

BEFORE THE KANSAS COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICERS' STANDARDS AND TRAINING

1999 N. AMIDON, SUITE 350 • WICHITA, KANSAS 67203 Tel (316) 832-9906 • Fax (316) 832-9679

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In the Matter of

CHRISTOPHER WHITE #28790 Case No. 2021-0181

SUMMARY ORDER OF REVOCATION

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537

The above-captioned matter comes on for action by the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training (Commission) through a summary proceeding under the Kansas Administrative Procedures Act, K.S.A. 77-537, regarding the law enforcement certification of CHRISTOPHER WHITE (Respondent).

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 1. The Commission granted Respondent a full-time law enforcement certification, certification number 28790.
- Respondent was employed as a full-time law enforcement officer with the Gardner Police Department (GPD) from November 4, 2019, to June 25, 2021.
- 3. In March 2021, BP reported that she was the victim of a domestic battery by her husband. Although Respondent did not respond to the initial report, he met BP at the Gardner Justice Center when she came to report concerns

that her husband may have hidden a GPS tracker on her car. Respondent checked BP's vehicle for a tracking device and obtained her contact information. Respondent and BP had not met prior to this incident.

- 4. Between March 2, 2021, and March 8, 2021, Respondent sent BP 152 text messages. He sent her a total of 194 text messages by August 31, 2021. Respondent's messages included comments on BP's appearance, asking BP to take a "sexy" picture, sending a photo of a female in lingerie, and indications of contact between Respondent and BP at her residence.
- 5. After continued domestic issues with her husband, BP moved out of state and sought therapy. As part of the therapeutic process, BP contacted the Johnson County District Attorney's Office to report Respondent's misconduct regarding her and her domestic case. BP stated that Respondent came to her residence after they met at the Gardner Justice Center in March of 2020 and the two began to exchange text messages. BP initially felt that Respondent was concerned about her well-being. However, the messages escalated, and Respondent appeared at BP's house again, uninvited. BP stated that Respondent came inside her residence and that they had sexual intercourse for several minutes. After that time, the texting cooled off and BP felt afraid of Respondent and manipulated by him. Based on BP's report, a criminal investigation was opened by the Johnson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) and an internal investigation was opened by the GPD.
- 6. Respondent was interviewed by the JCSO on June 14, 2021. Respondent initially denied ever meeting BP at a place other than the Gardner Justice Center, denied ever being at her residence, and denied using his personal cell phone to communicate with BP. When confronted with specific messages he exchanged with BP, Respondent initially denied knowing how BP would have text messages between them or sending a text requesting "sexy" pictures. He insinuated that BP manufactured the messages. Respondent eventually admitted that he had exchanged messages with BP

on his personal phone and that he had visited the exterior of BP's residence. Respondent denied ever entering BP's residence or engaging in sexual intercourse with her.

- 7. In the internal GPD interview, Respondent admitted that he had gone to BP's residence and messaged her from his personal phone. However, Respondent maintained that he had never been inside BP's residence or had sexual intercourse with her. When confronted with specific text messages, Respondent's explanations were wholly inconsistent with the content of the messages, or he claimed he could not remember specific messages.
- 8. On two separate instances, Respondent communicated to BP that she should not tell anyone about their messages or relationship, as it could negatively impact the open criminal case against her husband in which she was a victim. On March 5, 2020, Respondent wrote, "I'm sure [the GPD supervisors] wouldn't like our text conversations either lol. Let's keep this between us. I don't want to hurt your case." On March 8, 2020, Respondent messaged BP, "I thought about last night and I think we should be careful. If someone found out it would definitely effect your court case." When BP asked how her case could be impacted, Respondent replied, "It would look like I am favoring your side of the on going case."
- 9. Ultimately, Respondent admitted to establishing a social relationship with BP after meeting her in his position as an officer.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Unprofessional Conduct

10. Pursuant to K.S.A. 74-5616(b)(7), the Commission may revoke the certification of any police or law enforcement officer who has engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by rules and regulations of the Commission.

- 11. K.A.R. 106-2-3(h) defines unprofessional conduct as exploiting or misusing the position as an officer to establish or attempt to establish a financial, social, sexual, romantic, physical, intimate, or emotional relationship.
- 12. Respondent met the victim of a domestic battery and engaged in, at a minimum, a social relationship with her. However, the content of the messages suggests that the relationship went beyond a social relationship. Respondent, who is married, tried to ensure that BP kept their relationship a secret by threatening that the criminal case in which BP was a victim could be negatively impacted if their communications were discovered. Respondent used his position to further manipulate and victimize a victim.

