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**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Alaska Police Standards Council hereby accepts Respondent Aaron Parker's voluntary relinquishment of his police officer certification.

IT IS ORDERED, that such relinquishment shall be permanent and shall bar Respondent Aaron Parker from working as a police officer in Alaska.

ADOPTED at Open Meeting this 10th day of May, 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryce Johnson, Chairman  
Alaska Police Standards Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





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, )  
 )  
 Aaron Andrew Parker, ) No. APSC 2016-05  
 )  
 Respondent )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )

ACCUSATION

Robert E Griffiths, Executive Director of the Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC), State of Alaska, is seeking to revoke the police certificate of Respondent Aaron Andrew Parker 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 August 12, 2002, Respondent was hired as a Police Officer by Kotzebue Police Department (KPD). Respondent and KPD applied for Respondent's attendance at the Sitka Alaska Law Enforcement (ALET) basic training academy scheduled for August 17, 2002 to graduate November 21, 2002.
2. After Respondent's departure for the Sitka Academy, KPD Police Chief Greg Russell, while on business in Kenai, AK, came across Respondent in a Kenai restaurant. Respondent did not notify Russell or KPD that he was leaving the Academy and explained his presence in Kenai was due to a family illness.
3. In January of 2003, Respondent was rescheduled for the next ALET academy scheduled for March 1 through June 5, 2003.
4. On February 11, 2003, KPD terminated Respondent, for cause, citing Respondent's "Refusal to attend academy, honesty and ethical reasons." APSC

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took no action at that time, as Respondent was not yet a certified Police Officer. However, on January 28, 2016, subpoenaed documents were provided to APSC regarding Respondent's termination from KPD. One of these documents was a memorandum, dated February 19, 2003, from Assistant District Attorney (DA) Wendy East to Joseph Evans, Kotzebue City Attorney. East cites a list of failures by Respondent to complete and furnish police reports to the DA's Office and his failure to conduct necessary and requested follow-up on cases involving felony arrests. East also wrote, "Now that I am aware of Officer Parker's less than honest business dealing on top of the prior instances in which he was less than honest; any cases taken to trial would have serious issues regarding his credibility and honesty. I could not ethically maintain that I believed that Officer Parker was a truthful person without motive or reason to lie. Knowing this, it would be unlikely that I would screen in any of Officer Parker's cases let alone take them to trial."

Additional documentation provided by KPD detail that upon termination, Respondent failed to turn in, and departed Kotzebue with, \$675 worth of police equipment belonging to the department and purchased to equip him for the upcoming ALET Academy. The city threatened legal action against Respondent if he did not return the equipment or reimburse the department for it.

5. On or about April 8, 2006, Respondent was hired by the Tanana Department of Public Safety as Chief of Police and later resigned on August 19, 2006. Respondent prepared and signed both of his own APSC Personnel Action forms (F-4), reporting this employment and reported no adverse information regarding his departure from the agency.

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6. Respondent then prepared and signed his own APSC F-4 form, dated August 26, 2006, reporting he was hired on August 19, 2006, as the Togiak Police Chief.
7. On or about September 20, 2007, Respondent received his Basic Police Officer Certification from APSC.
8. On or about December 1, 2008, Respondent notified APSC via an e-mail containing an unsigned F-4 form, that he was now the Chief of Police for the Emmonak Police Department. He also stated he had been suspended from his position as Chief in Togiak and denied access to any city property.
9. Respondent was terminated from the Togiak Police Department on or about December, 5, 2008. City Administrator Darryl Thompson noted on the submitted F-4 form that Respondent was ineligible for re-hire by the department, but provided no additional information regarding his termination at that time.
10. On or about April 20, 2009, Respondent was hired as a police officer by the City of Houston, Alaska.
11. On or about September 2, 2009, Respondent was notified he was the subject of an investigation by the City of Houston into allegations of conduct unbecoming an officer and placed on administrative suspension. Respondent resigned his position on or about September 3, 2009, while under investigation.
12. Lee Reeves, an independent investigator and retired police officer, was engaged by Houston on September 2, 2009, to conduct an investigation into misconduct allegations against Respondent. On September 22, 2009, Investigator Reeves reported back to the City with the results of his investigation. Reeves noted that Respondent refused to participate or cooperate in the investigation. Reeves found that Respondent had engaged in "Conduct Unbecoming an Officer" and

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that he had violated city policy on standards of employee conduct. Specifically, Reeves found that Respondent violated the “ethical tenants” of city code by: “Disclosing confidential information to persons who were not authorized to receive that information and in a public environment; engaging in disruptive behavior or statements that caused city officers or employees disruption from the effective management of their duties; [and] Dishonesty in contacts with city officers and employees.”

