of the correctional agency where the officer worked.

12. 13 AAC 85.260(c) provides that the Executive Director may act on an application for certification, consistent with standards and qualifications adopted by the council and consistent with AS 18.65.130 - 18.65.290. The Executive Director may deny an application, if the applicant does not satisfy those requirements. An applicant aggrieved by the decision of the executive director may petition for review of that decision by the council. The council's review of that decision is controlled by the Administrative Procedure Act.

ISSUE I

Paragraphs 1-12 are incorporated by reference. Based upon the facts described above, the Alaska Police Standards Council finds that Respondent, after he was hired

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as a municipal correction officer, was convicted of Theft in the Fourth degree, with is grounds for mandatory denial of certification under 13 AAC 85.260(b)(1)(B).

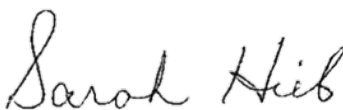
ISSUE II

Paragraphs 1-12 are incorporated by reference. Based upon the facts described above, the Alaska Police Standards Council finds that Respondent resigned in lieu of termination from employment as a municipal correction officer in this state for conduct that is detrimental to the reputation, integrity, or discipline of the Kodiak Police Department, which is grounds for discretionary denial of certification under 13 AAC 85.260(a)(2).

ISSUE III

Paragraphs 1-12 are incorporated by reference. Based upon the facts described above, the Alaska Police Standards Council finds that Respondent resigned in lieu of termination from employment as a municipal correction officer in this state 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 the United States or that is detrimental to the integrity of the Kodiak Police Department, which is grounds for mandatory denial of certification under 13 AAC 85.260(b)(5).

DATED this 14th day of February 2022, at Juneau, Alaska.



Sarah Hieb, Administrative Investigator
Alaska Police Standards Council