Criminal Conduct

- 13. Pursuant to K.S.A. 74-5616(b)(5), the Commission may revoke the certification of any police or law enforcement officer who engages in conduct which, if charged as a crime, would constitute a felony crime under the laws of this state, a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence as defined in the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Act at the time the conduct occurred, or a misdemeanor crime that the Commission determines reflects on the honesty, trustworthiness, integrity or competence of the applicant as defined by rules and regulations of the Commission.
- 14. K.A.R. 106-2-2a(a)(35) states that, pursuant to K.S.A. 74-5616 and amendments thereto, an applicant or officer shall not engage in conduct, whether or not charged as a crime or resulting in a conviction, that would constitute interference with law enforcement, as defined in K.S.A. 21-5904, and amendments thereto.
- 15. Respondent intentionally provided false statements in the JCSO criminal investigation. Respondent's conduct constitutes interference with law enforcement.

Good Moral Character

- 16. Pursuant to K.S.A. 74-5616(b)(1) the Commission may revoke the certification of a police or law enforcement officer who fails to meet and maintain the requirements of K.S.A. 74-5605 or 74-5607a, and amendments thereto.
- 17. K.S.A. 74-5605(b)(5) states that each applicant for certification shall be of good moral character to warrant the public trust in the applicant as a police officer or law enforcement officer.
- 18. K.A.R. 106-2-4(a) defines good moral character as including the personal traits or qualities of integrity, honesty, upholding the laws of the state and nation, conduct that warrants the public trust, and upholding the oath required for certification as specified in K.A.R. 106-3-6.
- 19. Respondent's conduct shows that he lacks the personal qualities of integrity, honesty, conduct that warrants the public trust, and upholding the oath required for certification. Respondent used his position to establish a relationship with the victim in a criminal case. Respondent was untruthful with the criminal investigation into his conduct with the victim. Additionally, Respondent's statements and the inconsistencies with his text messages raise questions as to his honesty.

Summary Proceedings

20. Under K.S.A. 77-537, the Commission may conduct these summary proceedings, subject to Respondent's request for a hearing. The Commission finds that the use of summary proceedings in these circumstances does not violate any provisions of law and the protection of the public interest does not require the Commission to give notice and opportunity to participate to any person other than Respondent.

ORDER

Based on the Statement of Facts and Conclusions of Law, the Commission orders that the Kansas Law Enforcement Officer Certification of CHRISTOPHER WHITE be revoked.

ACCORDINGLY, THE KANSAS COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICERS' STANDARDS AND TRAINING CERTIFICATE OF CHRISTOPHER WHITE IS HEREBY REVOKED.

FURTHER, Respondent is ordered to surrender and return to the Commission all evidence of his certification as a law enforcement officer.

DATED this 15th day of December, 2021.

KANSAS COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICERS' STANDARDS AND TRAINING

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Chair, Investigative Committee

NOTICE OF RELIEF FROM THIS SUMMARY ORDER

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537, the Summary Order is subject to your request for a hearing. If you desire a hearing, you must direct a written request for a hearing to the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training, 1999 N. Amidon, Suite 350, Wichita, Kansas 67203. This written request must be filed within fifteen (15) days from the date indicated in the Certificate of Service below. If a written request for hearing is not so made, this Summary Order becomes final and effective upon the expiration of the time for requesting a hearing.

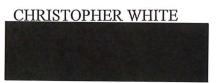
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on the <u>15</u> day of <u>December</u> 2021, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Summary Order of Revocation was deposited in the United States mail, certified, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, and deposited in the United States mail, first class postage prepaid, with tracking, addressed to:

CHRISTOPHER WHITE



and



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Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on the 22^{M} day of 32^{M} , 2021, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Summary Order of Revocation was deposited in the United States mail, certified, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, and deposited in the United States mail, first class postage prepaid, with tracking, addressed to:

CHRISTOPHER WHITE

Staff Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training



BEFORE THE KANSAS COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICERS' STANDARDS AND TRAINING

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In the Matter of

CHRISTOPHER WHITE #28790 Case No. 2021-0181

NUNC PRO TUNC

Pursuant to K.S.A. 60-260

NOW, on this 1st day of February, 2022, this mater comes on for action by the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training (Commission). The Commission moves to correct the Summary Order of Revocation on the case herein that by mistake, inadvertence, or oversight listed the wrong year.

THEREUPON, after being duly advised, the Commission finds that due to inadvertence, mistake, or oversight, the Summary Order of Revocation should reflect: March 2020 in paragraph three; March 2, 2020, March 8, 2020, and August 31, 2020, in paragraph four.

BE IT SO ORDERED.

KANSAS COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICERS' STANDARDS AND TRAINING

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Chair, Investigative Committee

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on the <u>3rd</u> day of <u>5 house</u> 2021, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Nunc Pro Tunc was deposited in the United States mail, first class postage prepaid, addressed to:

CHRISTOPHER WHITE

and a copy hand-delivered to:

Michelle R. Meier Litigation Counsel for the Commission KS CPOST 1999 N Amidon STE 350 Wichita, KS 67203

Koller Staff

Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training