- 13. From about July 15, to November 10, 2013, Responded was employed by the Bristol Bay Police Department as a seasonal Police Officer.
- 14. On or about January 17, 2014, Respondent was contracted by the City of Galena to be their Chief of Police. City Manager Greg Moyer did not conduct any pre-hire background check before contracting with the Respondent.
- 15. After Respondent began work in Galena, Shanda Huntington replaced Greg Moyer as Galena City Manager. Upon assuming her new position, Huntington discovered that Respondent and the former City Manager purchased a snow machine and other equipment without following city purchasing processes and without obtaining necessary city council approval.
- 16. Huntington decided to conduct a background investigation on the Respondent in March, 2014, before she considered renewing Respondent’s contract, and engaged the services of an outside firm to conduct such an investigation.
- 17. Respondent signed necessary releases of personal information to facilitate the background investigation but declined to be interviewed or provide a signed APSC F-3 Personal History Statement (F-3) to the City or investigator. The

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3 investigator concluded the Respondent “was unresponsive and uncooperative  
4 with this investigation.”

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6 18. On or about April 21, 2014, the background investigator reported to Galena that:

- 7 a) Respondent’s claimed Military and education could not be verified and are  
8 highly suspect.
- 9  
10 b) Statements made on his F-3 were inconsistent with those he’d made  
11 previously on other F-3’s submitted to other agencies; specifically regarding  
12 “conflicting reasons for leaving previous employment, unexplained breaks in  
13 employment and varying types of discharge from military service.”
- 14  
15 c) A search of Alaska court records revealed nineteen (19) civil cases filed  
16 against Respondent and two minor traffic convictions that were unreported  
17 on his F-3 forms. Among the civil cases, Respondent had accumulated  
18 fifteen (15) civil judgements amounting to over \$109,000 in debt.
- 19  
20 d) Respondent’s credit history listed five (5) accounts in collections along with  
21 numerous other negative reports.
- 22  
23 e) Darrell Thompson, Togiak City Manager, was interviewed as Respondent’s  
24 former supervisor. When asked if he would trust Respondent with  
25 confidential matters, Thompson replied, “No, one time when he moved out of  
26 an apartment, things such as microwave, TV and other items were missing.  
27 When asked he said the movers must have taken them. Even though, a short  
28 time before he would not allow anyone to move a mattress into his apartment  
29 because he claimed to have confidential information in the apartment he  
30 would move it himself. ‘He lied right to my face.’ Also Tanana had let us  
31 know to watch out for him, because 4 snowmachines which were missing  
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were found at his house in Soldotna. Don't know much more, but we were missing things after he left."

f) Respondent "is described by many of the references as being over aggressive, lacking integrity, and is not trustworthy."

19. On September 1, 2014, Respondent's Contract with the city of Galena expired and was not renewed. When contacted by APSC during our investigation, Shanda Huntington said that when Respondent departed Galena, over \$1,000 in specialized police equipment disappeared from the Police Department and remains unaccounted for. She stated Respondent "only filed a few cases, he did not follow through with reports and the office was not kept in orderly manner. Evidence was also not process[ed] correctly."

20. 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.

21. 13 AAC 85.110(a)(1) Provides that the council will, in its discretion, revoke a basic, intermediate, or advanced certificate upon a finding that the holder of the certificate falsified or omitted information required to be provided on an application for certification at any level, or in supporting documents.

22. 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).

23. 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, or resigned under threat of discharge, from

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employment as a police officer for cause for inefficiency, incompetence, or some other reason that adversely affects the ability and fitness of the police officer to perform job duties or that is detrimental to the reputation, integrity, or discipline of the police department where the police officer worked.

24. 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, or resigned under threat of discharge, from employment as a police 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 police department where the police officer worked.

**COUNT I**

Paragraphs 1-24 are incorporated by reference. Based upon the facts described above, APSC finds that the Respondent falsified or omitted information required to be provided on an application for certification, or in supporting documents, which is cause for discretionary revocation under 13 AAC 85.110(a)(1).

**COUNT II**

Paragraphs 1-24 are incorporated by reference. Based upon the facts described above, Based upon the facts described above, the Respondent does not meet the minimum standards for a certified police officer established under 13 AAC 85.010(a)(3). The Respondent lacks good moral character, which is grounds for discretionary revocation under 13 AAC 85.110(a)(3).

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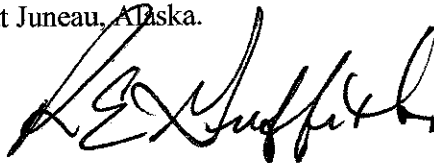
**COUNT III**

Paragraphs 1-24 are incorporated by reference. Based upon the facts described above, Respondent was discharged or resigned in lieu of termination from employment as a police officer, on at least two occasions, 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 which is grounds for mandatory revocation under 13 AAC 85.110(b)(3).

**COUNT IV**

Paragraphs 1-24 are incorporated by reference. Based upon the facts described above, Respondent was discharged from employment as a police officer for cause for conduct that was detrimental to the integrity of the police department where he worked, which is grounds for mandatory revocation under 13 AAC 85.110(b)(3).

DATED this 10th day of March, 2016 at Juneau, Alaska.



Bob Griffiths, Executive Director  
Alaska Police Standards Council