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STATE OF ALASKA

ALASKA POLICE STANDARDS COUNCIL

In the Matter of)
)
 Joseph Tavai) APSC No. 2021-25
)
 Respondent,)
 _____)

FINDING OF DISQUALIFICATION

Pursuant to AS 18.65.220(6) and 13 AAC 85.260 the Alaska Police Standards Council of the State of Alaska may deny an application, or find a correctional officer applicant ineligible for correctional officer certification, if the applicant does not satisfy the standards set by the council for certification. 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.

On or about April 30, 2020, Joseph Tavai, "Respondent," was hired by the Alaska Department of Corrections (DOC) for the council certified position of Correction Officer. On August 9, 2021, APSC received the Personnel Action form from DOC advising Respondent had resigned in lieu of termination while under investigation for wrongdoing.

On September 27, 2021, Sarah Hieb, Administrative Investigator, on behalf of Joseph Gamache, the Executive Director of the council, made a finding that, subject to the provisions of 13 AAC 85.260(a)(1) and (b)(3), the Respondent was disqualified from hire or certification as an Alaska correctional officer because during in investigative interview with the Alaska State Troopers on July 30, 2021, Respondent admitted to meeting the individuals three times and being paid to bring envelopes containing contraband into Anchorage Correctional Center and delivering it to inmates in June 2021.

On September 27, 2021, Respondent was formally notified by letter of the Executive Director's findings, of his right to appeal this decision to the council under the Administrative Procedures Act, and that his failure to respond to the findings within statutory deadlines would result in a default Finding of Disqualification being entered into her record. This notification was delivered by US Certified Mail on October 12, 2021, as evidenced by return receipt.

As of November 1, 2021, no response has been received from the Respondent or his representative.

WHEREAS, the Executive Director of the Alaska Police Standards Council has found that Respondent is disqualified from certification as a correctional officer in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, the Respondent was notified of this finding and of his right to appeal the decision to the Council, pursuant to the Alaska Administrative Procedures Act; and,

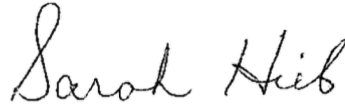
ALASKA POLICE STANDARDS COUNCIL
Finding of Disqualification – Joseph Tavai
APSC No. 2021-25

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WHEREAS the Respondent failed to respond to the notification within statutory timeframes to appeal the decision of the Executive Director;

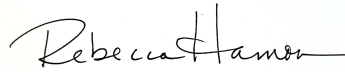
NOW, THEREFORE, this formal Finding of Disqualification for Correctional Officer Certification is entered into the Respondent’s record, subject to the provisions for 13 AAC 85.260(d) and (e).

Dated this 1st day of November, 2021, at Juneau, Alaska



Sarah Hieb, Administrative Investigator, for
Joseph Gamache, Executive Director
Alaska Police Standards Council

Adopted by the Alaska Police Standards Council, this 6th day of December, 2021, at Juneau, Alaska



Rebecca Hamon, Council Vice-Chair
Alaska Police Standards Council

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