

## 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

In the Matter of

CARTER JAMES #33323 Case No. 2023-0099

# SUMMARY ORDER OF REVOCATION

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537

The above-captioned matter comes on for Commission action through a summary proceeding under the Kansas Administrative Procedures Act, K.S.A. 77-537, regarding the law enforcement certification of CARTER JAMES (Respondent).

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

- The Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training (Commission) granted full-time certification to Respondent, certification number 33323.
- Respondent was employed as a full-time law enforcement officer with the Newton Police Department (NPD) from March 21, 2022, to August 23, 2023.
- 3. The NPD received a complaint regarding Respondent's conduct toward a domestic violence stalking victim, A.H.. Respondent did not know A.H. before responding to a call in which she was terrified because her ex-boyfriend threatened to kill her. A.H.'s exboyfriend was arrested for stalking and drug possession.

- 4. After meeting A.H., Respondent called her repeatedly, texted her, and contacted her through Instagram and Snapchat. Respondent provided A.H. with his personal phone number; called her multiple times in a short time to intentionally circumvent her phone's "do not disturb" setting; and sent her messages that were not related to the case, including his home address. Messages sent from Respondent to A.H. included the following: Well once this blows over we can get dinner so I can see the less crazy side of you lol; You need a long full hug; Wanna talk? I can call or can pick you up.
- 5. Respondent lied to A.H. and provided her information regarding the whereabouts of her ex-boyfriend, purportedly from a license plate reader. The false information he provided caused safety concerns for A.H. Respondent also falsely claimed that A.H. was authorized to accompany him on a ride along and provided her with an unauthorized letter on NPD letterhead excusing her from work.
- 6. A.H. stated she initially felt as though Respondent was checking on her and taking an interest in her safety, but then realized he was trying to "get with her." Just five days after meeting A.H., Respondent called her six times in a forty-one-minute period. A.H. began ignoring Respondent's messages the same day.
- 7. Two days after meeting A.H., Respondent provided her with confidential dispatch information, without the authority to do so, and that was not related to her case.
- 8. Based on Respondent's actions with A.H., the prosecutor was unwilling to proceed with filing stalking and drug charges against A.H.'s ex-boyfriend.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

## Unprofessional Conduct

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 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.

- 10. K.A.R. 106-2-3(d) defines unprofessional conduct as willfully disclosing criminal history record information or other information designated as confidential by statute or regulation, except for a legitimate law enforcement purpose or when required by order of a court or agency of competent jurisdiction.
- 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 willfully disclosed confidential dispatch information and his disclosure was not related to a legitimate law enforcement purpose. Respondent exploited his position as a law enforcement officer to establish a relationship with A.H.

## Good Moral Character

- 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.
- 14. K.S.A. 74-5605(b)(5) states that each applicant for certification shall be of good moral character sufficient to warrant the public trust in the applicant as a police officer or law enforcement officer.
- 15. 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.
- 16. Pursuant to K.A.R. 106-2-4(b), any single incident or event may suffice to show that a licensee lacks or has failed to maintain good moral character.
- 17. Respondent's conduct shows that he has failed to maintain good moral character sufficient to warrant the public trust in him as a law enforcement officer.

#### Summary Proceedings

18. 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 above Statement of Facts and Conclusions of Law, the Commission orders that the Kansas Law Enforcement Officer Certification of CARTER JAMES be revoked.

ACCORDINGLY, THE KANSAS COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICERS' STANDARDS AND TRAINING CERTIFICATE OF CARTER JAMES 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 <u>31</u> day of <u>January</u>, 2024.

KANSAS COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICERS' STANDARDS AND TRAINING

Il Henito Jeff Herrig

Chair, Investigative Committee

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## 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  $31^{\pm}$  day of  $32^{\pm}$  day o

CARTER JAMES

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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 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Summary Order of Revocation was deposited in the United States mail, postage prepaid, with tracking, addressed to:

## CARTER JAMES



Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training